

Bromeliaceae

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Tillandsia
Streptocarpa

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

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 St., Fortitude Valley, at 7.30 p.m.

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PATRON: Mr. H. Caulfield
PRESIDENT: Mr. M. O'Dea 3992669
SECRETARY: Mr. G. Stewart 2779965
TREASURER: Mrs. R. Higgins 2002561
EDITOR: Mr. P. Paroz 2651547

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PROGRAMME

JANUARY, 1st Subscriptions due
JANUARY, 19th Slide showing - preparation of plants for the show bench - Notice of Motion - Please bring along the seedlings of *Vriesea fenestralis* donated by Ian Sunderland for comparison of size, growing conditions, etc.
FEBRUARY, 16th Annual General Meeting & election of Officers
Preparation of plants for Bromeliads III :
O. Trevor
Special raffle
MARCH, 15th Bromeliad Workshop -
Potting Mixtures Len Trevor
Mounting Tillandsias Greg Stewart
Propagation by Offsets John Sax

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FEES

Subscription - Single \$ 5.00
Family \$ 8.00

Overseas members wishing to have Bromeliaceae posted airmail should allow an extra \$ 3.00. All payments in Australian currency. Members with fees unpaid at the start of the A.G.M. are deemed unfinancial and lose continuity of membership.

GUEST EDITORIALRUNNING FOR COMMITTEE

The time is on us again when the new Management Committee must be elected to run the affairs of our Society for the next 12 months. It is a time for careful consideration by the membership at large to what degree they would like to contribute to the Society.

Some members may feel that they could not find time to go to Committee meetings once a month and carry out various duties that Committee positions require. Others think that they may like to get involved but feel they may be a little intimidated by some of the more experienced members on the Committee.

Any society or institution cannot stay stagnant at a certain status quo and in order to survive, moving with the times is paramount. To get this movement forward, new members on Committee from time to time are essential for new concepts and ideas, adding to the overall influx from all members. New ideas put forward at Committee meetings are discussed thoroughly and new or inexperienced members with suggestions are treated with the due respect they deserve. It is only by gaining experience on Committee by members that the quality of the society as a whole can be maintained at a high level that we have had over the years.

I urge any members who think they would like to participate at committee level to have someone nominate them on the appropriate form, available from the Secretary. Ballotting for positions in any society makes healthier management and overall running. There is no shame in being beaten in a ballot for a certain position, because you have at least put yourself in a position where you have shown your fellow members that you are prepared to take an active part in Society affairs. At times Committee is criticised by certain sections of the general membership. This may or may not be warranted at times. There should be no criticism from members however who were physically and mentally capable for nomination to committee at the A.G.M. and didn't do so. Some members, because of age, physical handicaps or business and domestic commitments cannot make themselves available for committee, and some criticism

from these members, provided it is done in a decent and cordial manner, is at times warranted.

The Committee is elected to administer the general running business of the Society and bring back to the General Meeting recommendations. In my short experience, I would like to say Committee does an extra good job and by your nominations at the A.G.M., we can keep it that way.

G. Stewart

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VALE

JIM HYDE

One of our foundation members, Mr. James (Jim) Hyde, passed away in November and it was a sad loss to our Society. Jim had a large collection of bromeliads at his Salisbury home and was one of our senior growers who exhibited plants at our Combined Show. Jim's ill health over the last few years restricted his movements and participation somewhat, but we always managed to see him at the Combined Show.

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland extends its utmost sympathy to Mrs. Mary Hyde and the rest of the family.

G. Stewart

DAPHNE COX

It is with great regret that we record the passing of another of our members, Daphne Cox of Townsville.

Although a recent convert to bromeliad growing, she was a very keen collector and grower, and had travelled to Brisbane last year to assist with our Mt. Coot-tha Show.

Our sincerest sympathy to her husband and family.

P. Paroz

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NOTICE OF MOTION

That the Bromeliad III Conference Co-ordinator be elected, as an additional voting member, to the Society Management Committee for the term of his appointment.

MOVED: P. PAROZ

SECONDED: P. CLARKE

SPECIAL RAFFLE

A Special Raffle will be held at the A.G.M. with prizes of -

Orthyphytum navioides
Aechmea orlandiana 'Ensign'

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A.G.M.

Nomination forms for Committee positions are available from the Secretary. These should be returned to the Secretary with the necessary details prior to the A.G.M.

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NOVEMBER MEETING

A short meeting was had with 101 members and visitors present. It was approved that \$250.00 be spent on a new typewriter for typing sections of Bromeliaceae, and \$344.95 to be spent on purchasing books for re-sale from America.

Our Patron, Mr. Harold Caulfield, and his wife were present and they were cordially welcomed by our President.

The meeting was then closed for our Xmas party, as reported by Lorraine Wilton.

G. Stewart

CHRISTMAS PARTY

L. Wilton

Christmas is a time of friendship and good cheer and this was certainly present at our Christmas Break-up Party held on the 17th November.

Once again the continuous raffle was the high light of the evening with many tickets being purchased by members and visitors, hoping to win something special. Thanks to all those who brought plants for the well filled tables.

The display of plants on the stage was a credit to all who brought in the beautiful specimens. Oliver Trevor's Vrieseas stole the show and brought many a gasp from members. Grace Goode gave an interesting and informative commentary on the plants. Over supper it was time to chat with friends and plan how to grow bigger and better plants next year. Many thanks to all who contributed.

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'ON THE MEND'

Early last year I was given an *Aechmea luddemanniana* cv. 'Mend' which showed not a trace of any variation or colour.

Our temporary 'bush house' on which we used 70% sarlon faces east with an open front. 'Mend' was duly potted into quincan gravel (volcanic rock) and placed on a front table at the northern end of the house.

Each morning when watering, I made a point of turning this pot. Approximately three months later faint yellow striations appeared. This encouraged me to continue turning the pot daily.

During the winter months, the plant received less direct morning sun (I would not change the position of the plant) but had good light until sunset. The variegations became more pronounced and colouration eventually started to appear.

Now, about nine months after its arrival, this 'Mend' is a strikingly beautiful plant - more vividly coloured and more prominently striped than its counterparts, which share the same table, imported in 1982.

V. Hudson

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AUSTRALIAN VARIEGATED BROMELIADS

Most members are not aware of some excellent variegated bromeliads of Australian origin. When I became interested in bromeliads, I doubt if there was one variegated plant indigenous to Australia. Now there are many and Australian growers can be proud of their efforts in this field.

One of the earliest to enhance the local scene was *Neoregelia concentrica* Marginata. Bill Morris bred this fine plant. He found that one of his *N. concentricas* had thrown a white margined leaf. He removed all the other leaves, thus forcing this margined leaf to throw an offset. United States members were keen to obtain this Australian plant and imported many in the late 70's. Like *N. concentrica*, it proliferates readily. I believe it sells for \$50.00 in U.S.A., but in Australia can be bought from \$6.00 upwards.

A good variegated *Aechmea* is *A. gamosepala* variegated 'Pat Graham'. Our member, John Graham, found the original plant in some little nursery, the vendor not knowing the worth of this

plant. The variegation is strong and none of my offsets has reverted. I do not know the market value of this plant as I use it for 'swapping'. John asked that this plant be called after his mother.

A splendid addition to the growing list of variegated plants is *Billbergia* 'Perriams Pride', of South Australian origin. In my opinion, it is superior to *B. 'Santa Barbara'*. The latter reverts quite a lot whereas *B. 'Perriams Pride'* throws true offsets with strong lolly pink borders on its pointed leaves in shade or bright light. I am told it sells for \$10.00 on the market.

Bob Larnach of Glenrob Nursery, Newcastle, has enriched the Australian scene with some outstanding variegated and marginated neoregelias. From memory, he has at least ten forms of *Neoregelia meyendorffii*, marginated or variegated. He is the fortunate owner of a variegated *meyendorffii* which rewards him with seedlings of which one quarter come variegated, which explains why he has so many forms. In my opinion, they are superior to the imported variegated *N. meyendorffii*s, the latter are inclined to be stiff leafed, whereas Bob's forms are softer leafed, reflexed, diffused with pink varying to red, overriding the white or cream variegation. Bob also has obtained a splendid variegated offset from *N. 'Olwen Ferris'*. I have not seen it, but I am told it has great possibilities.

The late Jim Hyde produced two desirable variegated *Aechmeas*. The first, *A. nudicaulis* 'Mary Hyde' is strongly marked with cream, more marginated than variegated. The plant varies a lot, but a good clone is an asset to a collection. Like the species, it is a strong grower, producing many offsets. The second plant is very similar to *A. 'Fosters Favorite Favorite'*, only the pink striation is reversed. He called it *A. 'Red Ribbons'*, but as there is an *Aechmea* from U.S.A. called 'Red Ribbon' it is rather confusing.

G. Goode,

to be continued

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BROMELIADS III - EASTER, 1985CONVENTION REPORT

The countdown to the Brisbane convention has now commenced and the Committee has completed some of the preliminary organisation. An up to date Convention Report will be included in future issues of Bromeliaceae to keep members informed.

1. PROGRAMME

Will feature a segment on bromeliad propagation - in its varied forms - presented by a variety of local and interstate speakers. The written proceedings of the convention will be an updated record of 'the state of the art' of propagation. Also included will be segments on landscaping with bromeliads; identification of bromeliads; and some general segments on growth and cultivation.

2. OVERSEAS GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Harry Luther of the Marie Selby Bromeliad Identification Centre, America, has responded to our invitation, and details for his visit are now taking shape. It is expected that his contribution will include some aspects of bromeliad identification, as well as a presentation on some of his plant collecting trips in habitat.

3. BUS TRIP

Local collections in the Sunshine Coast area will be visited as well as local tourist spots, if time permits. Many friendships are made on these trips that form a lasting benefit for growers and the bus trips at previous conventions proved to be very popular.

4. VENUE AND COSTS

Selection of a venue is to be made in the near future so that costing can be commenced to establish registration fees etc. Location of the venue as well as facilities and costs are important factors that will influence the final decision.

The support of all members will be necessary to make the convention a success. Adopt the motto to "STRIVE FOR '85".

J. Higgins,
Convention Co-ordinator

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