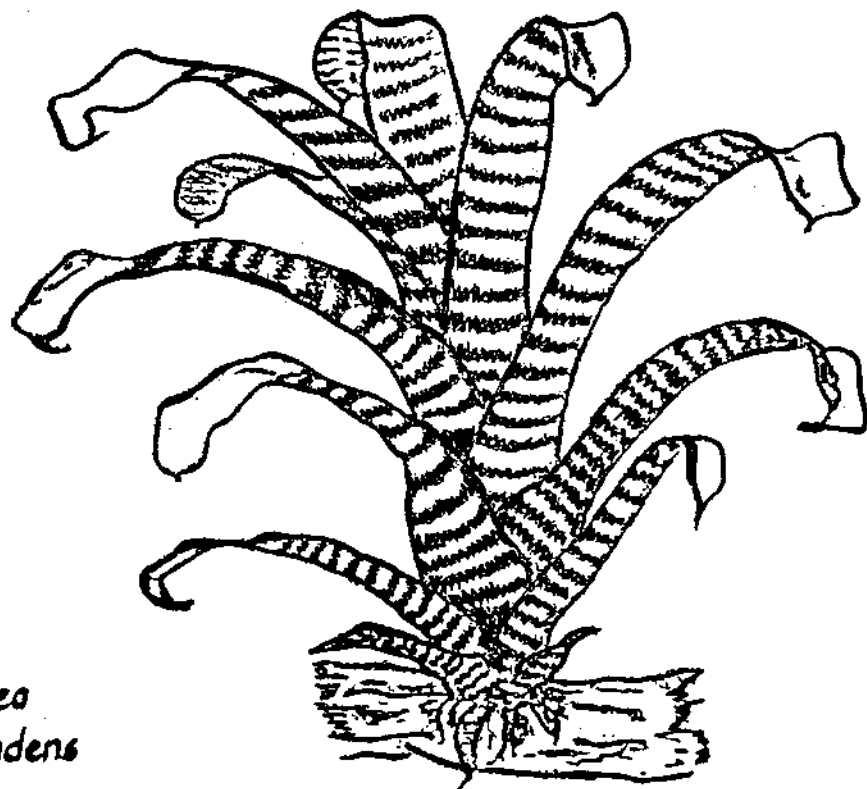


Bromeliaceae

Postal Address: P.O. Box 565
Fortitude Valley Qld. 4006

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
- PUBLICATION NO. QBH 1849.

VOLUME XX # 3
MAY - JUNE, 1986



*Vriesea
splendens*

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 pm.

PATRON	Mr. H. Caulfield
PRESIDENT	Mrs. Joan Imray
SECRETARY	Mr. Greg Stewart
TREASURER	Mrs. Ruth Higgins
EDITOR	Mr. Greg Stewart

PROGRAMME

MAY	15th	GENERAL MEETING Slides - Part II Costa Rican Adventure
MAY	18th	FIELD DAY Laurie & Thelma Muller, 342 Beckett Rd., BRIDGEMAN DOWNS
JUNE	6th	COMBINED SHOW - Set up displays & Competitions
JUNE	7th	COMBINED SHOW
JUNE	8th	COMBINED SHOW
JUNE	19th	GENERAL MEETING Champion Plants from Combined Show to be brought in for meeting and Judges will be commenting on them

EDITORIAL

A new phase in the life of 'Bromeliaceae' is about to evolve, with the decision being made by the general meeting to accept a quote by the Endeavour Foundation to professionally print our newsletter.

This will mean the end of an era, as our own members, mainly the respective Editors, have been printing the 'Bromeliaceae' by hand since the formation of the Society. The first 'Bromeliaceae' was issued after the second official meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland, and was in the form of a typewritten tabloid compiled by Len Butt. Mrs. Mary Grasselli printed the magazine and edited it for some years, the publication being printed by this stage on a hand-driven Gestetner machine. Peter Paroz edited and printed the magazine for many years, using the Gestetner machine and the workload increasing to a massive 220 copies per issue. In the last two years, when Lorraine Wilton was Editor, credit must go to John Roder and friends for printing the 'Bromeliaceae' and mailing it. These people, who at times worked under difficulty, and personal loss of their own leisure time, should be thanked profoundly by the Society. Special mention must also go to Patricia O'Dea for typing up envelopes ready for posting over a number of years, and Ruth Higgins who has, for at least the last 6 years, typed up the numerous Gestetner sheets ready for run-off.

The professional printing of 'Bromeliaceae' however is only a very small part of the success of the magazine. The real success really lies at the feet of the Society members to contribute original articles for publication. The Editor is not a magician and cannot pluck articles from nowhere. I appeal to all members to write articles for me for publication in 'Bromeliaceae'. I will accept anything as long as it is not obscene, political or religious. No, better leave the religious in, as some people regard their plants with reverence and use their greenhouses as a temple. Small poems, social happenings, hints and tips on growing, or anything which may interest, would make me a very happy Editor.

Greg Stewart

+++++

SECRETARY'S NOTES

MARCH: There were 53 members and 5 visitors at the March meeting. The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$1979.48 as at 28.2.86. As a carry over from the A.G.M., nominations for President were called. Mrs. Joan Imray was nominated and elected unopposed. Paul Clarke was elected Vice President on a majority vote. A vote of thanks was moved for our Past President, Mr. Len Trevor, for the great job he had done over the last two years. This was greeted with acclamation.

POPULAR VOTE -

ADVANCED: *Aechmea dichlamydea* v. *trinitensis* T. Muller
x *Ae. fendleri*

NOVICE: *Tillandsia mooreana* R. Wilson

JUDGES
CHOICE: *Tillandsia mooreana* R. Wilson

A slide showing was given by John Higgins, Peter Paroz and Len Trevor of plants in their collections. Olive Trevor then gave her usual entertaining commentary.

APRIL: There were 60 members and 6 visitors present, and apologies were received from Rose Meade, Millie Crew, Olive Trevor and Lorraine Wilton.

We received an invitation to participate in a Plant Spectacular at the Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens on 27th and 28th September, and this invitation received the full support of the general meeting. All proceeds go to charity, so we should get a good roll up of members.

The President tabled a quote from professional printers to print our 'Bromeliaceae', and the majority of the meeting agreed we accept the quote.

POPULAR VOTE -

G. Stewart

COMBINED SHOW COMPETITION SCHEDULE - BROMELIADS

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>NO. OF PLANTS</u>
1. Tillandsia	_____
2. Vriesea	_____
3. Other Tillandsioideae	_____
4. Tillandsioideae in Flower	_____
5. Cryptanthus	_____
6. Billbergia	_____
7. Aechmea	_____
8. Neoregelia	_____
9. Nidularia	_____
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 First Prize)	_____
19. Best Tillandsioideae	_____
20. Best Bromelioideae	_____
21. Best Pitcairnioideae	_____

22. Reserve-Champion Bromeliad of the Show

23. Champion Bromeliad of the Show

NOTES

1. Classes 1 to 15 inclusive may consist of multiple plants in one container or one mounting, but should be connected by an intact rhizome.
2. Class 17 - the theme may be display, educational or novel presentation. Other plants, natural or artificial adjuncts are allowed, but judging will be on the basis of plant quality and effective presentation of bromeliads.
3. Plants in Classes 4 and 12 must have flowers (i.e. petals) or unopened buds evident. Plants in other classes may show bud, bract, berry or capsule.
4. The Nez Misso Memorial Award will be made to the Best Tillandsioideae on the competition table
5. The Hudson Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the Best Bromelioideae on the competition table.
6. The Tom Schofield Memorial Award will be made to the best bromeliad in the display, not on the competition table.
7. Plants eligible for Classes 22 and 23 will be the first and second plants from Classes 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Plants must be correctly labelled, free of disease, established in the pot or on the mounting, and in showbench condition.
2. All water must be emptied from the plants and the pots dried off before placing on the show bench.
3. Plants must be the property of the exhibitor, and have been in his custody, for the previous three (3) months.
4. A limit of three (3) plants/class/financial member of the B.S.Q. or Q.S.S. will apply.
5. The eligibility of plants in the various classes will be determined by the Chief Bromeliad Competition Steward, whose decision will be final.
6. The Judging Panel's decision as to the quality of the plants will be final.
7. Specimen Plants (Class 16) must be connected by an intact rhizome.
8. Entries will be received from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm on the Friday night prior to the Show.

ENTRANT'S NAME:

HANDY HINTS (cont)

3. If one of the leaves of your show plants is bent or creased, quickly dampen some tissue or paper towelling and wrap the leaf. This may lessen the damage caused by dehydration. Leave the tissue in place for 24 hours.
4. When your plants have finished blooming, cut off the inflorescence and, while doing so, cut all the leaves back to half their original length. This will permit more light to reach the pups as they emerge, and also allow them to grow faster and better with more configuration and less distortion. It also reduces the bench space you have to allow your bloomed-out plants.

(The above was extracted from the Bromeliad Advisory magazine of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida).

PLANTS OF THE MONTH

Members must be getting thoroughly confused by now of the names of three particular plants which have been shown or tabled at the meetings over the last two years. These three plants are *Tillandsia mooreana*, *T. Kalmbacheri* and *T. intumescans*. The plants are very closely related, but are distinctly different.

Those of you who have Werner Rauh's book "Bromeliads for Home Garden and Greenhouse" will notice on Plate 5 that a plant is illustrated as *T. intumescans*, but is really in fact *T. Kalmbacheri*. Rauh acknowledges this in the front of the book, but people may not be aware of this. The *T. Kalmbacheri* in the photo looks identical to my *T. Kalmbacheri*, which I flowered recently. It was not a large plant, about 30cm in width with an inflorescence about the same height. The leaves are a soft green, more like a vriesea with the inflorescence being very beautiful.

Rolly Reilly and myself imported a number of *T. intumescans* into Australia in 1982, and had no reason to doubt the naming on the plant until Harry Luther positively identified the plant as *T.*

PLANTS OF THE MONTH (cont)

mooreana at the Bromeliads III Conference. The plant is about the same size and leaf colour and texture as *T. Kalmbacheri*, but the inflorescence is much larger and more branched. The primary bracts on *T. Kalmbacheri* tend to be much redder than the soft pink on *T. mooreana*.

The plant of *T. intumescans* which I took to the last general meeting is a much larger and robust plant, with the foliage being a grey-green colour, and stiffer than the other two species we have mentioned. The inflorescence is spectacular and reaches a height of 90cm in full bloom.

I hope this in some way clears up the problems we have been having with the naming of these plants.

Greg Stewart

THE CAIRNS CONNECTION

The Cairns Bromeliad Study Group held its March meeting at the home of Rex and Sylvia Mitchell, with an attendance of 22 members and visitors. Our subject for the afternoon was tillandsias

Rex has an impressive collection and spoke to the meeting on his methods including watering and fertilising. To our surprise he advised that he fertilises his plants weekly with full strength liquid fertiliser. Everyone enjoyed the tour through his bush house, and the members were interested to note that Rex has his tillandsias set up and growing on horizontal logs. Tillandsias in flower included *T. xerographica* and *T. cyanea*.

We were then treated to a viewing of Greg Stewart's slides, and all gazed enviously at the numerous plants in bloom.

The April meeting had to be postponed due to a delayed 'wet', and we met a week later at the home of Betty Hedges. Because of the change of meeting day, some members were unable to attend, but 15 people arrived to enjoy an interesting and informative afternoon.

THE CAIRNS CONNECTION (cont)

Members had been requested to bring along plants from the 'forgotten' generas. We were able to view and discuss *Orthophytum vagans*, *O. saxicola*, *O. foliosum* (flowering plant grown from seed), *Hohenbergia stellata* and *Puya mirabilis*. A special mention should go to Grace McLoughlin who not only struggled in with the enormous plant of *Hohenbergia stellata*, but had that morning dug it out of her garden. An act that not too many would have carried out.

It was interesting to learn of the different light conditions given to these plants and the resultant colour and form. Questions and answers flew thick and fast and it was pleasing to see that all members contributed to this segment.

We had the pleasure of viewing Betty's bush house, so neat and trim that it made some of us bow our head in shame. Although Betty's collection is small in numbers as yet, the quality more than compensated. A magnificent specimen of *Aechmea mexicana* held centre place in the bush house, and the size, shape and colour was beautiful. A delightful afternoon.

Bromeliad growers visiting Cairns are always welcome to come along to a meeting - when plant lovers get together there is always so much to talk about.

Don't forget - look us up.

Verna Hudson

HIDDEN WORLDS WITHIN THE BROMELIAD

The vast Amazon basin is still home for a great section of the world's flora and fauna. Truly the country for exploring botanists, entomologists, and zoologists, a veritable mecca of learning.

Remembering what was written back in 1975 about Dr. A. Zahl's Brazilian expedition to study the contents of the water tanks of the genus *neoregelia*, I give a few quotations from his notes -

Peering into a bromeliad the size of a large beer keg, we carefully tilted the plant so as not to disturb the roots that secured it to the jungle hardwood tree and a stream of tea coloured water gurgled from its chalice-like centre right into the collecting net. Here we find mosquito wrigglers, small beetles, pencil slim millipedes, and a belligerent scorpion. Further investigation reveals water spiders, tiny multi-coloured toads a few of those leech like worms with brilliant black and yellow striping along their backs. The toads are of the arrow poison varieties, their kaleidoscopic skin color a deception for the deadly poison it harbors just below the coloured skin.

Next day, on studying a huge *Vriesea imperialis*, we find this plant was holding about 12 gallons of water along with small salamander newts, small snails and several tree frogs of the type that carry their eggs on the back and various tiny crabs.

Dr Douglas Robinson also of the expedition comments on the vivid burgundy coloring to the *Vr. imperialis*. This is not often seen in collections of *Vr. imperialis*.

Another worthwhile observation is the dragon fly nymphs often present in the neoregelia water tanks raid and devour the rafts of mosquito eggs. The nymph is a natural predator to the mosquito larvae.

The delicately balanced ecosystem begins its cycle everytime showers fill the wells of these plants. Leaves, air borne dust and excrement from tiny animals fall in and sink to the bottom to form algae and other primitive life erupts, and in turn is devoured by a higher range of insects, and tiny animals, which in turn are consumed by the larger visiting lizards, frogs, tiny birds and rodents.

Len Butt

A GARDEN OF GRACE - A REVIEW

Seldom is one fortunate enough to do a review of such a quality product as this video cassette of the garden of Grace Goode at Alexandra Headlands. Grace's garden is well known throughout the world for its beautifully landscaped bromeliads, particularly neoregelias.

It surpasses the earlier video which was released at the Third Australian Bromeliad Conference in both film colour, editing and film quality. The video takes one for a leisurely and intimate look through Grace's garden, encompassing outstanding plants selected from all the genus in the bromeliad family with the main feature, of course, being the beautifully grown neoregelias in a landscape panorama. The close-ups of these plants on video is absolutely enthralling, and a credit to the cameraman.

The video is narrated by Grace Goode herself where the earlier expedition was background music only. Grace does an absolutely professional job of this in her casual, laid-back manner, not being too intrusive as the beautiful music filters through in the background.

The second half of the video is a concise and practical demonstration on how to go about hybridising bromeliads in the proper manner, with close-ups on pollinating, pollen storage and various other secrets Grace has picked up over the years. We are taken right through all the stages of seedling growth, until the plants are half grown, with potting mixes being shown in full detail.

In summing up, a thoroughly enjoyable production, both for pleasure and educational content, and a must for any bromeliad grower.

Greg Stewart



A Garden of Grace



A video showing the exquisite beauty
of the Bromeliad.

Displayed in the landscaped setting of
Grace Goode's garden, who also gives
the sensitive narration

The second half of the video has "hints
on hybridizing and seed raising".

Send to:-

Video Grams

4 Kurrajong Court, Palm Beach 4221 Qld.

**\$39.50 U.H.S or BETA
+\$3.50 Post & Packing**

** see this issue for a review of the above video
by Greg Stewart.