

# Bromeliaceae

Postal Address: P.O. Box 565  
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*Tillandsia flexuosa.*

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.

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PATRON:	Mr. H. Caulfield	
PRESIDENT:	Mr. R. Paulsen	2970415
SECRETARY:	Mrs. M. Marshall	2774275
TREASURER:	Mr. G. Stewart	2779965
EDITOR:	Mr. L. Butt	8483515

PROGRAMME:

19th NOVEMBER: General Meeting and Xmas Party

1988

15th JANUARY General Meeting

FEES:

We remind all members that fees are due and payable as at 1st January, 1988, and remain at the same low rate of \$8.00 per family and \$5.00 per single membership.

Fees **not** paid by the commencement of the Annual General Meeting in February shall render the member unfinancial, and thereby forfeiting all rights of membership.

EDITORIAL

Our 20th year draws to a close, with new projects looming - the possible production of a book on bromeliads produced, written and photographed in Queensland by Queensland members. A lofty ambition but one we all hope to achieve.

Every display this year has been well arranged and presented, and the effort for the Royal Horticultural Society of Queensland on the weekend of 11-12th October was well up to standard. Artistic, and well furnished with really good plants, it was a credit to all who participated in making it so.

As this is the last bulletin for 1987, I wish you all you wish yourselves for the Yuletide season, and the coming year.

Len Butt

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SECRETARY'S NOTES - General Meetings

17th September, 1987: 57 members, 4 visitors and 6 apologies

New Members: Noel Wright and Laurence Blumson

- General Business:
- . Cash Balance of \$1254.43 + \$17000 in Term Deposits as at 31.8.87.
  - . \$538.87 to be spent on restocking book supply.
  - . Possibility of buying tools for use at shows to be investigated
  - . Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium has been offered for our own show for Dec. 10th & 11th, 1988. It has been agreed to hold a show on these dates, but concern has been expressed about who would be willing to do the necessary work involved in organising a show. It has been agreed that members be given more time to think about a show, and in the meantime the Auditorium has been booked.
  - . Re 'Incorporation', material still being collected and hopefully more information would be available for the next meeting.

## Secretary's Notes (cont)

- . Book Committee to meet in near future
- . Re back drop, to meet with artists to get costs, etc., and suggestions were made as to the format of the backdrop.
- . Comments were made as to the good time all had on the bus trip to Grace Goodes.
- . Xmas Party to be held on 19th November in a different format, with eating starting at 8.00 pm and raffles of plants to be held during the evening. It is to be a family night with a Xmas Tree, gifts for children up to 10 years, etc. Childrens names to be given to the Secretary by the October meeting.
- . At the Logan Flora '87 we won third prize for 'Best Garden Club or Society'. Congratulations to all concerned.

## POPULAR VOTE:

## ADVANCED

*Tillandsia delipiana*

Greg Stewart

## NOVICE

*Tillandsia Leonmaniana*

Mary Sharp

## COMMENTARY:

Greg Stewart gave the commentary on a well stocked display table.

## PROGRAMME:

In the absence of the scheduled talk by a representative from Rheem Australia, Bob Paulsen gave an impromptu talk on shade-cloth, mesh & matting from material supplied by Rheem.

15th October, 1987: 57 members, 11 visitors and 3 apologies

New Members: Toni Willmott from Winton

General Business: . Cash Balance of \$516.14 + \$17000 in Term Deposits as at 30.9.87

- . \$400.00 to be spent on top quality plants for Xmas Party.
- . \$350 received from R.N.A. for Show expenses

## Secretary's Notes (cont)

- . Ross McKinnon from the Botanic Gardens accepts our offer to held in renaming and checking plants in their collection.
- . Committee for looking into feasibility of publishing our own book to meet on 19.10.87.
- . Len Butt commented on good display at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show, and Michael O'Dea thanked us for participating, mentioning the poor attendance of members.
- . Re Incorporation - every member should have received a copy of 'Statement for General Meeting', and it is hoped members would reply as asked.
- . Suggested that we have a bust trip to Nambour on Saturday, 9th April, 1988, for Qld. Home Garden Expo.
- . Members reminded that New Zealand's Silver Anniversary is to be held at Easter next year.

## POPULAR VOTE:

## ADVANCED

*Tillandsia purpurea* Greg Stewart

## NOVICE

*Neoregelia carolinae* Marj Marshall  
v. *tricolor* "Perfecta"

## COMMENTARY:

Len Butt gave the commentary on a poorly stocked display table.

## PROGRAMME:

As the representative from Alsynite was unable to attend, Greg Stewart gave us an interesting and entertaining slide showing.

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ALL MEMBERS:

As part of our 20th Anniversary Celebrations, assistance was offered to the Botanic Gardens in relation to their bromeliad collection.

This assistance has now been formally accepted, and volunteers are required to help in renaming and checking of plants. Please give your name to Peter Paroz if you are prepared to assist.

BIOGRAPHY OF EARLY BROMELIANS # 2 - Neslie Misso

I was first introduced to Neslie Misso when he came to my home with Peter Paroz around 1960.

Nes was of slight stature, and had a quiet, unassuming manner, which completely camouflaged his great love of orchids and bromeliads.

In those very early days before even the Bromeliad Society of Australia was formed, he had already put together a good orchid collection and quite a formidable number of Tillandsias at his Taringa home. Not that this genus was his only love, as his unusual collection of other bromeliads was quite impressive. Nes seemed to like the very spiny members such as Ananus, Portea, Dyckia, Hechtia and Puya.

Most of us who visited the Misso home remember the large bromeliad tree carefully bound with untreated rope which was the base to grow his many Tillandsia species. He had quite some few American contacts, even in those days, and had thoroughly mastered the art of growing and flowering and seeding his Tillandsias.

Neslie worked for many years as a forman in the grounds of the Queensland University at St. Lucia, where he was often contacted by all who wished to know more about his early experiments with cross pollination and the growing of Tillandsias by seed.

So, by 1967 when the Bromeliad Society of Queensland was formed at Mary Grasselli's shop, it followed naturally that we appointed Nes Misso as our first President.

Later on, at his St. Lucia home, our members observed many times the great quantity of his little Tillandsia seedlings grown on cork and small blocks of wood. His successes with the Tillandsioideae became almost legendary among the early society members, and many of us still think of him as the 'Tillandsia Man'.

Neslie Misso died in his garden of a heart attack in July, 1974, while tending his beloved bromeliads. He was an enthusiastic worker for the good of our society, and always willing to help other members.

BUS TRIP FEVER

The organised and subsidised bus trip on 19th September was a huge success, according to those who participated.

First, we had all the excitement of getting to the Valley on time, then the bus was late! However, as the poor driver had been given wrong directions, everything was O.K.

We headed north toward Maroochydore, and thence up to Kate Street, to find Grace Goode waiting at her gate. She had a few southern visitors that morning also. Introductions over, we all were delighted to see Bert and Ruth Wilson who were holidaying in the area also. Bert looked quite conspicuous in a very colourful summer shirt.

On to the garden, and first to take the eye was a large planting of burgundy mini *Noeregelia* rosettes, which turned out to be *Neoregelia* 'Born of Fire'. Nearby was a large concrete bowl, well planted with red rosettes of this plant, with green-eyllow speckled rosettes of *Neo.* 'Little Beauty'.

Morning tea got under way, but most eyes were on the giant long sloping beds of kaleidoscopic colour from many hundreds of Grace Goode *Neoregelia* hybrids. Camera shutters were clicking steadily on most aspects of this beautiful showing of Bromeliaceae.

Buying sprees began, and most popular proved to be the many beds of miniature *Neoregelia* crosses that Grace seems to specialise in. At one point she looked up from a bed to query who would want a sucker - a particular miniature *Neoregelia*, only to find a long queue waiting. Such names as *Neo.* 'Born of Fire', *Neo.* 'Hearts Blood', *Neo.* 'Flaming Lovely', *Neo.* 'Little Beauty', *Neo.* 'Sugar and Spice', etc., etc. were new to many of the Bromelians present.

One large flowering plant of a *Streptocalyz* raised inquiring eyebrows as did a large plant of *Pitcairnia undulata*, one of my own exclusives (I thought).

After lunch, we thanked Grace, and it was back into the bus, and on to Marans Fern Farm, where it became evident that Bromelians also love ferns, and there were plenty to interest everyone - new forms

## Bus Trip Fever (cont)

of Platycerium being the main curiosity, as well as the growing interest in Cycads.

Next stop the 'Big Pineapple Plantation' for refreshments, and thence back to the Valley.

Len Butt



Neoregelias at Grace Goode's garden

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

M. of Moorooka -

- Q. What is the difference between *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' and *Neo.* 'Rio Red'
- A. Still the controversy rages, however, *Neo.* 'Fireball' is 8" generally and has blue-lilac petals (may be *Neo. schultesiana*)  
*Neo.* 'Rio Red' can be 12" and has royal blue petals (possibly hybrid).

C.G. asks -

- Q. Why a clump of very neat and very dark miniature *Neoregelia* of 'Punctatissima' type now has pale colouring.
- A. Most likely solution is that top foliage cover has increased and *Neoregelia* is responding through less light.

M.G. of Arana Hills -

- Q. I bought a *Neoregelia* labelled X3. What can you tell me about it.
- A. A seedling of George Anderson, U.S.A. raised by Grace Goode, now known as *Neo.* 'Red Marble'.

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PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER, 1987

Meeting: 7.30 p.m.

Festivities: will commence at 8.00 p.m. Instead of a Cent Auction, several raffles will be conducted during the evening whilst members and guests are eating and mingling. Also, during the evening, Santa Claus will appear for the Children. There will be presents for the children (if names were given to the Secretary at the last meeting). If you have any nice plants to show, please bring them in for the Display.

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BROMELIAD DISPLAY FOR CHARITY

Once more, some of the bromeliad lovers put up a beautiful display at the Charity Show organised by the West Brisbane Orchid Society on the 25th - 27th October.

The tree of Tillandsias once more took pride of place, with beautiful clumps of *Tillandsia bergeri*, etc. The bromeliads in the display, Neoregelias, Vrieseas, Aechmeas, Guzmanias, etc., seemed to cascade down, making a very eye catching display of colour.

It would have been very hard for the Judges to have chosen 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Jan Harms took 1st place with *Vriesea Nova*, a well presented plant and beautifully grown. Janet was also very lucky to take 2nd place with *Neoregelia Meyendorffii* 'Albo Marginata'. This was a perfect plant, and very striking. 3rd Prize, *Vriesea fosteriana* 'Red Chestnut' was very outstanding, and very worthy of recognition.

To bromeliad lovers, or just a person to whom plants are beautiful, there were quite a few, such as *Aechmea Nitida Variegata*, *Neoregelia carolina tricolor* 'Perfecta', two *Aechmea Strawberry*, all worthy of a prize.

The bromeliad sales were able to give once more a good donation to the Melos Club for charity.

The orchids, ferns, african violets, bonsai, were very beautiful. All displays were perfection, and I am sure the club members and visitors alike enjoyed a wonderful, colourful week-end.

Thank you all, well done.

Nancy Kickbush.

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RECOLLECTIONS OF MULFORD FOSTER

from letters sent to Len Butt, 1966

The Mato Grosso was quite familiar to Mulford and he explored its denseness with real dedication. On one occasion, he mentions the various 'floors' or section heights of the canopy, and the flora and fauna that inhabited it. Neoregelia, Canistrum and Nidularium being predominant on the first floor above the actual ground level, and do not seem to occur higher up. He believed they liked the light and shade of that situation.

The forest floor, or ground floor, is generally very thick with flora, and he states there are likely to be a tangled mass of ferns, calatheas, tradescantia, heliconias, pipers and bromeliads there. This was, of course, the virgin jungle of 1966.

He reminisces that once, while eating their lunch, a Capuchin monkey swung down through the three forest tree levels, and came over to investigate these jungle intruders!

The actual floor of the forest was surprisingly clean of debris and refuse. The reason given is that the myriad of insects and small scavengers that abound remove any organic debris in a very short time.

The higher floor is home to Billbergia, Vriesea, Aechmea, Quesnelia and Hohenbergia. A few Tillandsias of the broader leaf type are also here.

Len Butt

to be continued -

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NEW ZEALAND SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The New Zealand Society are holding special celebrations for their Silver Anniversary over Easter, 1988, and invites all interested persons to attend.

Application Forms for registration are available from our Secretary.

MAIL ORDER BROMELIADS

Specialising in Tillandsias, Vrieseas, Guzmanias,  
and rarer species and variegates of many genera.

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Prop. Peter Tristram