

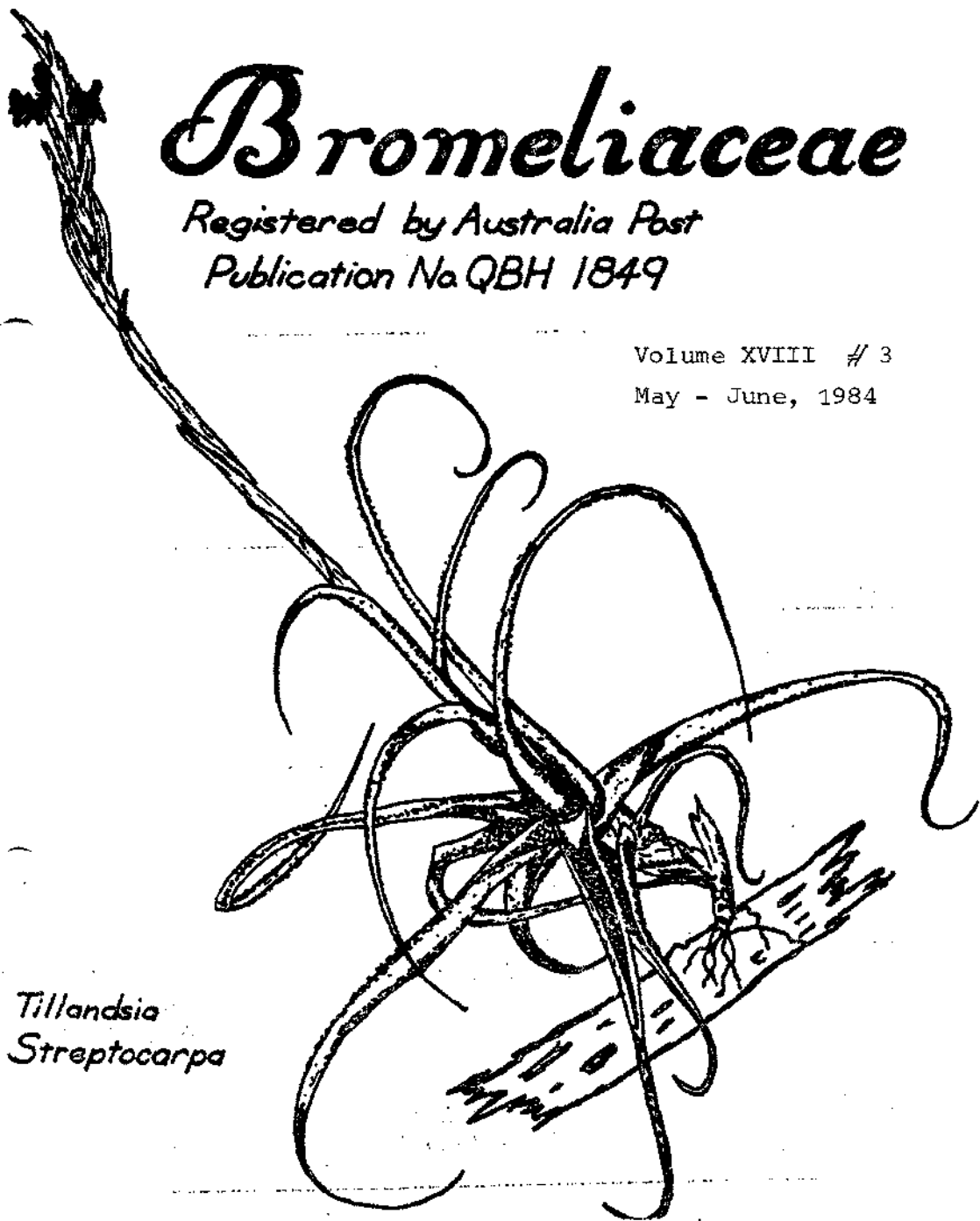
Bromeliaceae

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No QBH 1849

Volume XVIII # 3

May - June, 1984



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 Street, Fortitude Valley, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

PROGRAMME

MAY 17th:	General Meeting	
	Winter Care of Bromeliads	Olive Trevor/ Joan Imray
	Last Minute Preparation for Combined Show Competition	Paul Clarke
JUNE 8th:	Combined Show Set Up	
JUNE 9th & 10th:	Combined Show	
JUNE 21st:	General Meeting	
	Micro Climates	Panel Discussi. John Conran/ John Wilkins Norm Catlan
JULY 19th:	General Meeting	
	Nez Misso Memorial	Peter Paroz

GUEST EDITORIAL

I was honoured and pleased to be elected as your President for 1984. I am very much aware of the responsibility you have given to me as leader of this dynamic society. I feel humble, as the new boy, in the presence of your competent and experienced Committee which has been re-elected largely unchanged.

Finding itself in a position of strength with a growing membership and financial stability, the Society can now feel free to expand into new areas of interest.

I would like to see this reflect in the format of our monthly meetings and our public image. This, by necessity, must be a participative process, and I invite you to submit any ideas you have to me as soon as possible, so that they can be discussed at Committee level, and put into action.

With such a wealth of experience, talent, and potential at our disposal, it should be possible to attain new levels of enthusiasm in our Society. Hopefully, we can then avoid any air of complacency which normally follows a period of rapid growth and financial stability.

May your ideas thrive, as I am sure your bromeliads will.

Good growing,

Len Trevor

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

MARCH: We had an attendance of 68 members & 9 visitors who were welcomed with acclamation. Two new members were accepted - Evan Williams and Dianne West. A cash balance of \$4028.66 was reported and it was decided to invest \$3000.00 for 3 months and then at call. John Higgins, Conference Co-ordinator for Bromeliads III gave a resume on planning progress and announced that Harry Luther, Director of the Plant Identification Centre at Marie Selby Gardens in Florida, U.S.A. had accepted our invitation to attend our Conference as key speaker.

The members were advised that each meeting there will be a new segment called 'Show & Tell' where one or two members bring in a special or unusual plant and give a small talk on it. A motion was passed that each member be allowed to table two (2) plants each on the Popular Vote table instead of the usual one. The winners of the 1983 Popular Vote were presented with cards and prizes, the winners being -

ADVANCED: JOHN SAX : : NOVICE: GWEN GLEESON.

Mrs. Gleeson now goes into the Advanced section, so congratulations Gwen.

One of our stalwarts, Patricia O'Dea, has not been well, and our thoughts go with her for a speedy recovery.

POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED: *Tillandsia roland-gossellini* G. Stewart

NOVICE: *Aechmea orlandiana*
cv *Pickininy Hayward* R. Reilly

Peter Paroz and Olive Trevor gave a great plant commentary with Olive winning out on getting the most say. It was decided that we will have two commentators in future so a junior grower can gain experience.

The programme was a workshop on - Mounting *Tillandsias*; Propagation by Offsets; and Potting Mixes. These demonstrations were presented by Greg Stewart, John Sax and Len Trevor.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: *Tillandsia fasciculata*
cv *Jalisco monticola*

This plant, exhibited by Paul Clarke, was admired by all members. There is a huge variance in the *T. fasciculata*s and to my knowledge, there are at least five different cultivars, all strikingly different. This particular plant had an inflorescence shaped like a boat paddle, standing some 14" above the plant. It was a light pink intermingled with a greeny-yellow and really set the plant off. This particular plant was growing quite well in a pot of old cork, and probably best grown that way to get symmetry in the shape of the plant. One for the collector.

SECRETARY'S NOTES (cont)

APRIL: 52 members and 6 visitors attended the meeting, the attendance being down a little probably because of the Easter holidays. The Notice of Motion as printed in the last 'Bromeliaceae' was passed, meaning that the Special Events Co-ordinator is now a member of the Committee. John Higgins was elected to this position. Ipswich Bromeliad Society has indicated their acceptance of our invitation to erect a display at the Combined Show. It will be good to see them again. Harold Caulfield has once again accepted the position of Patron. A Thank You card was received from Patricia O'Dea, and we are pleased to report that she is on the mend. Hurry up and get back to our meetings Patricia, we miss your smiling face. A cash balance of \$1017.77 was reported as of 31.3.84. The President advised members that Committee has approved the introduction of Long Service badges for members who have unbroken membership of 10 years or more. Country members who qualify please write to the Secretary for information.

Plants for sale at the Combined Show will be inspected for disease by roving stewards, so plants can be taken straight into the sales area on Friday night. Also, Conditions for Sale of Plants indicate that prices must be in multiples of 50c. Please abide by this rule in order to ease the burden on the Combined Show Treasurer.

POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED:	Guzmania sanguinea	G. Gleeson
NOVICE:	Tillandsia fasciculata cv Denuspica	P. Clarke
JUDGES	Neoregelia X Fireball	
CHOICE:	(Specimen Clump)	E. Duncan

SHOW & TELL: Mrs. Duncan spoke on her huge Neoregelia X Fireball clump and Rolley Reilly presented his plant of Tillandsia grandis, but thought it may be mis-named.

PROGRAMME: Olive Trevor showed a nice selection of slides which everyone enjoyed.

COMMENTARY: John Higgins & Rolley Reilly gave the commentary with Rolly coming through his first unscathed.

SECRETARY'S NOTES (cont)

PLANT OF THE MONTH: *Guzmania sanguinea*

Gwen Gleeson brought in a nice form of *Guzmania sanguinea*. This has been one of the old time favourites and still is very hard to surpass as a foliage plant. The centre varies in colour amongst the clones, but ranges from a deep red right through to a nice yellow, or an intermingling of both. It only colours up at flowering time but once in flower holds this beautiful flush for months. Grow in 60% shade and in a porous potting mix, and give good humidity. They usually only throw one offset near the centre of the plant and extreme care has to be taken if you are going to remove it.

G. Stewart

VALE - JIM DAWLEY

I have just recently received the sad news that Jim Dawley of The Bromeliad Treasury, U.S.A. had passed away.

This is sad news indeed to a lot of members who got to know Jim and his wife Cordelia during their 1982 trip to Australia. He gave an address on the Ecological evolution of Tillandsias, accompanied by slides, and those members who attended were fascinated by this interesting subject. He also donated a number of top quality plants for auction to aid the Bromeliads III Conference, and this raised over \$600.00. Many members including myself imported plants from Jim over a number of years and found him to be a genuine, trustworthy and honest person, and when we actually met him found his personality to be warm and sincere.

I have not only lost a business contact, but a good friend. The bromeliad world will be worse off for his passing.

G. Stewart

COMBINED SHOW

It is now only a matter of weeks until the Combined Show so now is the time to check plants to make sure they are established and free of pests and disease.

A good supply of plants is needed for all areas, SALES, DISPLAY, & COMPETITION.

Sales plants MUST be tagged on arrival at the Sales Area (stickers available at May meeting).

We also need names for the Roster on Saturday and Sunday. Even if only for an hour or two, on either day, it will help quite a lot.

It would also be appreciated if any one has photos of bromeliads if they could bring them to the May meeting.

This is YOUR show, help make it a success.

GROW BROMELIADS - THE INDOOR/OUTDOOR PLANT (cont from
previous issue)

Bromeliads are grown either for their colourful foliage or their striking flowers, which in some genera may last for many weeks.

So what to grow? I bet there are quite a few of you who already have bromeliads in your garden without really knowing that they belong to this family.

Billbergia nutans, a small strong bromeliad often known as 'Queens Tears' has been with us for a long time. It forms offsets very freely and quickly grows into tidy size clumps. It also flowers very freely generally during late winter or early spring, depending on its situation. It is one which will stand light frost conditions. There are one or two hybrids of this species, one particularly with spotted foliage. Closely related *Billbergia* 'Santa Barbara' has attractive striped foliage and a similar inflorescence, while *B. distachia* is a squat grey plant.

Previously mentioned, the *Dyckia* genera are probably the hardiest, standing rugged conditions. In their native

state they grow on rocks or in crevices sometimes forming vast mats of plants. They do not like to be pampered and will stand up to some drought conditions. *Dyckia rariflora* is one easily cultivated. It has a small compact rosette with leaves that taper to a point and has small marginal teeth. The flower stalk grows about half to one metre and has orange and red flowers.

One of the best known and eagerly sought after bromeliads is *Aechmea fasciata* var. 'Silver King'. It has a vase like form with silver grey banded leaves and a pink inflorescence which is pyramidal in form, with lavender blue flowers. The inflorescence may last for many months. Also desirable, *Aechmea weilbachii* has a medium size rosette of green leaves up to half a metre long and about 3½cm wide. It flowers around April and has a large flower stalk which tends to arch. The flowers are composed of orange red ovaries tipped with lilac petals which soon turn to black. The whole inflorescence lasts about 4 months. These are but two of the colourful *Aechmeas* which take easily to pot culture and are generally reliable in their long flowering habits.

Some of the loveliest foliage plants belong to the genus *Neoregelia*. They range in form from small rosette types to a medium size plant. *Neoregelia carolinae* is probably the best known. It has shiny green leaves about 30cm long which in good light often becomes an attractive bronze or red. When mature the whole rosette flattens out and the centre becomes a deep red or pink according to the variety. There is a most attractive striped variety named 'Tricolor' and many colourful hybrids. *Neoregelia concentrica* is an attractive lavender coloured species, and *N. cruenta* a large straw coloured leaf specimen with rosy flush and blood red leaf tips. It can be grown outside in full sunlight. *Neoregelias* adapt well to pot cultivation and are one of the best to grow indoors.

Some of the most striking bromeliads are the *Vrieseas* which have brilliant inflorescences, sometimes known as 'Flaming Swords'. They grow extremely well under home conditions and though in their natural state they are inhabitants of the rain forest, they adapt well to drier and colder conditions. Especially desirable is *Vriesea hieroglyphica*, often

referred to as 'King of the Bromeliads' and which is a strikingly banded plant which can grow to 1½ metres. *Vriesea splendens*, a banded leaf plant, has a bright red to orange inflorescence with yellow flowers, and *Vriesea* 'Belgian Hybrid' is a handsome plant with a bright red branched inflorescence.

There are many bromeliads, most of which will give pleasure in their cultivation as an easy to grow colourful family, perhaps the ideal plant for those who just cannot grow indoor plants.

Good growing,

Vern Garner, Valla, NSW

A MEMBERS STORY ON HER 'INTRODUCTION TO BROMELIADS'

My introduction to the growing of bromeliads happened by chance - it wasn't planned in any way, or even spoken about to anyone in particular. In fact, it could begin with "Once upon a time", a young lady saw an *Aechmea fasciata* in full bloom and determined then and there to one day purchase a plant like that for herself - and then it goes on to read as follows -

A story now over four years old and still very much alive, with an ever growing knowledge of the 'Genera' and a nice collection of plants to be proud of.

My very first purchases consisted of *Aechmea fasciata*, A. Foster's Favorite, *Billbergia Santa Barbara* and B. Lilac Haze, and I found them all on a chance visit to a nursery not very far from home, and at reasonable prices. These new interesting plants were given pride of place in my old shade or 'bush house' which was erected from slats, placing them amongst a variety of plants I had collected and nurtured for many years, and I was satisfied for a while.

Some months later, I came across a *Neoregelia melanadonta*, fancied it enough to purchase, and it became my first 'Neo', regardless that it cost a little more than the others. At this stage I had little or no idea of what flowers either of the above mentioned plants got but I

did know all about 'Queens Tears' (*Billbergia nutans*) having had that in my garden for many years. About this time, our local supermarkets were displaying a new line of gardening books, amongst them being 'Bromeliads for Modern Living'. A quick browse through one of these and another sale was made before stocks were depleted - so I figured. This is about the time I brought it all to my husband's notice as I paged through and through this book, acquainting myself with plants I had never seen before, and I got 'hooked' on wishing I could get some nicer ones, and of course some of the more rare types as illustrated therein.

Then came a few visits to a few local flea-markets, and I added a *Neoregelia carolinae* hybrid (a real beauty) and a *N. marcon* to my small collection towards the end of 1980.

Perhaps by chance again, before we knew it we began to learn about the Bromeliad Society - the monthly meetings held, when and where, from a friend who had joined some time previously, and we were encouraged to come along. Since joining the Society, we have been regular in attendance and enjoy participating in the ways we are able. Furthermore the fellowship shared on the annual bus trip and visitations to fellow members gardens is pleasing to note and worthy of mention.

Nowadays, my shade house area consists of four times the original in size - my plants now grow under 70% shade cloth and I have some self-watering provision as well.

Some fellow members will re-call my great joy and utter surprise at winning the grand prize of *Aechmea orlandiana* Ensign at our February raffle. Regarding this, I would just like to add that my plant continues to thrive in my newest and best shade house, and I am still a happy grower of the plants which seemed to chance my way, slowly but surely winning their way into my heart, and yes, sometimes fingers as well!!!!

I hope my contribution to 'Bromeliaceae' warrants a little space - still a Novice .

Lenore Carlsen

FROM HOME HILL

In response to the Editors request for support, I am putting pen to paper on two points -

Living in Home Hill where most of our 38" rainfall falls in 3 months (sometimes half of it in one week) and at the other extreme dry winds from August to November which can average 25 m.p.h. and humidity down to 30%, potting mix versus watering is our great concern. The following mix has now been in use for one full season with the loss of only one plant -

2 parts	10mm quincan gravel
2 parts	peat moss
2 parts	perlite
1 part	old rotted cow manure

This is a general purpose mixture for most bromeliads. I fill the pot with this mixture only as high as the root girdle. The pot is then filled with 20mm quincan gravel which holds the plant firmly but prevents crown rot. We can then mist up to 4 times a day in the dry weather but it also sees us through the wet. It may be of help to people living in similar areas.

Also, we have now been operating a Bromeliad Study Group in Townsville for several months. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 2.00 p.m. at a different member's house each month. As members from as far as Ingham in the north and Home Hill in the south attend, it has been decided that one meeting each year will be held at Ingham and one at Home Hill with the rest in Townsville.

Visitors are welcome, and any members who are travelling north on holidays may call at our house, 'Bromelglen', 83-11th Avenue, Home Hill, or phone 077-822297, and we will advise you of the venue for the next meeting. Any member passing through our area is welcome to call and have a chat about bromeliads over a cuppa.

Max Miles

THE APEX SHOW, CRAIGSLEA HIGH SCHOOL

The show proved to be a success, even though the weather was against us. We had a good selection of plants for the display including a few ferns and palms which complimented the bromeliads. Sale plants and sale of the plants was excellent. Three prizes were offered by Apex and these were won by -

First:	Mrs. O. Trevor	<i>Vriesea fenestralis</i>
Second:	Mr. G. Stewart	<i>Vriesea gigantea</i>
Third:	Mr. J. Sax	<i>Neoregelia hybrid</i>

The prizes were based on the best plants in the display.

The Orchid Society and Floral Art Display gave a brilliant show which complimented our own display to no end. A special thanks to all who participated by supplying plants and stewarding.

Paul Clarke

CONFERENCE REPORT BROMELIADS III - PRESS RELEASE NO. 3

The Committee of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland takes pleasure in announcing that Harry Luther, Director of the Mulford Foster Bromeliad Identification Centre, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Florida, will be the Keynote Speaker for Bromeliads III, and will contribute several lecture sessions.

The broad details of the Conference programme have now been finalised as follows -

Good Friday - Afternoon & Evening Registration & Get-together Smorgasbord

Easter Saturday - Registration, Official Opening, Lecture Sessions, Conference Banquet - After Dinner Speaker H. Luther - 'Collecting Bromeliads in South America'

Easter Sunday - Bus Trip - North Coast collections

Easter Monday - Lecture Programme (finish approx. 4.00 p.m.)

CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN

D minus 46 weeks:- Finalisation of venue, finalisation of Programme, Preliminary Costing.

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!!!! ARE YOU COMING?????