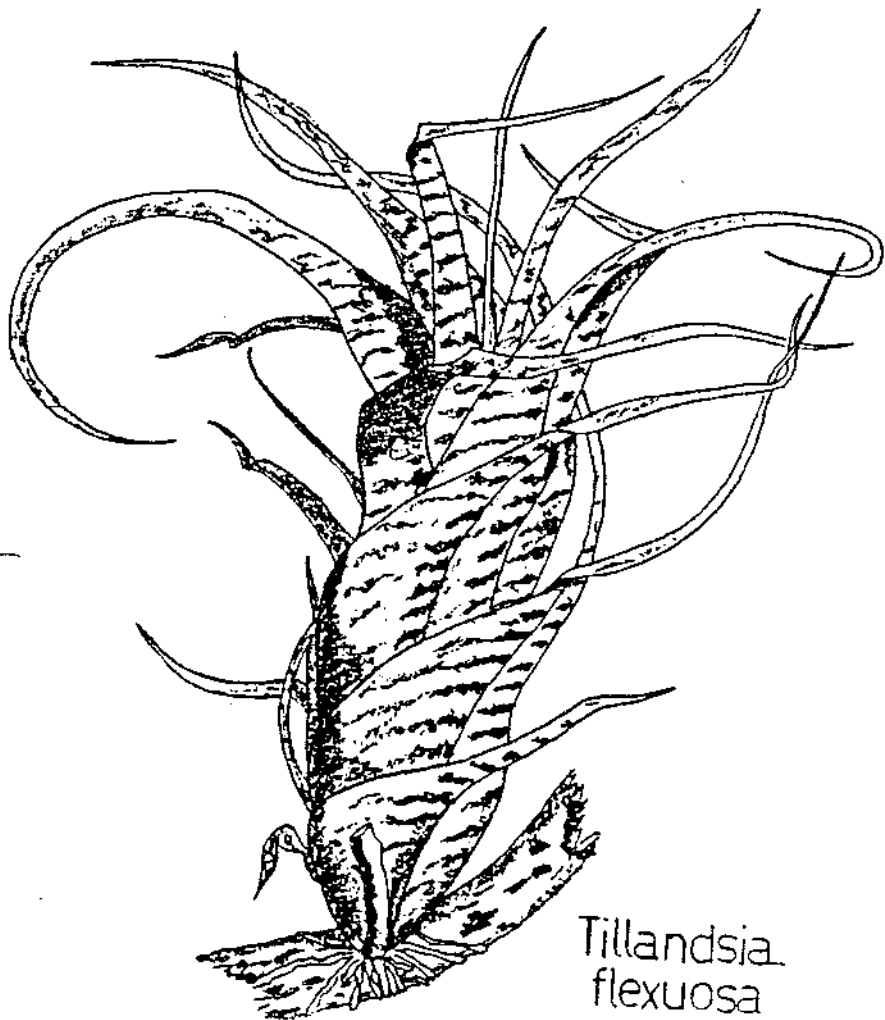


Bromeliaceae

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

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1987



Tillandsia
flexuosa

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:	Mrs. J. Imray	3796733
SECRETARY:	Mr. G. Stewart	2779965
TREASURER:	Mrs. R. Higgins	8002561
EDITOR:	Mr. G. Stewart	2779965

PROGRAMME

JANUARY, 15th	General Meeting
	Ingredients used in Potting Mixes - Peter Paroz
FEBRUARY, 19th	Annual General Meeting
	Election of Officers for 1987
	Special Raffle - five (5) select plants provided by Society
	Slides - remainder of Aechmea Jewels

FEES:

Members are reminded that subscriptions were due and payable on 1.1.87. These may be paid at the January and February meetings, or by posting to the above address. Members not financial at the A.G.M. will lose all membership rights.

Single \$ 5.00

Family \$ 8.00

1986 IN RETROSPECT

Looking back at the Society's activities through the year, there was a mixture of both successes and, unfortunately, some disappointments. The Society grew in membership throughout the year at a reasonable rate to have us still one of the large plant societies in this state. The meetings averaged approximately 60 members and visitors each night, which made for good meetings.

One of our most unfortunate meetings was the February A.G.M., where we could not get a nomination for President from members, and we had to go to the March meeting without one. Some other important Committee positions were also not filled, or filled by Committee members who also had other positions. Mrs. Joan Imray so graciously came out of retirement to take on the job of President at the April meeting. The Society owes a great indebtedness to Joan for taking this job on at such a critical time. At this stage members must also thank Len Trevor for his two years as President prior to the A.G.M., and for his guidance of the Society through the Bromeliads III Conference.

One point should now be conveyed to all members - a more satisfactory Annual General Meeting must be held in 1987, as members can't expect existing Committee Members to be shouldering all the load of the Society, especially more of the everyday tasks which could be performed by any of the members. When a large load is put on a person over a number of years, the Society invariably loses them altogether, so it would seem better to lighten their load to prevent this. We need more membership involvement, especially at Committee level.

The Combined Show in June was a huge success once again, although attendances were down slightly, but sales were up. Our thanks must go to the members of the Combined Show Committee for all their work, especially Bob Paulsen, the Chairman of that Committee. Even more participation from members will be required at the Combined Show in 1987, as it will be our 10th Anniversary Show. Please give the new Combined Show Chairman, John Higgins, all the support he deserves.

We managed to shake ourselves off, and surpass previous efforts for the display at the R.N.A. this year. Many members said it was the

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best display we had put at the R.N.A. so far, and a lot of credit for this must be directed to Nev Ryan, who worked tirelessly doing the arrangement for the display, and almost placed every plant in position. We will keep you in mind for displays next year, Nev.

We have been invited by the R.N.A. to erect a display at the Show again in 1987, so members will have to vote on this at the meeting.

A total of 4 Field Days were held throughout the year at the residences of -

Len & Olive Trevor
Joe & Jean Dunlop
Lawrie & Thelma Muller
Don & Phyllis Hobbs

All days were a tremendous success, and we thank all these people for opening their collections. I think the Committee will look favourably at having more Field Days in 1987.

The last, but not least, was our Xmas Party breakup at the November meeting. We had the usual delicious fare provided by Yvonne, Eileen, Rose and other helpers, without whose contribution the whole party would not work. There was a large array of beautiful plants for the Cent Auction, and nearly everyone, apart from the wife of an ex-President, won prizes. Members however seem to be tiring a little of the Cent Auction format, as it gets a little tiring sitting in the chairs for nearly 2 hours. May I throw in a suggestion for next year? Perhaps we could start the eating and social part of the party early, at say 8.30 pm, and run rolling raffles throughout the evening of say 10 top plants. This could be done while we are eating and socialising. Members who have other ideas, please do not hesitate to confront the Committee with them.

On the Australia Day weekend in 1987, the Society is officially 20 years old - a long way from a semi-social gathering at the residence of Carlo & Mary Grasselli on the same weekend in 1967. We need ideas from members how best to celebrate this auspicious occasion, at our January meeting.

I wish all members the very best for 1987. See you all at the January meeting.

Greg Stewart.

OUR NORTHERN PLANTATIONS part II

Townsville was our next call, and here the main reason for my trip up north, to view the collection of Pat Coutts.

Pat lives at the base of Castle Hill, with beautiful views across the bay to Magnetic Island, an ideal place to grow bromeliads, but the summer heat would need to be countered by 80% shade cloth. The many trees would be a boon in summer.

There are many shade houses and each one has its share of treasures, mostly imports, which I had never dreamed I would see gracing Australian collections. The plant which enthralled me most was a *Vriesea* hybrid called 'Kahaloo'. The name sounds Hawaiian. I cannot find it in Brian Smith's manuscript. Perhaps *Vr. imperialis* is one of the parents, as there is some resemblance - a big healthy plant, mahogany under the leaves and lime green.

Neoregelia Blushing Bride was blushing at its best, 30 inches across with cerise leaves.

Guzmania Orangeade with an orange spike with yellow flowers. The spike was over 30 inches tall.

Hohenbergia araujia correia, with tall tubes, resembling a form of *Billbergia rosea* (or *B. venezuelana*, as we used to know it). The price of this in U.S.A. was enough to deter me from coveting it, but certainly a glorious plant.

Tillandsia brachycaulos with plum coloured leaves. I think Pat must have had plum paint to spare.

T. capitata, yellow form with lemon yellow flower spike, relieved by purple foliage - rare and beautiful.

Neo. Fantastic Garden - I thought at first glance that it was one of the Takemuras. The leaves were four inches wide and the plant three feet in diameter.

Streptocalyx pallidus with long leaves turning bright orange.

Bert Foster's *Neo. Fosperior Perfection*. This is a collector's dream, a deep burgundy *Neoregelia* with pink stripes.

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Neo. concentrica Variegata from Bob Okazaki. Originally he paid \$400 for this plant at the Los Angeles Conference. It has as wide a variegation as *Aechmea Samurai* - one of the most striking variegated plants I have seen.

T. californii, a xerophytic type with soft pink silver bracts with jacaranda blue flowers.

T. cyanea Variegata, which is green with cream variegation, plum coloured at the base of the leaves.

Also two striking plants from Nat de Leon, *Neo. meyendorffii* Red Flush which was variegated, and *Neo. Orange Glow*.

Pat had so many outstanding plants that it would be difficult to list them all. I must finally remark on two forms of *Bromelia scarletina*. One had soft leaves with red pedicels, and was bought from Kents Nursery in Los Angeles. The other one was from Harry Luther and the leaves were like a Eucharis lily. Both interesting plants.

Max Miles nursery at Home Hill - Pat Coutts acted as chauffeur for us. It is a couple of hours drive from Townsville. Max's wife Maisie, has one of the best collections of king crucifix orchids. Many hybrids adorn the place where they are grown. Bev Collins stopped in pleasure at the sight, and it was difficult to woo her away from them to see Max's bromeliads.

The first bromeliad I saw was a large glowing *Neo. Hal Ellis* in a place of honour at the entrance to the bromeliad house. It had large wide leaves like one of the parents, *Neo concentrica*, but a deep plum red all over. A plant which can take lots of light because of its thick sturdy leaves.

I made my way to the *Cryptanthus* to see if Max had some of my early hybrids which I had lost track of some years ago, when I gave up hybridising *Cryptanthus* and pursued the *Neoregelia* syndrome.

It was great to find, and be able to purchase, some of those early babies of mine and return them to the fold at 'Bromania'.

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Max closes his nursery "Bromelglen" from October to April. In the tropics people forsake their horticultural pursuits and spend their time gearing up for the hot summer wet, which can adversely affect their plants.

Max uses 80% shadecloth and even with this protection some plants are burnt. While I was there the region was beset by drought and the grass was dead in the parks. Householders gave some semblance of greenness to their lawns by judicious watering.

I found some particularly nice *Cryptanthus* in Max's collection. Those growing in planter boxes and as ground subjects were liking the conditions. One which stood out was *Cryptanthus fosterianus* Elaine. *Cryptanthus* can only attain their full beauty and stature when grown in the ground, or in pots on the ground, or in foam boxes on the ground as Charmaine Price grows them. After all, they are not called 'Earth Stars' for nothing. At all times they need humidity to grow happily. Of course, if you have an enclosed shade house with high humidity, the optimum conditions prevail. I like to grow my *Cryptanthus* with air movement around them, not necessarily a cyclone.

Max has a neat collection, well kept and cared for. Unfortunately the *Neoregelias* had lost some of their colour because the sun was in the north and some shade was thrown onto the benches. I surmise his *Neoregelias* must be beautiful when old Sol returns to the south.

As we left the hospitality of Max and Maisie, we paused to admire the succulents in the front garden, some of Maisie's work. Thank you Max and Maisie, and finally a big thanks to Pat Coutts, a wonderful hostess.

Grace Goode

POPULAR VOTE 1986

The following members were presented with their trophies by the President at the Xmas breakup -

ADVANCED:	THELMA MULLER	}	tie: 4 wins each
	GREG STEWART		
NOVICE:	DAIR CLADKE		2 wins

VALE: RAY AYRES

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the passing of Ray late in 1986, a kind and gentle person who, with some surety, could make the claim of being one of the true gentlemen.

I first met Ray and his wife when I first joined the Society, some 6 years ago, and I have always enjoyed Ray's genuine friendliness, as I imagine a lot of our newer members have, as Ray was one of the Society's Hosts for meeting nights.

Probably the R.N.A. Show exhibit was Ray's pet project, having his help and hard work over the years. He was always the first to be there to set up this exhibit, and whatever individual members thoughts were on our participation at the R.N.A., Ray always fought for our continued support there.

I know the January meeting won't be the same for me when our genial Host, Ray Ayres, will not be there to greet us all.

Greg. Stewart

VICTORIA PADILLA - IN MEMORIAM

It is our sad duty to report the death of Victoria Padilla on September 16, 1986 in Los Angeles. Victoria was one of the handful of bromel lovers who founded the Bromeliad Society Inc. in 1950. While Mulford Foster was editor of the Bromeliad Bulletin, she served as the Society's Secretary. She later became Editor of the Bulletin and Journal (when its name was changed) and she served in that capacity for many years with unstinting devotion to produce a quality Journal.

Victoria was the widely read author of books on bromels and on the flora of Southern California. Bromeliad growers know her best for her books "Bromeliads" (publ. by Crown Publishers and now reprinted in a soft-cover edition), "Bromeliads in Color", "The Colorful Bromeliads", "Southern California Gardens". We memorialize the outstanding contribution of Victoria Padilla to growers everywhere.

(Reprinted from Bromeliana, Journal of the New York Bromeliad Society Inc, Vol. XXIII No. 7)

FIELD DAY AT CLEVELAND

On November 3rd, 1986, in spite of overcast skies and threatening rain clouds ahead, Joe, Joan and I travelled to Cleveland to the Field Day at Don and Phyllis Hobbs.

It gave us great pleasure to go there and see a garden so well laid out and so beautifully cared for, apparently with a great deal of dedication and tender loving care.

There was a garden, not large, but well laid out and attractively landscaped to give the feeling of enough space for movement, while at the same time enabling bromeliads of many different species to grow in harmony with garden and bush house plants. Natural weathered logs, tea tree and hollow stumps features largely in the landscaping while paths and walkways were covered with pebbles with stepping stones cut from logs.

Flanking the driveway on the right, a large collection of brilliantly coloured *Neoregelias* was set off to advantage by a ground cover of dark reddish shredded pine cone. Behind this were tall *Aechmeas* and trees laden with haresfoot fern, stags and elks.

On the opposite side *Heremocallis* (Day Lilies, some of them hybrids created by Don himself), with a large variation of colour were set off to advantage by a background of shrubs.

Around the corner were many more interesting surprises, a King Orchid in a tree, a large Crowsnest, a cluster of *Neoregelia compacta* growing in a hollow stump, a cluster of *Neo Fireball* and *Neo Fosters Little Gem* doing likewise, a bed of *Nidulariums*, another of *cryptanthus tricolor*. Around another corner along a narrow path flanked by tree ferns with small species of bromeliads growing on their trunks, past colourful *Crotons* and a bed of *Hippeastrums* seedlings, we came to the bush house.

Here was another wonderland - large *Vrieseas*, breathtaking *Anthuriums* and other tropical plants were growing in a central bed with baskets of ferns and *Begonias* hanging overhead, including a clump of *Tillandsia usneoides* growing on a piece of curved driftwood. Very clever I thought. A collection of *Tillandsias* were on the left wall and many more beautiful plants, including *Vrieseas* and *Guzmanias* were on shelves around the walls.

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But now - a luscious afternoon tea was waiting for us, and there was the raffle to be drawn. The winner of one prize, a most artistic piece of driftwood, was the envy of us all.

A sincere thank you to Don and Phyllis for a pleasand and inspiring afternoon. I'm sure we all went home feeling encouraged to work harder in our own gardens.

Jean Dunlop

TILLANDSIAS - SEED GATHERING AND PROPAGATING OF THE SPECIES

Now that the heat of summer is on us in full strength, you have to be watchful for escaping seed. From early morn to forenoon the seed capsules open and all is lost on the wind.

I find that it is better to collect the capsules as soon as you see a colour change from the green to brown on the exteriors. Allow to open in a dry container.

It is then essential, as soon as it is convenient for you, to put the seed down on a suitable medium, reason being that on exposure to the elements, germination begins immediately. After experimenting with many different materials over the past six years, I find the two most suitable for our climate are -

1. Melaleuca - tie a bundle of branch thinnings together, approx 60cm long, 10cm in diameter.
2. Coir - cocoanut fibre tied to a backing of polystyrene board.

These materials are cheap and easily obtained.

Now that the seed has been put down, several problems arise. If you are not blessed with a misting system in your plant house, and to save a lot of leg work, take the medium indoors or to a suitable place on the patio.

From there particular care must be taken to see that misting 3 to 4 times daily takes place, ensuring drying times in between until

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germination occurs, 8 to 12 days for most species. A 1 litre plastic spray bottle kept handy is essential.

After a few weeks of this care, the growing plants can then be returned to your plant house or shady tree for normal maintenance.

Watching your plants grow to maturity makes this little bit of effort very worthwhile.

Rolly Reilly

NOTICE:

The Society has decided to sell their trailer and tenders for its purchase are invited from members.

The trailer is an 8' x 5' tandem wheel, fitted with electric brakes, and in reasonable condition. Inspection may be arranged by ringing Mr. Len Trevor on 3511203.

Tenders must be sent to Bromeliad Society of Queensland, P.O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley, before 31st January, 1987. The Society is selling the trailer on a 'where is, how is' basis, with the highest tender not necessarily being accepted.
