



# *Bromeliaceae*

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September - October, 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 St., 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:

SEPTEMBER 20th: General Meeting  
Benefits and Pitfalls of a sprinkler system - John Wilkins

SEPTEMBER 23rd: Bus Trip to North Coast

OCTOBER 18th: General Meeting  
Neoregelia Show

NOVEMBER 15th: Christmas Break-up  
Cent Auction

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BUS TRIP

Don't forget the bus trip on Sunday 23rd September.

First stop will be John and Val Sax at Deception Bay to see how John grows his Neoregelias to such perfection, on to lunch at a park in Caloundra, and then on to visit Tony Lea's vast collection of Bromeliads.

Plants will be available for sale at both venues, and please all remember to bring your lunch, including any liquid refreshments.

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EDITORIAL

The display of Bromeliads at the R.N.A. would certainly have to be acknowledged as one of the most colourful arrangements that has ever been staged. The members who gave their time to man the display usually find it a very rewarding experience and certainly very amusing by some of the comments made by the public.

The majority of people who view the display don't realize just how many different types of plants make up the Bromeliad family as so few are available through nursery outlets and consequently many of the new imported hybrids go unnoticed at such a display. A clump of *Aechmea gamosepala* in flower had to be the plant most commented about in the display by the public. Most people who have a bush house own this plant and are surprised to discover it also is a Bromeliad.

Some of our new members are very eager to learn all that they can about bromeliads and so to help them, a beginners class has been introduced to each meeting. It will be conducted approximately 30 minutes prior to the commencement of each meeting. The first class will be addressed by Peter Paroz, at the September meeting, and the topic will be 'What is a Bromeliad'. I am sure new members (and some old ones) will find it informative and enjoyable.

Lorraine Wilton

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

JULY : 57 members and 7 visitors attend; a balance of \$2126.67 was reported; the following new members were welcomed with acclamation - MINNA DAWES, GWENDA KINGSFORD, RONALD BARNE3, MARGARET LERMONTH/MATHIESON, & DORIS PEARDON; John Higgins gave an update on the progress of the Bromeliads III Conference, the President spoke on the idea of a beginners class for 30 minutes before each General Meeting; The President advised that John and Nita Wilkins had donated \$50 to the Conference funds.

## POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED:	Greg Stewart	<i>Tillandsia viridiflora</i> variegata
NOVICE:	Rolly Reilly	<i>Tillandsia cacticola</i>
JUDGES CHOICE:	Greg Stewart	<i>Tillandsia viridiflora</i> variegata

SHOW & TELL: John Higgins spoke on nomenclature and pigmentation in various plants. Joan Imray showed a plant which had been brought back from the dead and explained how it was done. John Conran showed two *Vrieseas* that had cultural problems in unusual ways.

PROGRAMME: Peter Paroz presented the 'Nez Misso Memoria' Lecture which was to commemorate Nez's love for tillandsias. We learnt from Peter some of the background of this pioneer of tillandsia growing in Australia. The talk was illustrated with slides of Nez's old collection.

COMMENTARY: Paul Clarke and Greg Stewart spoke on a lightly stocked plant table.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: *Tillandsia viridiflora* variegata is not seen in many collections, mainly because of the length of time it takes to mature and produce offsets. The plant tabled was about ½ grown and was a very good clone with beautiful white striping through the plant's leaves. I must explain that this is one of the mesophytic tillandsias and looks like a *vriesea* or *guzmania* in the foliage. As this plant was grown in good light the white variegations had a beautiful pink flush through them. Pot in an open mix.

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AUGUST: 73 members and 8 visitors attended, including Ross McKinnon, Curator of the Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens; balance of \$1315.23 was reported; it was moved that the Treasurer pay the following accounts - \$200 to the Ridge Motel for deposit for venue for Bromeliads III, and \$300 for top quality plants for the Christmas Party Cent Auction; Bus Trip to be \$3.50 per head, receipt to be ticket; the following new members were welcomed with acclamation - JUNE ROSSOW, BARBARA DAVIES, DULCIE PORTER, RUDY & DOREEN PILTZ, AND VAL URGUHART; the President

announced the beginners section to begin next month (Sat.) at 7.15 on meeting nights; a mini show for neoregelias will be held in October; Mr. Gleeson commented on the meeting times and asked the Society to consider running a day-in meeting for those who cannot make the night meeting.

## POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED:	John Sax	<i>Guzmania lingulata</i> : <i>glomerata</i>
NOVICE:	John Conran	<i>Tillandsia multicaulis</i>
JUDGES CHOICE:	Greg Stewart	<i>Tillandsia jucunda</i>

SHOW & TELL: Greg Stewart showed a *Tillandsia geminiflora* in flower which had another small flower about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way up the stem of the plant. Greg also showed a very large robust neoregelia which had been sitting a tray of 2" of water for the last 6 months. Brian Anderson showed a vigorous *Aechmea Fosters* Favorite which had been growing in dog's hair. Austin Prigg showed a *Tillandsia circinnata* var. *prolifera* with its unusual growth habit.

Ross McKinnon gave a most informative talk on bromeliads in the Botanical Gardens and gave an open invitation to our Society to become more involved with the Gardens where bromeliads are concerned.

COMMENTARY: John Wilkins gave another of his usual well informed commentaries on a well stocked table.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: John Conran tabled a beautiful *Tillandsia multicaulis* with five (5) flower heads. This was quite a feat as this plant is not easy to grow. It is one of the unusual tillandsias where several large red paddle inflorescences emerge from the leaf axils. It is probably best grown in an open mix in semi-shade as its habitat is in cloud forest regions of Mexico and Panama. Not easy to grow but well worth the effort.

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MINI SHOW

A mini competitive show featuring Neoregelias will be held at the October General Meeting.

There will be three (3) classes -

CLASS 1 - Variegated Neoregelias (species or hybrid)

CLASS 2 - Hybrid Neoregelias (non variegated)

CLASS 3 - Species Neoregelias (non variegated)

Members will be limited to three (3) plants per class.

Plants should be in showbench condition, and in non-decorative pots.

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FRAGRANT TILLANDSIAS

Bromeliads are not usually associated with having a perfume so I was surprised to discover a very pleasant fragrance issuing from among my tillandsias while in my bush house one evening.

I traced this delightful scent to a clump of *Tillandsia capillaris* var. *incana*, one of the miniature tillandsias with small yellow-brown petals.

Thus I began to smell every tillandsia which flowered and discovered the following to have a perfume - *Tillandsia streptocarpa*, with a smell similar to the annuals, Stocks; *Tillandsia ajeneae*, which is carnation-like only stronger; *Tillandsia crocata*, a small species with attractive yellow petals with an aroma like that of cinnamon; *Tillandsia myosura* also has a smell but I find it very unpleasant.

*Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss), the most common of all tillandsias, has very small greenish flowers from which emits a very delicate fragrance, but only after dark, which leads me to suspect that some night insect is needed to pollinate the flowers.

Lorraine Wilton

1984

ESCAPED BROMELIADS

As part of the "Flora of Australia" Project currently being written by botanists throughout Australia, the family Bromeliaceae is amongst those which are to be submitted to The Flora editor at the end of 1984 for printing, probably in 1985. To this end, it is necessary for me as the author of this part of the flora, to have accurate data about which species of Bromeliaceae have become naturalised in Australia, and if so, where.

Thus far, there is only one definite collection of a naturalised bromeliad - Ananas comosus growing wild in rain-forest near Mt. Bellenden Kerr near Innisfail, Qld. I would be extremely grateful for any specimens of pineapples, and also of any other bromeliads which members know of as growing 'wild' in the bush, especially any specimens of Tillandsia usneoides known to have gotten away. At present we have hearsay reports of it being escaped, and we all know the birds and possums steal it, but to confidently include it in the flora treatment, I would need a specimen (one or two strands about 20 - 30cm). Likewise with any naturalised pineapple plants, a single mature leaf would do as an adequate specimen. For any other species, the whole of a shoot would be needed (preferably in flower) to enable determination. Any collection should (if possible) include the collectors name, the date, and location of collection, and the type of habitat in which the plant is growing, e.g. Eucalypt forest or rain-forest. These data will be cited in the flora treatment.

Any specimens should be sent to the following address, and postage costs will be reimbursed -

Mr. J. Conran,  
Botany Department,  
University of Queensland,  
ST. LUCIA. 4067

Specimens can be sent either wrapped in newspaper or placed DRY in a plastic bag, the specimen then placed in a cardboard box or 'jiffy bag'. It doesn't matter if they dry out in transit as they will be dried as specimens anyway, but if packed wet they will rot.

I hope that fellow bromeliad growers of Australia will help make the Bromeliaceae volume of the flora an accurate record of which plants really have escaped.

John Conran

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### THE CAIRNS CONNECTION

The Cairns and District Bromeliad Study Group first met in March last year, and I have been remiss in not reporting on our meetings before this.

Our members are all enthusiastic, and steadily growing in numbers. They travel from Ingham in the south, Port Douglas in the north, and Kuranda on the Tablelands. Our venue changes monthly.

We are extremely lucky in having the wonderful venues available to us. Our last Innisfail meeting was held at the home of Brian and Karen Kebby, who have thirty acres of forest. A veritable wilderness of trees, ferns, palms, and of course bromeliads, are always there waiting to be exclaimed over.

I shall never forget our first visit to Brian and Karen's. I caught sight of some interesting plant and turned around to share my pleasure - and there was no-one in sight! No standing around in groups - they had all scattered - then a voice calling from further over in the trees, "Come and look at this!" We have a full day - even though our meeting is usually of two hours duration.

Our Kuranda hostess is Grace McLoughlin, who enjoys living surrounded by ten acres of gardens, and gently sloping lawns. rain forest complete with creek, tree ferns and the famed bird-wing butterfly and rainbow parrot. To call this a delightful spot is an understatement.

Our July meeting was held at the home of Jim and Monica Buttsworth in Cairns, and twenty members attended. Although



Monica and Jim have only been in their new home a few months, their bush house looks a picture.

The topic of the day was the specific differences in genera, and our hostess had over twenty plants for comparison. However time permitted only a few to be discussed at length.

Identification is a recurring item on our agenda, with people bringing along their unnamed plants. Unfortunately an answer is not always readily available. (how many spotted billbergias do you have?).

Our meetings follow a similar format to that of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland meetings, and along with the usual agenda we have now introduced a display table and 'Popular Vote'.

During the last twelve months, we have presented five displays - Cairns Show; shopping centres; and "Lifestyle" - our trade fair. These displays appear to have been well received and certainly admired by the public, whose main cry seems to be "I didn't know bromeliads could look like this!".

Our most recent display was held at a shopping complex just a few weeks ago and people returned day after day, often bringing along a wife or husband or mother etc. To the Group this was rewarding indeed.

We have enjoyed Field Days to June Bennett's, who this month was welcomed as a new member, and of course her wonderful plants caused much "ooing" and "aahing".

In April, we were invited by the Ingham Orchid & Allied Plant Society to attend their Field Day, and we made it a bumper weekend venture. We are all now hoping to be invited back again next year. It is also hoped that they are our guests in the near future, and that we can match their hospitality.

We were also fortunate last year in having "southern" growers address meetings. Grace Goode, Olwen Ferris, and

Peter and Doreen Johnson all gave informative talks, and we take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their interest and participation.

All in all we are a pretty active group - and we owe it all to an article written by John Higgins for the Bromeliaceae in 1982 concerning formation of a Study Group or a Society. Many thanks, John.

An open invitation is issued to you all. If you are coming our way please remember we are here, and we meet the first Saturday in every month.

Verna Hudson

Phone Cairns (07) 443695

Cairns (070) 543695

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### BROMELIADS III CONFERENCE REPORT

We can now give the following detailed information about the Conference. Only minor items remain to be finalised and registration forms will be available in the near future.

The Bromeliads III Conference will be held at the Ridge Motor Inn, Brisbane, during the Easter weekend, April 5th to April 8th, 1985.

#### THE VENUE

The Ridge Motor Inn, sited in the inner city suburb of Spring Hill, will be the Conference centre. Providing adequate accommodation at attractive rates and located a short distance from the Brisbane City Centre, The Ridge Motor Inn is a licenced establishment with swimming pool, undercover parking facilities, etc.

#### THE PROGRAMME

Local, interstate and overseas bromeliad enthusiasts, representing a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience, will present a varied and interesting programme on Saturday, 6th April and Monday, 8th April. Session themes will include aspects of cultivation, propagation and identification.

## FRIDAY, 5th APRIL:

Arrival of delegates and registration followed by an informal gathering of local members and visitors. A light evening meal will be provided.

## SATURDAY, 6th APRIL:

8.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. : Final registrations

9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. : Lecture programme

Morning and afternoon teas and lunch will be provided during the day.

7.30 p.m. : Official Banquet

Will include an After Dinner Presentation by Mr. Harry Luther of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Florida, U.S.A. This presentation will be based on Mr. Luther's bromeliad collecting trips.

## SUNDAY, 7th APRIL:

8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. : Bus Trip to visit bromeliad collections in the Sunshine Coast region just north of Brisbane.

4.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. : Visit to the Sunshine Plantation (The 'Big Pineapple') and evening meal followed by a leisurely return trip to the Ridge Motor Inn Conference Venue.

## MONDAY, 8th APRIL:

9.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. : Second day of Lecture Programme

Morning and afternoon teas and lunch will be provided during the day.

A Question and Answer session will conclude the Conference Programme with all speakers comprising a panel.

The Conference will be concluded following comments from the Delegates meeting and from the South Australian Society, the Conference hosts for 1987.

THE PROCEEDINGS

Bound and printed copies of the Official Proceedings will be forwarded to delegates following inclusion of the Question and Answer session material. Because this material will be developed as part of the Conference activity, supply of the Proceedings will be made as soon as possible after the Conference. Cost of these Proceedings is included in the Registration Fee. Extra copies will be available upon order.

at an additional cost.

### CONFERENCE FEES

Registration forms will be forwarded in the near future. For advance information, the following list of fees will apply -

1. REGISTRATION                   \$ 60.00 Single  
                                      \$ 110.00 Double

This fee includes Friday night dinner; Lecture Programme on Saturday and Monday including morning & afternoon teas & lunch; and Official Proceedings. Double registration includes one copy only of Official Proceedings.

2. OFFICIAL BANQUET               \$ 25.00 Per Person

This fee includes a three course meal, house wine, coffee or tea and mints, followed by an After Dinner Presentation by our Official Guest, Mr. Harry Luther.

3. BUS TRIP                         \$ 20.00 Per Person

This fee includes return bus fare to the Sunshine Coast district; visits to members collections; morning tea and lunch; and visit followed by dinner at the Sunshine Plantation (The 'Big Pineapple').

4. ACCOMMODATION                 \$ 50.00 Per Room/Per Night

This fee includes single, twin share, double or family accommodation in the Conference Venue, the Ridge Motor Inn. Cost of \$50.00 is per room, and where room is shared, this cost would be shared. This special Conference rate is available to delegates for the week before & the week after the Conference for those delegates and their families who wish to extend their stay in Brisbane. This attractive rate for accommodation has been negotiated to enable delegates to take full advantage of accommodation within the Conference Centre. Delegates should note that during the Conference, separate hotel charges will apply for breakfasts, laundry, liquor, room service, etc.

5. FREE DAY

For those delegates not wishing to make the Bus Trip, Sunday April 7th will be available as a free day. Meals & transport for those not making the Bus Trip are not inclusive in the fees.

JOHN HIGGINS, CONFERENCE CO-ORDINATOR