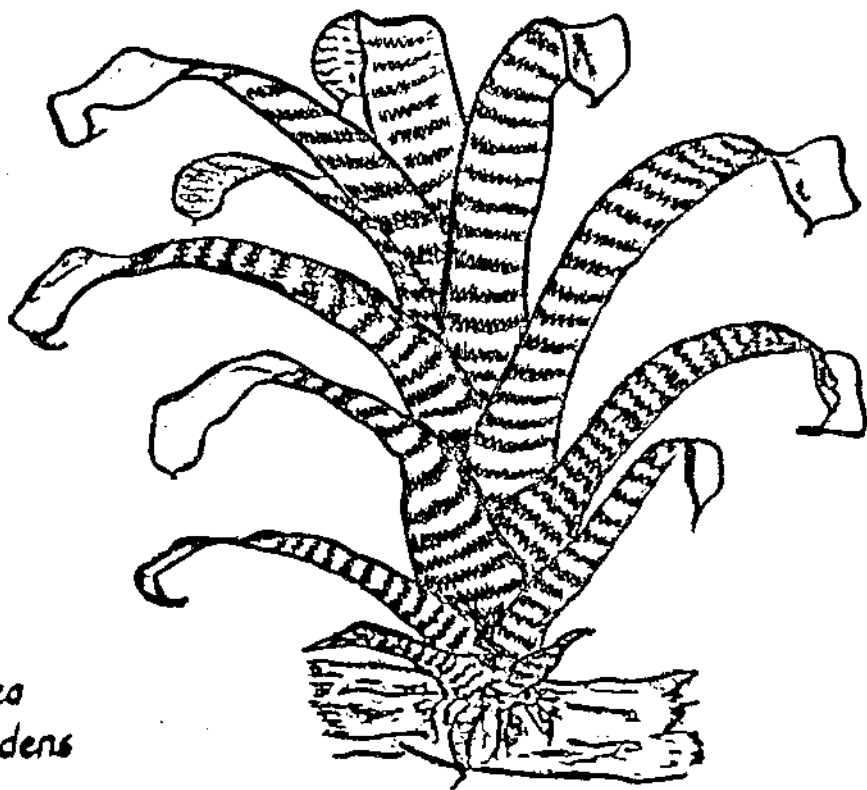


Bromeliaceae

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

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
PUBLICATION NO. QBH 1849.

VOLUME XX # 4
JULY - AUGUST, 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.

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PATRON:	Mr. H. Caulfield	
PRESIDENT:	Mrs. Joan Imray	3796733
SECRETARY:	Mr. Greg Stewart	2779965
TREASURER:	Mrs. Ruth Higgins	8002561
EDITOR:	Mr. Greg Stewart	2779965

PROGRAMME

JULY, 17th	General Meeting
	Discussion - 'How to set up a Bromeliad Display' Chairman - John Higgins
AUGUST, 3rd	R.N.A. - Set Up Props
AUGUST, 6th	R.N.A. - Set Up Display
AUGUST, 7th - 16th	R.N.A. - Steward Required
AUGUST, 21st	General Meeting
	Slides - Tillandsias from the collection of Greg Stewart

VALE: NICK KEMP

It has just been learnt that one of our early members, Mr. Nick Kemp, passed away in early January. Nick was the Society's Secretary for some time, and was active in setting up displays and promoting bromeliads.

Our sincerest sympathy is extended to his family and loved ones.

EDITORIAL

Congratulations must go out to all members for the way they participated in this year's Combined Show. All the rosters were well supported, and we didn't struggle for help as we have done in past years. The support for the Show Bench was incredible, with a record number of entries being tabled this year, and relatively new growers winning quite a few classes. The quality of the plants was excellent, with the Judges having quite a hard time in deciding class winners. The main thing now, is to pat ourselves on the back for a job well done, but not to become too complacent for next year, as we owe it to ourselves to keep the support at this high level.

I must remind members to let the Secretary know of any sicknesses or death of Society members, or people who were once deeply associated with the Society. The Secretary is too busy to be able to read the Obituary Notices in the daily paper each morning, looking for members names. It is only a matter of a phone call to myself on 2779965 to record any unfortunate losses or sickness, and the appropriate recognition will be immediately given. The reason for this reminder is that one of our early members passed away in January, and I did not hear of it until mid June, which was very unfortunate.

Greg Stewart

COMBINED SHOW, 1986

The group of tired weary people gathering their plants to return home, all had the same feeling of contentment. The Show had finished, the many days and nights that had been spent in preparation certainly had been worth the effort. The Combined Show for 1986 was, without a doubt, the best staged show to date.

The unusually pleasant weather helped to boost the attendance of the public sector, proven by the 1900 people, all, once passing through the door, headed straight to the centre display where an air of amazement developed. The focal point, an old dead tree that sparkled with many varieties of tillandsias and other bromeliads, was surrounded by a kaleidoscope made up of aechmeas, vrieseas, neoregelias, nidulariums and cryptanthus arranged artistically among bark and logs. I'm sure Joe, the Show

COMBINED SHOW cont

Organiser, was overwhelmed with the response to his request for plants. Transportation of some of the larger plants was no easy feat, especially one as large as Olive's *Vriesea imperialis* cross, complete with inflorescence, which won the Tom Schofield Memorial Award. Well done Olive.

After the perusing of the central display, the rush was then to the sales area to find the plants on 'the wanted list'. With the help of many Stewards, that special plant was found, and many more that just couldn't be resisted were purchased. Plants offered for sale were of a very high quality, and hidden among the scores of plants were some very good finds. Sales on the tillandsia stand were brisk throughout the two days, but Rolly, if only you had more *T. cacticola* seedlings for sale, you would have been a richer man.

Next it was time to view the plants on the Competition Tables. Not only to the winners, but to all members who entered their plants, congratulations for the quality of your plants and the willingness to fill the classes quota. For some years billbergias appeared to be falling in popularity, but if this years entries were any indication, billbergias are again on the way up.

By this time, people were ready for a 'cuppa', so it was out to the tea area where Yvonne and her helpers kept every one fortified throughout the weekend.

To see people chatting to old friends, making plans to visit another's collection, or just exchanging cultural notes, gives one a feeling of great satisfaction and of knowing that the hard work needed to stage a show of this calibre is certainly worth the effort.

Lorraine Wilton

BROMELIADS IV CONFERENCE NEWS BULLETIN

Start saving your money now. We have made preliminary plans to whet your appetite and believe you should be aware of them, even though there may be minor changes by the time the official brochures and application forms are issued about October.

1. Friday evening - Registration : nibbles etc : wine tasting
2. Saturday - Talks etc : afternoon visit to Botanic Gardens : Banquet in evening
3. Sunday - Bus Trip to the Barossa Valley : poolside barbeque in evening
4. Monday - Talks etc : Close proceedings approx 4.00pm

We are optimistic that this can be included in the Registration Fee and remain the same as at Brisbane.

1. Registration Fee \$60.00 Single : \$110.00 Double
2. Banquet \$25.00
3. Bus Trip \$20.00

The only increase appears to be in accommodation. There are 3 hotels next door to each other, all owned by the Southern Pacific Hotel Corp. Ltd., and we are planning the actual Convention at the super duper one, the Park Royal.

Cost per room is	- Park Royal	\$85.00 per day
	- Travelodge	\$70.00 - 75.00 per day
	- Parkview Motel	\$60.00 per day

As cost is per room, if accommodation is shared, so is the price. Most rooms have a double bed and a single bed. We have checked out the facilities and the standard seems similar in all locations. Brochures are available. Remember, these are only estimates and actual details will be advised later this year.

Last, but not least, we will be selling commemorative wine glasses at \$3.00 each to those attending the Convention, but further details will be supplied later.

Nearly 150 people attended the Brisbane Convention and we are planning for around the 100, but if you can give an indication as soon as possible the number intending to come, it would help us in our deliberations.

COMBINED SHOW COMPETITION RESULTS

Class 1 TILLANDSIA	1. <i>T. streptophylla</i>	P. Clarke
	2. <i>T. filifolia</i>	P. Paroz
	3. <i>T. xerographica</i>	R. Reilly
Class 2 VRIESEA	1. <i>V. fosteriana</i>	P. Hobbs
	2. <i>V. gigantea</i>	P. Hobbs
	3. <i>V. gigantea</i> cv Nova	E. Braun
Class 3 OTHER	1. <i>Guzmania lingulata</i> minor cv Broadview Variegata	L. Muller
	2. <i>G. monastachya</i> Variegata	T. Muller
	3. <i>G. lindenii</i>	T. Muller
Class 4 TILLANDSIOIDEAE IN FLOWER	1. <i>T. rosea-scapa</i>	R. Reilly
	2. <i>T. lieboldiana</i>	P. Clarke
	3. <i>T. pseudo-baileyii</i>	P. Paroz
Class 5 CRYPTANTHUS GRACE GOODE TROPHY	1. <i>C. Marion Oppenheimer</i>	D. Reilly
	2. <i>C. fosterianus</i>	G. Trevor
	3. <i>C. zonatus</i> v. Green	L. Muller
Class 6 BILLBERGIA	1. <i>B. X Purple Smoke</i>	N. Freeman
	2. <i>B. X Kip</i>	A. Freeman
	3. <i>B. X Highlight</i>	A. Freeman
Class 7 AECHMEA	1. <i>Ae. chantinii</i> cv. Samrai	T. Muller
	2. <i>Ae. luddemanniana</i> cv. Rodco	P. Clarke
	3. <i>Ae. fasciata</i> cv. Albomarginata	P. Clarke
Class 8 NEOREGELIA	1. <i>Neo. pendula</i> v. <i>brevifolia</i>	R. Reilly
	2. <i>Neo. X Royal Robe</i>	N. Freeman
	3. <i>Neo. meyendorffii</i> v. <i>spiralis</i> cv. Albomarginata	T. Muller
Class 9 NIDULARIUM	1. <i>Nid. X Nat de Leon</i>	A. Freeman
Class 10 INTERGENERIC	NO ENTRIES	
Class 11 OTHER BROMELIOIDEAE	1. <i>Ananas comosus</i> cv Smooth Leaf Variegata	D. Reilly
	2. <i>Hohenbergia</i>	

Class 12 BROMELIOIDEAE IN FLOWER	1. <i>Ae. fulgens</i> v. <i>discolor</i> cv	T. Muller
	2. <i>Ae. gamosepala</i> cv <i>Lucky Stripes</i>	T. Muller
	3. <i>Ae. fulgens</i> v. <i>discolor</i> cv <i>Variegata</i>	T. Muller
Class 13 HECHTIA/DYCKIA	1. <i>D. fosteriana</i> v. <i>Silver King</i>	N. Freeman
	2. <i>D. fosteriana</i>	A. Freeman
	3. <i>D. cabarae</i>	P. Clarke
Class 14 PITCAIRNIA	1. <i>P. tabuliformis</i>	I. Sunderland
Class 15 OTHER PITCAIRNIOIDEAE	1. <i>Abromeitiella</i> <i>lorentziana</i>	P. Paroz
Class 16 SPECIMEN CLUMP	1. <i>C. zonatus</i> Hybrid	A. Freeman
	2. <i>T. pauciflora</i> v. <i>prolifera</i>	G. Stewart
	3. <i>Neo. concentrica</i> X <i>Ae. orlandiana</i>	T. Muller
Class 17 MINIATURE DISPLAY	1.	P. Clarke
	2.	O. Trevor
	3.	P. Clarke
	Highly Commended	P. Clarke
Class 18 NOVICE	1. <i>V. hieroglyphica</i>	P. Hobbs
	2. <i>C. bivittatus</i> cv. <i>Ruby</i>	D. Reilly
	3. <i>C. zonatus</i> Hybrid	D. Reilly
Class 19 BEST TILLANDSIOIDEAE NEZ MISSO AWARD	<i>V. hieroblyphica</i>	P. Hobbs
Class 20 BEST BROMELIOIDEAE HUDSON PERP. TROPHY	<i>Neo. pendula</i> v. <i>brevifolia</i>	R. Reilly
Class 21 BEST PITCAIRNIOIDEAE	<i>Abromeitiella</i> <i>lorentziana</i>	P. Paroz
Class 22 RESERVE CHAMPION	<i>Neo. pendula</i> v. <i>brevifolia</i>	R. Reilly
Class 23 CHAMPION	<i>Abromeitiella</i> <i>lorentziana</i>	P. Paroz
TOM SCHOFIELD AWARD	BEST PLANT IN DISPLAY	O. Trevor

RANDOM OBSERVATIONS

My experiments with different growing media for *Tillandsia festucoides* (like festuca - a reference to the grasslike appearance of the plant) has shown that the potted plants are bigger and better than the mounted ones. The best looking plant is growing in tree-fern fibre in a 75mm terracotta pot. The plant was originally a single offset, but produced five offsets after flowering. With the parent plant removed, the offsets make a good specimen. The plant is watered so that the fibre does not dry out. Offsets mounted on cork or fibre are healthy but have not reached the size or maturity of the potted plants.

Vriesea hieroglyphica looked unloved and needed some attention. Removal of the spent leaves and careful clipping of the leaf bases improved the plant's appearance, but it looked top heavy in its 150mm pot. I knocked the plant out of the pot intending to do a quick pot-on. Inspection of the old mixture showed it was past its useful life and starting to go to mud although it still smelt earthy. There were plenty of white roots so the 'rot had not set in'. A thorough flushing of the root ball washed away all the old mixture. A little extra care to work the new mixture into the gaps between the roots and the plant was ready to go back on the bench for the next flush of growth.

Tillandsia stricta has always fascinated me with its wide range of colours and forms. One form which really caught my eye was the so-called 'Black Stricta', usually listed in overseas catalogues as var. *Nigra* or var. *Violacea*. These names refer to the dark colour of the leaves, and while appropriate, are invalid; the listing should be 'Cv' with non-Latinized descriptives. The dark colour results from a purple pigment and depending on the depth of colour the plant can look almost black. The pigmentation is often accompanied by a distinct development of trichomes on the leaf blade so the plant looks dark from above and silvery from below. The number of flowers on the inflorescence is less than that found on the more vigorous green leafed forms. One crop of *stricta* seedlings produced five plants which were noticeably dark even as small plants. The parents of this cross were not recorded!! This raises a point that records of all parents should be kept even when pollinating within a species. The likely parent is a clone which came from the Nez Misso collection. It develops purple blotching in the leaf blades when flowered in good light. I'll have to wait a while until the next generation of this crossing is advanced enough to sort

cont.

Abromeitiella lorentziana almost never got to be a plant at all. I grew my three headed offset dry in a small pot and nearly lost it. I decided to follow Paul Clarke's ideas for growing *Hechtia* and *Dyckia*, but it took a long time to establish a new root system. Once the root system was functional the plant picked up and it has not looked back. It is potted in a mixture of equal parts coarse sand, peat moss and fine bark. It grows in full sun all year, and is watered so that the mixture does not dry out. It receives regular doses of weak liquid fertilizer with a low nitrogen content.

Peter Paroz

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REQUIEM IN THE KEY OF B

by Mark E. Mishanie

I don't know about you, but I'm headed for the World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans at the end of the merry month of May. I shall break bread with the aristocracy of Bromeliad growers, trade cultivation secrets, discuss atmospheric conditions as they relate to our pineapple family of friends and generally stuff my face with French cuisine.

Undoubtedly too, I shall bring home bags and bags of beautiful plants, then sending up their flower spikes. But before I make my purchases, here are a few words to those of my plants who have died this year.

Goodbye, my *Dyckia remotiflora* who I killed upon the altar of wet feet; goodbye, my *Neoregelia carcharoden* who I subjected to a cold winter draught until not one ounce of plant life remained; yes, goodbye, my lovely *Aechmea Foster's Favorite* who I killed upon contact by planting it in foreign soil.

And you, oh King of Kings, *Aechmea fasciata*, how terrible I feel for smothering you to death by pouring all that Zoodoo down your throat. Most of all, I confess to my greatest of all sins; I killed you, *Bromelia balansae*, by taking my mighty axe and letting you have it across the base of your neck. You crazed me with your bite. I tried to hold you, but you dug your spines deep into my hands. You slashed, you tore, and in the end, I had no choice.

A murderer you call me? Let our members decide. Amen

(Reprinted from *Bromeliana*, Vol. XXIII No. 5, the journal of the New York Bromeliad Society Inc.)

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THE CAIRNS CONNECTION

Our Study Group is becoming more and more aware of the different growth habits and idiosyncrasies of their bromeliads. They are interested in learning from others' experiences, and at times adapting an idea to perhaps better the tried methods. Not always with the desired results, but without experimenting we would never know.

Twenty members attended our May meeting which was held at the home of Monica and Jim Buttsworth. Monica has been growing bromeliads for some years and her tender loving care is apparent.

Our subject for the day was 'Epiphytes', and Monica delivered an informative talk on her method of growing in this manner. Monica advised that she has often used beach driftwood without even hosing it down to remove any salt residue, and the plants don't seem to mind at all. With the exception of small tillandsias, roots of all plants (even mature ones) are cut hard back, and Monica has found that after the plants are attached to the hosts, new roots appear.

Liquid fertiliser and insecticide are mixed together and sprayed on all plants in the bush house, and Monica tries to do this on a monthly basis.

The growing of epiphytes on volcanic rock (scoria) is also quite successful in this climate, and Bob Hudson brought along a *Tillandsia cyanea* growing well on a large piece of this rock as an example.

It was decided at this meeting that we would contribute an amount of US\$25.00 to the Marie Selby Gardens Identification Unit. I think we all appreciate the fact that such a unit exists and there is no doubt some of us up here will be making use of it's services.

Our June meeting was at Betty and Barry Burke's home... It was a shame that not all members could attend, as Barry had put much thought and effort into hosting the meeting.

A neat sign identified the Display Table, a notice on a tiered stand read 'Don't just stand there -- buy something' left you in no doubt what it's function was, and lastly a table displaying several genera. Each plant on this table had a typed information

sheet set up in front. Barry gave the name, pronunciation and a brief history of each name and plant. It was most interesting and gave that little extra information which is always welcome and often useful.

How lucky we are to have people in our group who take the time and make the effort to do something such as this for fellow bromeliad growers. To have people who are happy to share their knowledge and assist others so that we may all grow beautiful plants is wonderful - and in this regard our group is lucky yet again. I guess it's the difference between 'I grow beautiful plants' and 'I love beautiful plants'.

Barry gave a talk on preparing plants for competition, and discussed a *Vriesea fenestralis* offset which certainly "showed promise". He then proceeded to pot it up in a 125mm pot, and indeed the visual effect was pleasing. He stressed the importance of correct labelling and lettering, centred plants, and finally to ensure the plant is entered into the correct category.

His second talk was on identification problems with bromeliads, and the technicalities involved. He spoke on the 'watchspring' billbergias and taxonomists desiring sub species be recognised. Barry also bisected a vriesea flower to allow members to view the ligulae, which differentiates between a vriesea and a tillandsia.

Barry's summing up of this talk was -

1. Maintain correct labelling
2. Don't name a plant until you are sure
3. Don't be afraid to ask.

We added, and I quote - "A lot of unnecessary confusion is caused by shoving a label on to make it look good". Perhaps we will never see all our hybrids correctly tagged, but if they are enjoyable, just 'hybrid' should be used".

Members enjoyed, too, walking through Barry's recently rebuilt bush house. It is quite a sight, stepping stones through the floor covering of untreated wood shavings, and some beautiful timber - some suspended from the roof and sporting healthy tillandsias, some large pieces hosting neoregelias, aechmeas, etc.

All in all, Cairns Bromeliad Study Group has a pretty good time. Come on up, the weather's fine.

Verna Hudson

Tillandsia cacticola

This exquisite free-flowering air plant was probably first found growing on the sides of a tall cereus cactus, hence its name as cactus dweller.

In northern Peru, the dry valley of Huancabamba has good colonies of this tillandsia. It can also be found on trees or even on the sides of the cliffs.

T. cacticola is a medium sized plant, heavily trichomed silver, and has a panicle inflorescence up to 50cm in length. The bracts are lilac and the scented flowers are cream edged violet, a real collectors piece.

I believe these flowering spikes are often picked and sold in market places of its habitat.

Len Butt

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TIP OF THE MONTH

This tip comes from a good friend of mine, Hazel Quilhot of Bradenton, Florida, and is reprinted from 'The Bromeliadvisory'.

Hazel, who is about to judge the Miami Show shares this helpful information with us. -

'If you trim some of the leaves on your show plants, you can prevent the cut edges from turning brown by applying some *Aloe Vera*.'

Ros Buchanan

(The Bromeliadvisory is the bulletin of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.)

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