

BROMELIACEAE

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

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. QBH 1849.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1991
VOLUME XXV NO. 5.



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.

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Fortitude Valley,
AUSTRALIA Q 4006

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PATRON: Mr. H. Caulfield
PRESIDENT: Mr. Len Trevor
SECRETARY: Mr. Paul Hunter ASST. SECRETARY: E. 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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PROGRAMMES: SEPTEMBER 19th - Mrs. Phyllis Hobbs will conduct a Beginners' Class on the genus *Neoregelia*; and Mr. Don Hobbs will give a showing of colour slides. The Plant Commentary will be given by Des Andersen.
OCTOBER 17th - Guest Speaker Mrs. Olwen Ferris from the Gold Coast will talk about "Plants She Loves Best" and give the commentary on the usual display table. MINI SHOW will be held (See page 3 for Schedule of Classes) and Len Trevor will conduct a Beginners' Class.

OCTOBER MEETING MINI SHOW SCHEDULE

- Class 1 Neo - Miniature under 20 cm.
Class 2 Neo - other than provided for
Class 3 Aechmea
Class 4 Vriesia in flower or spike
Class 5 Vriesia - foliage
Class 6 Guzmania
Class 7 Tillandsia
Class 8 Any other Genera

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EDITORIAL Quite a lot has happened since the last 'Bromeliaceae' went to press. I was absent from the July meeting having a wonderful sojourn in Cairns with some rather delightful Bromelians.

At the July Meeting members were entertained by Norman Catlan, who came up to talk on the *Xiphion Vriesias*, which I am informed, are the night flowering forms. Plants with high variegation are in this category such as *V. fosteriana* and form red chestnut etc. etc.

The August meeting was also a very interesting night, coming as it did while our society had a large display stand to service and care for at the R.N.A. showgrounds. Although our usual trade table and display benches were not as full as usual, the entertainment was good. From the Bromagic Nursery way up at Palmwoods came Keith Golinsky with a real swag of bromeliad specimens and a very interesting commentary about them. Further to this there was a showing of colour slides with bromeliad shots from 25 years ago till now.

The latest happening in our Society is the new weekly bromeliad floral art classes organised by Patricia O'Dea and featuring the floral artist Mrs. E. Holden.

These will start on 4th of September and continue weekly till a date in October... this is a big step forward for our Society.

Len P. Butt (Editor)

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PRESIDENTIAL TALK The June Show was again a great event. Certainly as measured by our traditional method (i.e. public through the door, food sales and plant sales). It is always good to be associated with something/anything which is successful.

What other ways are there to measure the value of this function? I believe there are quite a few. We were very well served by what we have always called workers or helpers. These terms are very descriptive of the large group of people who gather to do their chosen bit which makes this event such a pleasing weekend. I rather think of these people as the body of our Society participating in an event; rather than workers. A special thank you to all participants.

As a result of the show, I am sure we will attract new members. We certainly have distributed a large amount of written material on our favourite subject. The amount of discussion, chit chat, small talk and general socialising would make the event a success on this basis alone.

The formal talks and demonstrations were of a high standard and were very well received by the public. Many of the groups just did not want to break up when the talks were over.

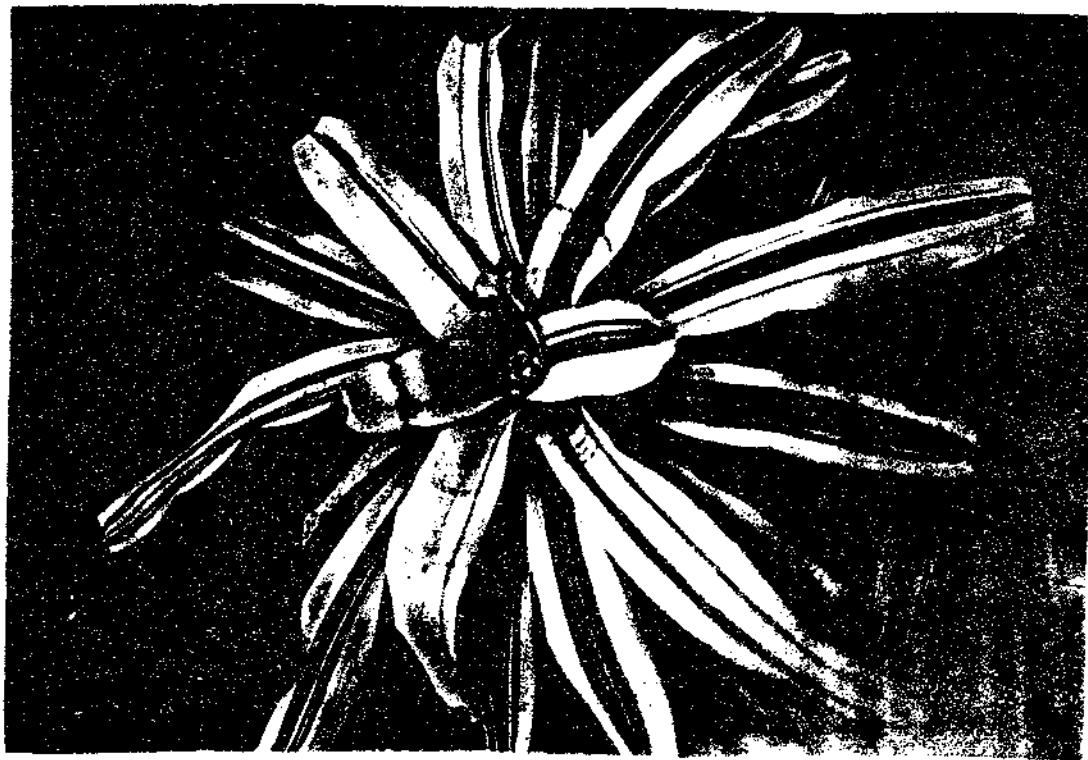
This event/extra special meeting is surely the highlight of our year. It has everything. The plants are there in full force, a good competition table, a display full of plants, some being seen for the first time in this country, sales plants of such a standard that they nearly all sold, the cups of tea etc., and plenty of beautiful food. There was also ample time to talk and discuss whatever you liked. All of this set in our beautiful gardens complete with every possible facility. The weather was spot on as well.

Is there anyone who can tell me why the Club membership attendance is less at this meeting than at our normal meeting nights? Is it because we don't read the Minutes and go through the correspondence and General Business?

Len Trevor

P.S. You would be amazed to see the response I got to my previous article on change. No response to this article please.

BROMELIADS IN THE OLD DAYS I have listened to Len Butt speak many times of bromeliads in the "Old Days". I enjoyed his talks very much but the talks were mainly related to bromeliads in the "Old Days" of the Bromeliad Society. I should like to give a little of my thoughts of the "Old Days" of bromeliads as seen by me and my forebears. Bromeliads have been grown by my family since the late nineteenth century. I am told my grandmother had beds of them in the 1890's. Of course that's just a little bit early for me to remember, but apparently as my grandparents shifted houses from time to time so did the bromeliads. They were not kept as a collection but just as another garden plant. My first recollection of her extensive garden (about 32 perches under cultivation) was of huge masses of *Bilbergia Pyramidalis Concolor* in flower - also masses of a bromeliad in those days called *Willandria* which we now commonly term *Aechmea Weilbachii*.



A "Showpiece" from our June Show.

As I said the bromeliads were massed in clumps in amongst the other garden flowers. In those days I knew little of genera names but from memory of the plants some of those growing under such conditions way back in those days were *Aechmea pimentii*, *Aechmea Weilbackii*, *Bilbergia Pyramidalis Concolor*, *Bill Nutans* (Two varieties), *Cryptbergia rubra*; *Acanthostachys strobilacea* also grew in quite a number of trees.

I just thought I'd pen these memoirs to let members know the cultivation of bromeliads has gone on for a long time. I myself have grown them as garden plants for over sixty years but have only been a dedicated collector for about fourteen years.

Des Andersen

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THE R.N.A. SHOW & OUR DISPLAY - 1991 This year, 1991 there was a considerable change in the position we were allotted at the R.N.A. Horticultural Hall. Instead of the usual corner position, we occupied the central end placing down beside the bird/aquariums entrance. A little windier than usual, but this was the only slight disadvantage.

The display could be viewed from three sides at a close proximity and this alone gave us far more scope in the setting up. A central tree of Tillandsias, quite some few in inflorescence was eye-catching, as also was the small left hand front stump of the same. On the right side facing a great bevy of flowering Vriesias predominated, with yellow, orange and red being the main colours. There were augmented with flowering Guzmannias and a large Vriesia Red Chestnut.

The folk who laid out the stand design had done a very commendable job allowing for height at the rear blending down to squat rosettes of colourful Neoregelias and Cryptanthus.

I was on duty that first morning and comments were favourable from R.N.A. officials and the general public. Of the many eye-catching plants present one that gave food for comment was the species *Aechmea dichlamyolia trinnetensis*. The clear dark purple fans against a deep rose pink inflorescence created fuel for conversation constantly.

All stand planners involved deserve commendation for work well done, as I personally found it our best stand for years.

Len Butt

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V. Hieroglyphica & *V. nigra*

COMMENTS ON CAIRNS SHOW I attended the Cairns Show this year and found it mostly was a small version of our R.N.A. Show.

However the Horticultural Hall to do it justice, was of a high standard. Main interest was for me the Bromeliad display, and in attendance was Verna Chandler. A well arranged display with some rather nice specimens available.

Champion plant of the Show was won by Zaiga Hartnett for a really lovely *Vriesia hieroglyphica*.

Again, while in the area at the same period I viewed the substantial collection of Bettie Hedges of Edge Hill, definitely a dedicated bromelian. Further to this I went up to Kuranda and saw the rain forest habitat hushouse of Zaiga and Michael right beside the Barron River. Zaiga grows her bromeliads well and has better colour in many of them than other local growers. Bromeliads and other gems such as gingers and heliconias were the order of the day!

For those who remember Zaiga at the last Melbourne bromeliad Conference, I would say, here are a couple of plant enthusiasts with a big bromeliad future.

Len Butt

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KURANDA SOJOURN All those bromelians that attended the bi-annual Conference in 1989 at Melbourne will remember the delightful couple who breezed in on a motor cycle from North Queensland. These were the Hartnetts, Zaiga and Michael and when I recently visited Cairns with another old time member of Bromeliad Society of Queensland, there was the rainforest couple to greet me in a borrowed mini bus.

Swept off immediately to Edge Hill we stayed and were welcomed by Bettie Hedges, past Secretary of the Cairns Study Group. Cairns Show was on the following day, and we attended. The only interest I found there was in their Horticultural Hall. The orchid display and the bromeliad display were very good.

I noted that Champion Show plant was Zaiga Hartnett's *V. Hieroglyphica*.

That evening in a room under Bettie's home we had a showing of my slides and approximately twenty Cairns bromelians were present. Smorgasborg was served and Ivan Phillips prepared one of his hot spaghetti and meat sauce specials, which made the night.

The following day Bettie Hedges took us both up the Kuranda road to that delightful rainforest of the same name. Luxury and wonderful accommodation at a moderate price!!!

Zaiga and Michael's hide-away home in Weis Road has that quiet character that typifies both of them. Here we stayed for lunch and later dinner. Zaiga's pumpkin soup has to be experienced to be

appreciated, really.

Michael, who is a D.P.I. wild life stocking officer, has fish aquariums set in his home and collects native fish and red claw yabbies.

Here again we had a trip on the Barron river above the falls and helped feed the river terrapins. I believe the weir is stocked with many creatures, even the fresh water fish crocodile.

Zaiga's bromeliads growing in a real rain forest atmosphere and on top of that mountain range are free of disease, and show very good colour. I notice that most people here use the volcanic quinkan gravel as a medium.

Michael, Zaiga and Bettie are adamant they will be at our 1993 Bromeliad Conference.

Len Butt

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WHAT IS IN A NAME? A lady was viewing some of my collection of *Tillandsias* and was very taken up with them. She was most impressed *Tillandsia ionantha*. She enquired whether I could let her have one and another *Tillandsia*. Up to this stage the plants to her were some of the most marvellous specimens in the botanical world. Now for troubled times. I told her how *Tillandsia ionantha* blushed red on flowering and acquainted her with the fact that this gave it a common name of "Blushing Bride" in some circles. Upon hearing this she burst out in anger that if that's what it is called she did not want it or any other plant which would be referred to by such names. In fact she claimed she would not have anything else to do with any other member of the bromeliad family.

Another potential "Brom" lover lost. Now consider. This was done just on the naming of a plant. How can anyone explain to me that the name of a plant can destroy its beauty in the eyes of the beholder.

Beware hybridizers when you name your plants. Names could mean the difference between being a pauper or a millionaire.

Des Andersen

Tillandsia butzii & Tillandsia friesii I am writing about these two Tillandsias because I have heard it expressed in many circles that people are finding these two species hard to grow. I find them extremely easy to grow or at least perhaps they like the conditions I have in my shed.

Tillandsia butzii is considered even in America a hard plant to grow in cultivation but, is easier to manage once it starts to clump. It grows at altitude 1000 to 2300 metres from Southern Mexico to Panama. Mine grows at sea level on the southern wall of a fibre glass shed with 50% shade cloth. The shed was built for orchids. Every time I water the orchids, up to daily in summer due to the high drying south east winds I have on the coast and up to twice a week in winter. I fertilize them with whatever the current fertilizer I am using for the orchids but I believe phostogen may have a slight advantage.

Tillandsia friesii grows in nature saxicolously at altitudes 3000 to 3550 metres in the Andean valleys in north western Argentina. This plant is not considered difficult to grow and is supposed to adapt readily to wide ranges of conditions. It likes bright light and likes frequent watering. To me it appears at times to be parched and crying out for a drink. I grow it on the northern wall of the same shed mentioned above near a window through which there is plenty of air movement. However although in nature it clumps readily, mine only gets one or two pups.

Des Andersen

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