

BROMELIACEAE

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Postal Address : P.O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley, Q.4006.

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MARCH - APRIL, 1991
VOLUME XXV NO.2.



NAVIA GRAFII

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except December at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, commencing at 7.30 pm.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 565,
Fortitude Valley,
AUSTRALIA Q 4006

-oOo-

PATRON: Mr. H. Caulfield
 PRESIDENT: Mr. Len Trevor
 SECRETARY: Mr. Paul Hunter ASST. SECRETARY: K. Masters
 TREASURER: Ms. Lorraine Wilton
 EDITOR: Mr. Len Butt
 SHOW ORGANISER: Mr. Don Hobbs
 COMMITTEE: Mrs. Olive Trevor; Mr. Neville Ryan;
 Mr. Paul Bird; Mrs. Phyllis Hobbs;
 Mr. Michael O'Dea; Mrs. Patricia O'Dea;
 Mr. Bob Paulsen

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PROGRAMME

MARCH 21st: "Bromeliad Beginnings & House-Keeping"
by Len Butt.

APRIL 18th: Report on Bromeliad VI Conference in Sydney
by Len & Oliver Trevor.

Commentary - Mr. Greg Stewart

EDITORIAL As this 1991 year unfolds we first will have the Bromeliads VI Conference in Sydney at Easter time. At least one of our number, Olive Trevor will be there as our representative, and we wish her well in the task.

However now is the time to prepare for what could be our greatest effort, the Queensland Bromeliads VII Conference in 1993.

Already your Committee is alert to this, and plans for the event will soon be starting. First with the selection of a Convenor and an active Committee. For those of you who live up in the real tropics, here is something to think about, as there has been not much said as yet about growing Bromeliads north of Mackay or Townsville.

Sometimes speaker quality can be found in our own country so think about it. Further to this, please put a little of your thoughts now on paper, as your Newsletter can only expound the quality and interest that you the members put into it.

I have heard before the disgruntled complaint that Newsletters can become only a "rag". If this is so it is only the fault of passive members not willing to make it quality material! Let us all strive that this can be the case in 1991.

Len P. Butt (Editor)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This last year has been a busy and rewarding time for the Society with many activities shared by all the members.

Following the incorporation of the Society last year, the Committee has been involved with establishing correct procedures to meet incorporation requirements. A seminar for Incorporated Societies was attended by Greg Stewart and myself and some slight changes to our methods of operations have been introduced.

The programme for the year has included the monthly meetings which have been well attended; bus trips to the Buchanan, Patterson and

Golinski collections which were very capably organised and led by Bob Paulsen; participation in the R.N.A. Exhibition, the Combined Show and the R.H.S. Garden Spectacular which were organised by Don and Phyllis Hobbs and Neville Ryan; and visits to the gardens of Val and Reg Urquhart and Des and Gwenda Anderson. Our displays were very well arranged and received much positive reaction from the general public. The garden visits were popular with the members who were cordially welcomed by the hosts and given guided tours and commentaries.

Several members provided talks to other clubs and organisations and these members included Olive and Len Trevor, Len Butt, Sel and Gwen Gleeson, and Patricia O'Dea.

The Society provided donations to several organisations and persons. Included were the Mulford Foster Bromeliad Centre, Elton Leme, The Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, The Cryptanthus Society, the Bromeliad Society Incorporated, the Courier Mail Childrens Fund and the Mt. Nebo State School. These contributions form an important part in the promotion of our Society and the identification and conservation of bromeliads. The Mt. Nebo State School was also provided with speakers and invitations to members gardens. Supporters of the Mt. Nebo activities included Len and Olive Trevor, Des Andersen and Sel and Gwen Gleeson, and Rolly and Evelyn Reilly.

Student Judges programmes were organised and run by Peter Paroz. Four Student Judges graduated to Associate Judge status and participated in Judging Panels at monthly meetings and shows. Successful Student Judges included Des Andersen, Bob Paulsen, Michael and Patricia O'Dea. Show Stewards Wendy and Graham Besgrove made valuable contributions to the competitions and show activities.

An additional show award for novices, The Mary Grasselli Memorial Medallion, was introduced to the Combined Show Schedule, but was not awarded because of the lack of showbench entries. Competition tables at the Combined Show were generally disappointing because of a lack of support.

Ill health forced the resignation of Secretary Marjorie Marshall who had provided excellent service in this position. The vacancy was filled by volunteers Michael O'Dea with Bob Paulsen assisting as Minute Secretary.

The publication of our Society Bulletin, 'Bromeliaceae', maintained high standards under the Editor, Greg Stewart. Contributions to the bulletin were not well supported by the membership at large, but a small group of regular contributors kept up the publication. This group included Greg Stewart, Des Andersen, Len Butt, Peter Paroz, Rolly Reilly and typiste Ruth Higgins.

The loss of facilities at the Forestry Department saw the Committee meetings relocated to the residence of Michael and Patricia O'Dea, and our show materials relocated to storage in Teneriffe/New Farm. The site for storage was arranged by Bob Cross.

Catering activities were again provided to the members at monthly meetings and at the Combined Show. These facilities provide refreshment, and contribute significantly to the general morale of our members. The organisation of catering has been shared, at different functions, between Eric Turner, Eileen Eisentrager and Yvonne Boorman.

The Lending Library has been boosted by the addition of several new publications and this facility was again available to members at no additional cost. Barbara and Hugh Markwell have maintained the Library at our General Meetings.

Competition tables at our monthly meetings have had variable support, with a nucleus of regular contributors maintaining a supply of plants for the table. Steward Bob Paulsen has maintained the organisation of the tables.

New members and visitors as well as the general membership have been regularly welcomed and guided by Hostess Mavis Paulsen.

The Plant Sales Tables have provided regular supplies of plants of excellent quality. Stewards Olive and Len Trevor have managed the sales table very efficiently and this has provided income to the Society from the sales commission.

Hall organisation of tables, chairs and lighting has been provided by Stewards Doug and Rolly Reilly, enabling all meetings to proceed without delays.

Plant Raffles during the year have provided many prizes of excellent plants to members and visitors. Stewards Jo Ketelaars and Ruth Higgins have organised these raffles as well as the door prizes.

From this extensive list of members involved in the Society's activities, the importance of their contributions can be readily seen. To all of those members and to those who have contributed but were not mentioned, I extend my appreciation for the past year.

In particular I would like to thank the members of the Management Committee for their conscientious efforts in running and maintaining the affairs of the Society.

John Higgins (Hon. President)
21st February, 1991

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TWO SPECIES DYCKIAS by Len Butt

For those enthusiasts who still enjoy growing the tightly entwined prickly rosettes of the Dyckias, I will mention here two very old favourites, not so often seen now in modern collections.

These are the small growing *Dyckia sulphurea* and *Dyckia rariflora*. The first has bright dense leaves, forms rosettes about 15 cm in diameter and has spikes of sulphur yellow flowers. *Dyckia rariflora* and its cousin *Dyckia remotifolia* has narrow recurving rosette leaves and rich orange spikes of flowers. In all cases the leaf backs are tomentose and have raised striated veins.

After flowering, both species develop hard rough seedpods, which split open to expose small scale like seeds. These can be pressed into a mixture of sand and peat moss and just slightly covered with moist sand.

The seed tray should be positioned in good light, covered with a glass or plastic top which is removed when they are germinating strongly.

Bottom watering by standing in a tray of water occasionally is recommended.

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OF QUEENSLAND INC.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1990

<u>1989</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1990</u>
859.00	Subscriptions	844.00
20.00	Subscriptions in Advance	42.50
452.35	Plant Sales Commission	188.30
404.61	Raffle Receipts (nett)	397.50
22.75	Sale of - Society Badges	13.10
1781.20	- Books	1859.60
151.50	- Sales Stickers	219.10
4.60	- Name Badges	10.91
16.00	- Tea Towels/Aprons	100.00
2386.70	Combined Show Sales Commission	2548.10
-	R.H.S. Show Sales Commission	154.85
29.00	Advertising	68.00
775.00	R.N.A. Show Contribution	400.00
11.00	Postage	-
12.50	Donations	25.00
-	Trophy Maintenance	15.00
1931.54	Interest on Investments/Bank Account	2862.98
-	Redemption of Investments	14885.00
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8857.75		24633.94

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF

BALANCE SHEET

ACCUMULATED MEMBERS FUNDS 1990

		\$
Balance B/forward 1.1.90		28550.86
Purchase of Stock for Resale - Books		639.26
Capital Purchases for Year		
- Display Equip	428.20	
- Library	25.00	
- Slides	<u>273.60</u>	726.80
Adjust Value Stock on Hand		
- Sales Stickers	(219.10)	
- Badges	(13.10)	
- Conf Proceed	(695.90)	
- Name Badges	<u>(46.50)</u>	(974.60)
Adjust Value Trade Table		304.55
Adjust Equity Combined Show		165.30
Redemption of Investment		(14885.00)
Excess Income/Expenditure		<u>19001.34</u>
		33528.51
LESS Depreciation Adjustment		<u>(561.06)</u>
		32967.45
LESS Subscriptions in Advance		<u>(42.50)</u>
		<u>\$32924.95</u>

I hereby certify that this Balance Sheet represents a true and Society of Queensland Incorporated.

.....

 R. HIGGINS (AUDITOR)

.....
 L. WILTON

QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

as at 31.12.90

<u>ASSETS</u>		\$
Typewriter #1	124.37	
#2	<u>118.11</u>	242.48
Cupboard #1	53.34	
#2	<u>187.05</u>	240.39
Display Equipment		704.78
P.A. System		136.50
Gestetner		226.14
Calculator		29.73
B.S.I. Slides		95.00
Slides Library		273.60
Projector		856.66
		<u>* 2805.28</u>
Library		1571.59
Goods for Resale	- Books 5396.64	
	- Sales Stickers 309.74	
	- Society Badges <u>511.76</u>	6218.14
N.A.B. A/c as at 31.12.90	20636.97	
Less Subs in Advance	<u>(42.50)</u>	20594.47
Advances	- Secretary 50.00	
	- Treasurer 50.00	
	- Trade Table <u>1132.90</u>	1232.90
Share Equity Combined Show		<u>1063.63</u>
		33486.01
LESS Depreciation on items marked *		<u>(561.06)</u>
		<u>\$32924.95</u>

accurate record of the financial affairs of the Bromeliad

.....
(TREASURER)

J. Higgins
.....
J. HIGGINS (PRESIDENT)

BROMELIAD SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR

<u>1989</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>1990</u>
150.00	Hall Rental - 1989	125.00
150.00	- 1990	855.39
712.29	Bromeliaceae Costs	133.78
103.32	Officers Expenses/Postage/Telephone	57.67
145.69	Stationery	30.00
24.00	P.O. Box Rental	595.94
847.11	Social Costs/Xmas Party (nett)	132.77
-	Bus Trips (nett)	-
40.00	Repairs & Maintenance	38.72
47.04	Subscriptions - Bromeliad Society Inc.	36.86
40.38	- Cryptanthus Society	6.00
6.00	- Qld. Council of Garden Clubs	8.00
5.00	- Royal Hort. Society of Qld. Inc.	163.50
138.00	Display Expenses	162.59
59.30	Purchase of - Trophies/Prizes	31.50
28.50	- Door Prizes	428.20
-	- Display Equipment	10.85
4.10	- Badges	25.00
94.00	- Library Equipment	1220.34
2393.02	- Books	273.60
-	- Photographs/Slides	132.00
-	- Prize Cards	286.00
-	Printing - Information Leaflets	406.00
-	- Constitutions	-
300.00	Donations - Dr. Lau	-
76.50	- Mt. Coot-tha Gardens Library	32.03
-	- Cryptanthus Society	429.56
453.49	Insurance	11.30
28.90	Federal Govt. Tax	-
219.31	Incorporation Costs	-
<hr/>		<hr/>
6065.95		5632.60
2791.80	Excess Income / Expenditure	19001.34
<hr/>		<hr/>
8857.75		24633.94

VR. GUTTATA *Vr. guttata* is a small plant to about 250 mm tall and 150-200 mm in diameter. The leaves which number 10 - 15, form a dense upright rosette. The leaves are strap shaped to 150-200 mm long with a rounded end and small pointed recurved tip. The leaf sheath is not distinct from the blade but is brownish in colour. The leaf blades are green with irregular lavender, maroon or red spotting. The specific name refers to this feature of the leaves, and the spotting can be quite variable in colour, size and density.

The flower scape is erect to arching, with the inflorescence recurved, often reaching below the base of the plant. The inflorescence is an unbranched, loose spike with the flowers in two ranks. The flower bracts are green with chalky white scales. The sepals are pale green with chalky white scales. The petals are yellow, longer than the sepals, with the stamen protruding.

Vr. guttata is a native to eastern Brazil from Santa Catarina to Rio de Janeiro and is widespread in the Minas Geras. It grows as an epiphyte in the rain forests at elevations from 300 to 1700 metres.

Two varieties are recognized along with the type form:-

var. striata - leaves striped longitudinally - known from one collection only.

var. eguttata leaves with no spotting - the green leafed form.

This is an easy species to grow in a bushhouse in light shade. Bright even light is necessary to intensify the spotting in the leaves. As with other rosetted Vrieseas, it grows best with an even supply of water to both the potting mixture and the leaf axils. The plant does seem to be prone to rotting, and this can best be minimized by turning it upside down and flushing out the rosette periodically, and repotting before the mixture breaks down.

In spite of the ease of growth, and the dual appeal of a plant that is attractive both as a foliage and flowering specimen, *Vr. guttata* is seldom seen on the display bench.

It really deserves a little more recognition.

The following article was written by Mary Grasselli from her bedside table, a few years before she passed away.

BROMELIADS FOR A VISIT by Mary Grasselli

Now that I can no longer get downstairs to the bush house or garden, I still have the bromeliads which my husband, Carlo, brings upstairs when they are in flower. At the moment I have two varieties of *Aechmea fasciata* with me which are very suitable as house plants, with their upright growth habit and neat symmetrical appearance. One *Aechmea fasciata* has lepidote leaves, very fine, giving a frosted look to the plant. It is larger than most varieties that I have and the inflorescence is comparatively large with the floral bracts a dark pink. I have had this plant for fifteen years or more.

The other *Aechmea fasciata* is a smaller plant with apple green leaves which have distinct silver lepidote bands and the inflorescence is a paler pink. All the plants have the deep blue flowers nestling in the clusters of pink bracts. I think that *Aechmea fasciata* is a prime favourite the world over as a house plant. Some people have trouble getting this plant to flower. I have had fasciats for years and years with never a flower but within a year of moving to our present address our *Aechmea fasciata* has flowered consistently. I can only guess at the reason for this and my guess is that all my neighbours are incinerator addicts and smoke flows into our garden from all directions regardless of laundry or weather.

When the bromeliads are visiting me I sometimes take photos, many of which have turned out very well. I have an album of flowering bromeliads which is very useful during discussions about bromeliads which arise from time to time. The photos often help to identify plants when they are not in flower.

I am glad to hear that at least two bromeliad societies are making big efforts to have all plants on display correctly named. When in doubt, even a tiny doubt, check up very carefully by modern and up to date authority.

From *Bromel News*, Vol.2, No.1, Jan.-Feb.1984. Ipswich Bromeliad Society.

OBSERVING BROMELIADS by Len Butt

Yes, just two to mention, but each very interesting. I was invited to identify a newly opening inflorescence in Ivan Phillip's collection. It was the first time this plant had flowered. Very large rosette, plain green, small multi-teeth along all leaf edges. Obviously an *Aechmea*, and because of the period he had owned it, probably a species. It had a tall pale green flowering stem to about two feet, heavily bracted near the apex with shell pink bracts covering large yellow buds. Yellow buds in apex and at the time of viewing very like a long narrow water lily. Further probing revealed an old label deep in the pot rim. The label stated *Aechmea Aquilegia!*

My own plant has not as yet flowered and does receive far more light, probably producing the bronze fire to the leaves which is so evident in mine. (Comments invited).

The second plant is one I received from Graham Cowan as an offset. *Aechmea caudata* albo marginata (wide leaf version). I have seen this flower once or twice, so I was not expecting the real grandeur my plant produced. Pink bracted stem with orange yellow head! On maturity the flower stem became green and cream striped like the plant. The inflorescence was a great 11 inch cone of tangerine branchlets, which had yellow bud tips. The base of the cone was some 7 inches wide by 6 inches long narrowed to a two inch spike of another 5 inches. Flowering period until all yellow flowers emerged was 7 weeks. Every week a new surprise with yellow blooms emerging from their orange stems in bands along the inflorescence and the flowers going charcoal black as they died. Photos were taken every two weeks to create a record of the event.

The above comments and article date from 1984. Since that date the plant in question flowers regularly and never fails to draw my attention even though other choice *Aechmeas* now surpass its display.

(Editor)

WANTED I would be pleased if any of our Club members could supply me with any of the following:

Aechmea Aripensis
Aquillega
Blumenavii
Bromelifolia
Dactylina
Germinyana
La Lindei
La Marchei
Maculata
Magdalenae
Mariae-Reginae
Nidularioides
Pitteri
Racinae var. Erecta
Setigera
Veitchii
Victoriana var. Discolour

A copy of the book *Bromeliads in Cultivation* by Robert & Catherine
Wilson

John Carpenter
Phone 281 1119

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