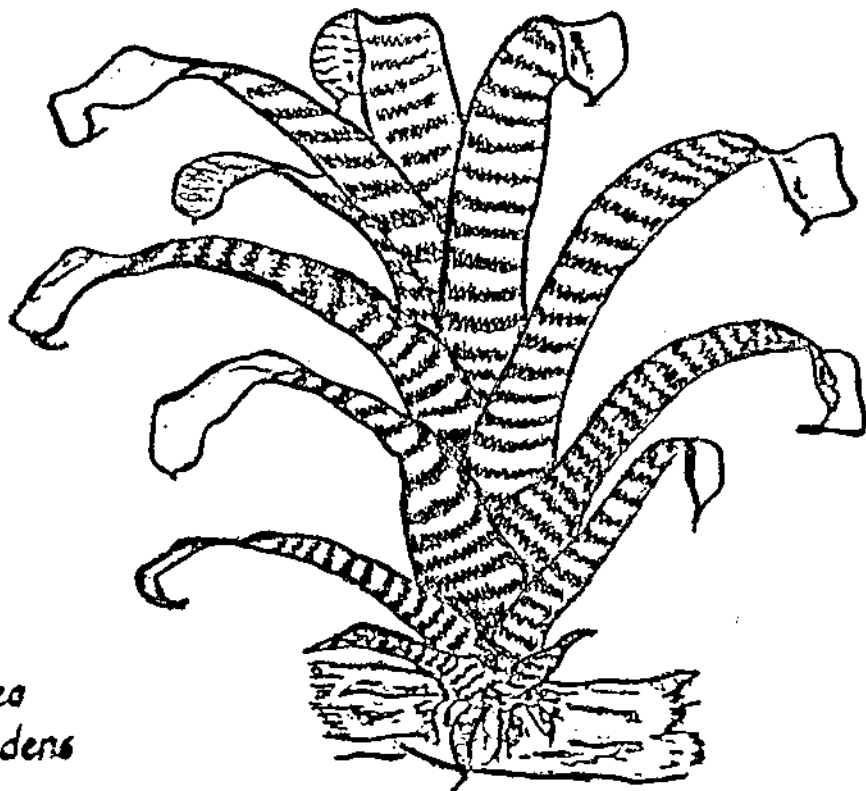


Bromeliaceae

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

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
- PUBLICATION NO. QBH 1849.

VOLUME XX # 5
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1986



*Vriesea
splendens*

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.

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

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER, 18	General Meeting - Growing Billbergias Talk by Joan Imray Pitcairnias - members are asked to bring in any Pitcairnias they may have in flower.
SEPTEMBER, 19/20/21	Royal Horticultural Society - Centenary Show
SEPTEMBER, 26/27/28	Orchid & Plant Spectacular
OCTOBER, 16	General Meeting - Growing Nidulariums Panel Discussion Mini Show - Nidulariums Open to all growers

FIELD DAYS:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Field Day for October at the Stewart residence has had to be cancelled. Remember however the Field Day in November to be held at the Trevor residence.

EDITORIAL

The Society has just purchased a new projector (Kodak Carousel) with long range lens. The unit also has infra red remote control which is very easy to operate. Slide nights should now be a much more enjoyable prospect with the increased quality of the equipment.

The R.N.A. Show display was erected with about 8 workers present. The display came out very well, but we still need more participation in this area if the display is going to survive for the years to come. The same few members are supplying plants for our display, and if one of these members drops out, we will be in a very embarrassing position indeed. It would only take 10 members to bring in 8 plants each, and we would have a good portion of a display. The plants don't have to be huge, or bariegated, just reasonable quality plants, as you would bring in on meeting nights.

Greg Stewart

Our Meeting Host, Ray Ayres, who nearly everyone should know by now, has been rather ill recently, and had to miss the R.N.A. Show, which is so dear to his heart.

Fortunately, Ray is well on the mend, and the thoughts of the Society go with you, Ray.

*****HELP*****

*****HELP*****

*****HELP*****

We have once again reached that dreaded position of having no copy for the magazine, an Editors nightmare.

Please, Please, try and put pen to paper and come up with some sort of article. It doesn't have to be big, even just a few lines helps make this an informative and interesting publication, without the Editor having to tear his hair out trying to manufacture copy on his own each issue.

Ed.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CENTENARY SHOW

VENUE: Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens

19th September - set up display from 12 noon

We have an area in the foyer near the door and we need an amount of plants for the display.

Stewards are needed to man the display for some time over week end.

Members are allowed to sell plants, using our Society sales tags with your name, as well as the Society's name or initials, on the bottom section of the tag (e.g. Smith, B.S.Q., \$5.00). The usual conditions of sale will apply.

ORCHID & PLANT SPECTACULAR

VENUE: Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens

26th September - set up display

A fair amount of plants are needed for the display, and plant sales are permitted.

We realise that the above schedule is very busy, but if members can at least support one of the shows with a few plants and time, we will manage.

Remember, these shows are to advertise YOUR Society, and your full support is needed.

BROMELIADS IV CONFERENCE

Who's next?? By this we mean the host for Bromeliads V in 1989. It was great to know at the Sydney Conference that we were to follow Queensland because it helped our ego and our planning. If we continue with the plan to circumnavigate Australia in an anti-clockwise direction, then Victoria are next. HOWEVER, at the Queensland Conference, New Zealand made a bid and, as far as we are aware, this matter has not been resolved. One never knows, but Western Australia might make a bid, so please, please, can we have your thoughts as soon as possible. We believe that this must be decided before Easter, 1987.

For contrast, we have obtained the services of the following Speakers: Dick Phillips, Fiji, who we think will speak on Web-Footed Bromeliads; Bill Morris, Newcastle, on Williambergias; Bea Hanson, New Zealand, Bromeliads Then and Now; Ruby Ryde, Sydney, Brazilian Mardi Gras; Geoff Lawn, Perth, probably on hybrids; Maurie Kellett, Melbourne, Let Us Spray; Bob Hudson, Cairns, What They're Like Up Here; Len Colgan, Adelaide, Tillandsias Like Contrasts; and a segment on how Bromeliads invaded New York, with emphasis on one apartment! We are still working on this important part of the Convention.

What a Contrast that should be! It is up to you to make up the complement!

We're not certain if it would be considered a chore, but we recently spent one day in the Barossa Valley checking up on wineries just for you! Our plants at the moment include a winery for morning tea, tasting and a winery tour, a scenic drive through the area, lunch inside a converted winery and a chance to taste wines as well as mead, then on to Seppeltsfield (which you must have heard about) and then back to the Barbie at the hotel. We are considering a separate car tour for those of you who may be, or who think they might be, wine buffs. So, if you are the type that can taste a wine and name the variety of grape, when it was picked, which side of the hill, how long fermented and whether the wine-master took off his boots, please let us know when returning the Registration Forms later this year.

NOSTALGIA AND OUR FIRST DISPLAY AT R.N.A.

1987 is our 20th birthday, and as it approaches, members of our first year, and our first R.N.A. Show, crowd back.

Personalities like A.W.F. Keith, probably the biggest bromeliad collector of that time, and also one of our first Guest Speakers. Tom Schofield and Jim Boyle of the Royal Horticultural Society of Queensland were also big collectors, but all remained separate from our Club.

When in 1968 we contacted the R.N.A., we were allowed a floor space at the western end of the horticultural hall near the door. Busy hands and great enthusiasm from about 30 members made a really successful display. Iron posts were made with a ring on the top and these we fitted with a rope to keep the public away from the stand. The first basic stand was fruit boxes in a curved step arrangement, camouflaged with hessian, the front section floor being sawdust and bark. Yes, on that first display we had a large brom. tree and a 12ft by 9ft waterfall-scene backdrop.

The plants were mostly species, but very good specimens. No Tillandsias were on that display. Highlights were a large plastic Macaw parrot, a *Bromelia balansae* in full berry, and a big variegated *Ananas*. On the wee, there were no shortage of people to man the stand and answer numerous cultural questions.

Early members like Morrie Jones and Barclay Binnie provided stand metal accessories, the painted backdrop and routed wood sign were mine, Peter Paroz organised the lighting, and Nick Kemp the act^{er}, everywhere handyman.

Mary and Carlo Grasselli and Mr. & Mrs. Hyde brought in plenty of plants, and organised all the refreshments for stand workers.

Colour slides of that initial stand still exist, and I often view it, remembering the 100% enthusiasm that credled a society that now has grown into a large organised group.

SOME RATHER DISTINCTIVE BROMELIADS

Guzmania lindenii (Lee Moore), a really lovely species collected in Peru about 1878 and introduced into American collections by Lee Moore, that dedicated collector to whom we owe the collection of quite some few plants.

This very large, symmetrical plant is mostly found growing very low to the ground, or actually on the ground. Its leaves measure up to 60cm in length and 7.5cm in width. These are exquisitely barred with transverse wavy lines, green above and red beneath. It has pale flowers on a tall narrow panicle.

Guzmania danielii, another outstanding species, comes from thick rain forest country of Columbia. It is a plant of the mountain districts generally, 1000m to 2000m up. Ralph Davis brought it into cultivation in 1960. Being one of the real giants of the *Guzmania* it is also one of the most spectacular. The 1 metre long leaves are reddish green, in colour. The central flower spike grows to 60cm in length.

The late Mulford Foster described it as one of those rare sights, to see it growing high up on a jungle tree giant.

Guzmania musaica was discovered in 1867 in Columbia again, at a mountain elevation of 100 metres. Since then, it has been placed in the category of *Tillandsia*, then *Billbergia*, *Caraguata*, *Massangea* and *Velosca*. Finally it came to Mez in 1896, who correctly placed it in *Guzmania*. As a foliage plant, this uniquely coloured plant is incomparable. The beautiful leaf patterning and startlingly lovely pink, red and white inflorescence make this a collector's item. The fact that there are growing difficulties increases the challenge.

From beautiful species such as these have risen the glorious variegated hybrids and 'sports' that are so sought after today.

Len Butt
