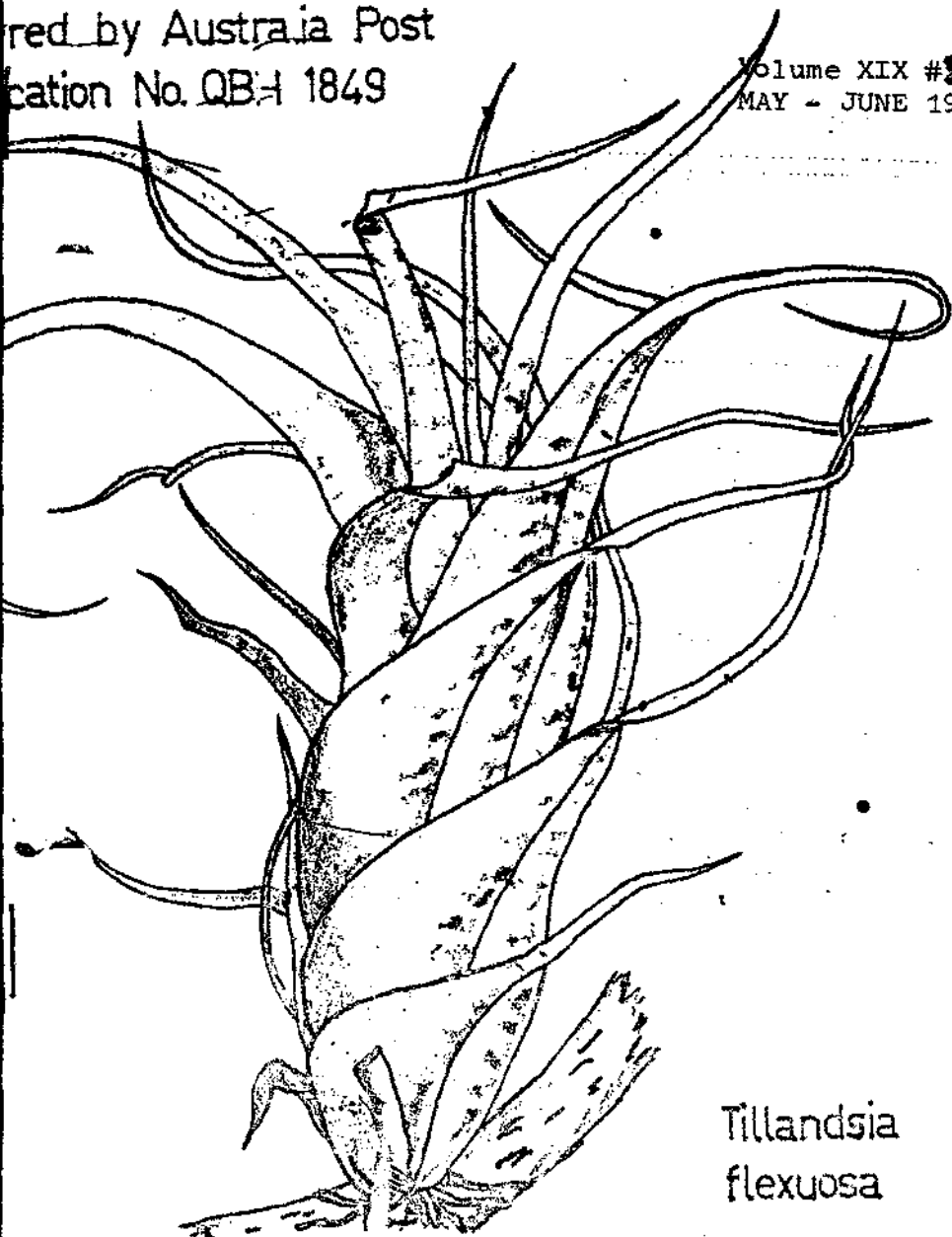


# Bromeliaceae .

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Volume XIX #3  
MAY - JUNE 1985



*Tillandsia*  
*flexuosa*

MEMBERS

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: MEMBERS 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:

MAY 16th. General Meeting  
 Musical Chairs-  
     Fertilising; Greg Stewart  
     Preparing  
     show plants; Lorraine Wilton  
     Miniature  
     Tillandsias; Peter Paroz  
     Shade House  
     Construction; Joe Dunlop  
 Beginners Class- 7.30 - 7.45 p.m.  
     What is a Bromeliad? Peter Paroz

JUNE 7th. Combined Show set up.  
 JUNE 8th.&9th. Combined Show  
 June 20th. General Meeting  
     Slide Program- John Wilkins

SECRETARY'S NOTES

MARCH: 71 members and 1 visitor attended. The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$752.52. The Treasurer moved the payment of 288 copies of "BROMELIADS FOR MODERN LIVING". The following new members were welcomed with acclamation:- Janet Taylor, Geoff Lines, Lyn Con, Phil & Narelle Richardson, Peter Tristram, A.J. Petterson and Phyllis McColl. John Higgins spoke on the conference and noted the following registrations:- Qld. 55; N.S.W. 4; Sth.Aust. 14; Vic 4; W.A. 6; U.S.A. 2; Fiji 1.

## POPULAR VOTE-

ADVANCED:	Greg Stewart	<i>Tillandsia intumescens</i> var. <i>striata</i>
NOVICE:	George Webley	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i> "Ensign"
JUDGES CHOICE:	Peter Paroz	<i>Tillandsia crocata</i>

SHOW & TELL: Ruth Wilson showed a *Neoregelia* which had two flower heads in the centre of a single plant. Roland Reilly showed a *Tillandsia baileyi* that had flowered and thrown a pup out of each flower on the head. A plant identification competition was held with 16 slides of various plants being shown. Neville Ryan won the event with 15 out of 16 correct. Well done Neville.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

APRIL: 60 members were in attendance. A cash balance of \$3712.70 was reported. John Higgins gave a report on the forthcoming Combined Show and reminded members about bringing plants for the display and also for competition. Patricia O'Dea kindly volunteered for roster steward for the combined show and members were asked to contact Patricia if they can help.

Sel Gleeson spoke on publicity for the Combined Show.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES (cont.)

John Wilkins moved a vote of thanks to the committee for the staging of the conference, and in particular to John & Ruth Higgins and Peter Paroz. This was received with acclamation.

John Higgins mover a motion that \$<sup>150</sup>250 be donated to the Bromeliad Identification Centre at the Marie Selby Gardens.

## POPULAR VOTE:

ADVANCED:	Gwen Gleeson	Neoregelia pendula var. brevifolia	V
NOVICE:	Sel Gleeson	Vresia platynema X V. hieroglyphica	
JUDGES CHOICE:	Gwen Gleeson	Neoregelia pendula var. brevifolia	

A mini show of Billbergias and Cryptanthus was staged with the winner of the Cryptanthus being Val Sax. The Billbergia section was won by the Mc. Allisters.

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VALE: It is with regret that we record the passing of one of our members, Mrs. Wrenn. Our sincerest sympathy to her family.

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BROMELIADS III

## Recollections on certain convention celebrities

If you do not appear in this round-up then it does not mean you are not a celebrity. You may consider yourself lucky not to be a celebrity, but the main reason for this article is to enable us to reminisce, please treat it in that fashion and have fond memories, so that you come to Adelaide in 1987 with a clear conscience.

I suppose it all started on the Friday night, with us ascertaining that Ruby Ryde's did not have stripes on it yet. I'm sure that the more quiet of the New South Wales contingent wondered who the hairy one was who burst into their close knit circle to find out this astounding fact. Does your *Aechmea maculata* have stripes or spots?

What were the highlights for Saturday? In the morning Chairman Florence Nightingale lived up to her training by dispensing the drinking water to those who needed it. Even the speakers had to be patient!

In the afternoon Dick Phillips had great fun with his electronic thing as he turned speakers on and off with gay abandon.

Who was the star of the evenings entertainment? Was it the bloke with white gloves ( say that again) who pranced around the dining hall with sparklers stuck in his meat course? Was it the table in the far south west corner where the possible troublemakers had been sent. Who else but Bill Morris, Peter Paroz, Robert Reidl, yours truly and Hawaiian Bob! Yvonne kept Hawaiian Bob's attention on proper things by teaching him how to feed himself the Australian way with knife and fork at the same time. He was doing fine until he glanced at the young girl on his left who was eating Aussie style but left handed! That and the honey gravy ( that's Japanese style gravy didn't you know ) confused him so much he had to leave for his 9.30 appointment.

cont.

If you think tis young girl was confused with Hawaiian Bob what about the Bill she had on her left. Admittedly I only heard snatches of conversation but it did include such things as gametes, chromosome counts and carbon dating! I did wonder----- for a while.

The bus trip (on bus 2) was not a dull affair. all the NON banana-benders found out some of the skill of repartee from Len and Olive Trevor, although it was more refined on the Monday when Len was "chair" when it was Olive with Len a clear second.

One chap with patter similar to his relative? Paul Hogan just could not sit still. I wonder whether his white frog still tells him if it will rain or whether it has really croaked it.

Did you know that Susan Rutter got so broody over Bromeliads after seeing Grace Goode's collection she kept looking around for nesting material. She was last seen with an armful of Tillandsia usneoides.

The pick of the day had to be Peter Paroz in floppy hat and floppy shorts emerging from the icecream parlour at the Big Pineapple with prehensile tongue wrapped around a double header. Did he enjoy that!

A good photographer in a rowing boat asks his subject to take a step backwards not himself. The reverse theory applies to Bromeliads which Victorian Gren didn't know. He laughed so much he wet himself when he moved a Bromeliad full of water. Will the photograph be a success?

cont.

cont.

One chap had a lot to say for himself, in fact he always seemed to be in front of the microphone. In the words of the song I could say " I'm just wild about Harry" but I'm not sure how to interpret 'wild' because he keeps changing our Bromeliad names. His laconic approach, the odd witticism, and his fantastic grasp of his subject impressed us all. I bags we get Queensland to import Werner Rauh when its their turn next around and we can change our names yet again.

Finally, I must mention Big John and Little Ruth and all the helpers who I recognised by the flyinig red, yellow or blue pennants. It would have been a much less memorable occasion without them.

Derek Butcher  
South Australia.

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#### COMBINED SHOW

The staging of the Combined Show will be at the Mt. Cootha auditorium on 8th. & 9th. June. Set up will be on Friday evening 7th. June and members are urged to come along and help. A good supply of plants for the centre display is needed.

Plants for competition will be accepted on Friday evening after 6 PM by the Show Steward. Conditions of entry will be the same as previous years with trophies being awarded for group winners. An additional trophy has been donated this year by Grace Goode in the Cryptanthus class.

Plants for sale must be free of pests and disease and must be tagged with a sticker on arrival at the sales area. The sellers name and price must be clearly marked on it in permanent ink, so that it will not fade when wet. Stickers will be available at the May meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Grace Goode is donating a trophy for the Cryptanthus class at this years combined show.

Due to problems at the manufacturing jeweller the perpetual trophy Grace was donating will now not be ready in time for the combined show.

However a beautiful trophy will be donated by Grace for this year, which will be kept by the winner and won't be perpetual.

The perpetual trophy will be commenced at next year's show.

So all you Cryptanthus growers come out of the woodwork, you now have a beautiful trophy to compete for.

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A PROBLEM OF IDENTITY

Our third Australian conference is now over and all the excitement is starting to die down and as they say-- the dust is starting to clear.

Over the conference my eyes have been opened in more than one way, mainly due to the efforts and time of one man, Mr. HARRY LUTHER.

Harry is the special speaker and guest that we had at the conference and is the head of the Bromeliad identification centre at the Marie Selby Gardens in Florida. Mr. Luther is generally regarded as one of the foremost authorities of Bromeliad identification in the world.

Harry made some collectors weep and others sulk when he started to correctly identify plants in their collections which had been labelled something else for years.



cont.

It was rather like having a child from a baby, lavishing love and attention on it for five or six years, calling it Robert or Mary, and then someone telling you that you have been calling your child the wrong name. It must now be called John or Susan! Of course we all know it should have been called this in the first place. This in no way diminishes the sense of loss and frustration in some avid collectors.

It seems in some collections, up to 30% of the species plants are wrongly or part incorrectly named. The largest discrepancy appears to be in the tillandsia sub-genus. Oh, Harry how we would have loved you to stay for another month or so.

One thing can be learnt out of this. Some bromeliad nurseries around the globe are advertising and selling wrongly named plants. Wholesale blame cannot be completely attributed to these outlets because in a lot of cases they buy plants in from a wholesale source with the wrong names on them. However some responsibility must be taken by these nurseries to ensure that they are selling a product that is not being falsely represented by their advertising. (i.e. Plants botanical name matches with the catalogue name)

From now on when I am importing plants from overseas nurseries I will be asking the following question with my order. "Can you guarantee me with some degree of certainty that the plants that I will be ordering are correctly named in botanical terms in relation to the plants advertised in the catalogue".

If I can't get this guarantee I will take my business elsewhere until I can get a guarantee that the naming is correct. No nursery can absolutely have all their plants correctly named but I'm sure some can improve on the % rate in my importations.

Greg Stewart.

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IT'S A PUZZLE

Early in 1984 I imported a plant of *Tillandsia lucida* which is one of the soft leaf tillandsias. The condition in which it came out of quarantine was very poor with the centre rotted out and many brown spots on the already half dead leaves. The centre of the plant was treated with fungicide and dried out and, after several months, the plant commenced to grow a new centre, but the brown spotting continued to spread on the new leaves. It certainly never looked in a good condition at any time.

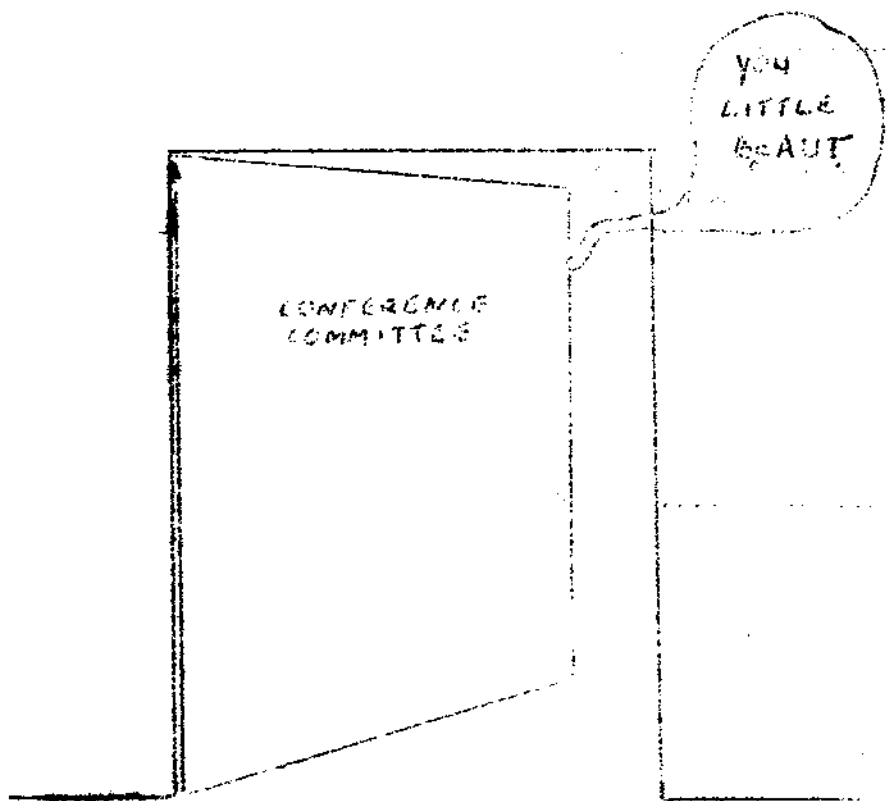
With the coming of summer, it commenced to flower. The inflorescence was quite slow developing although very showy at maturity. It was approximately 30 cm. high and branched with clear shiny sepals and soft lilac petals which opened up over a period of about two months. When all the petals had opened it commenced to fade and the same brown spotting on the leaves appeared on the spent inflorescence.

About one month passed and I noticed that each branch of the inflorescence had commenced to grow and colour the same as previously. These continued to grow to another 12 cm. and this time each branch terminated with a seed pod. So far the plant shows no evidence of producing any pups.

I have never experienced this type of flowering habit in any other of my tillandsias and being unable to find any literature on this plant I'm curious to know if this is normal for this plant to flower this way or has my plant shown a most unusual form.

L. Wilton

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P. P.

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