

# BROMELIACEAE

Postal Address: PO Box 565  
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**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 p.m.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P O Box 565  
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PATRON: Mr Harold Caulfield

PRESIDENT:	Mr Len Trevor	Ph. 351 1203
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EDITOR:	Mr Len Butt	Ph. 848 3515
SHOW ORGANIZER:	Phyllis Hobbs	Ph. 286 4156
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Mr John Higgins	

COMMITTEE: Mr Neville Ryan, Mr Bob Paulsen,  
Mr Bob Cross, Mr Laurie Muller,  
Mrs Thelma Muller, Mr Doug Upton,  
Mrs Joy Upton, Mrs Olive Trevor,  
Mr Don Hobbs

LIBRARIANS: Nesta Russell  
Shirley Neville

**PROGRAMME**

July Commentary:	Genny Vauhkonen
Beginners:	Jo Ketelaars and Thelma Muller
Item:	Olive Trevor - seed raising
August Commentary:	Yet to be decided

ALL 1993 SUBS. NOT YET PAID ARE OVERDUE  
\$7 SINGLE; \$10 FAMILY

## EDITORIAL

The Management Committee of the B.S. of Queensland Inc. wishes me to express the thanks of the entire Society to all those involved in any way in making the Easter event Bromeliads VII, the success it undoubtedly was.

To try and name individuals is to almost certainly miss some and so please regard this as official thanks to all speakers, organisers, co-ordinators, delegates from overseas and interstate, suppliers of plants for competitive exhibition, open display and filling the trade tables in sales areas. To anyone this involves including our own member delegates, please accept our warm appreciation.

This also is to cover those people who gave of their expertise to produce goods donated to help make Bromeliads VII a success.

That waited for and momentous event in our year, the annual combined Bromeliad and succulent June show was on the 12th/13th June and, as usual, it was colourful and a bonus in living for those who attended.

One comment that must, however, be made is that the cactus/succulent people seem to have no difficulty in tightly filling their competition benches, while ours were rather depleted this year. This is not unusual but the trend seems to be getting worse.

Worth further comment is the fact that the novelty section is still great and the originality never better.

A special thanks to the ladies who set up our supper on the night it was all put together.

I noticed also that the trade tables were groaning with the weight of quality plants for sale.

Getting back to that May meeting, there are a few things to mention. The novice class was won by Jo Ketelaars with *Vriesia Carinata* and the advanced by Neville Ryan with a *Aech. Chantinii* cv *Samurai*. Lucky door by Ruth Wilson - Raffle Eileen Eisentrager, Alan Sawtel, Neville Ryan and John Higgins.

New members were Jarka and Nina Rehak from Miranda NSW. There will be a mini show in October and the schedule will be listed elsewhere.

EDITOR

### THE OLIVE BRANCH

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## COMPETITION 1993 COMBINED SHOW

Fifteen members entered forty-nine entries in our combined show competition. This was eleven more entries than 1992. In 1991 we had one hundred and four entries which is more like we need in our annual combined show at Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens.

Five classes had only one plant entered and got the prize without any competition and five out of twenty-one classes had no entries at all leaving five prizes begging. On the whole, plants were well prepared in most sections and I congratulate those who won the prizes and thank all of the other exhibitors. Twelve out of fifteen exhibitors won prizes. Don't feel bad if you were one of the three who didn't win - we love you and need you all and maybe you'll win next year.

The most competitive class to judge was the tillandsia. The standard was very high. Two beautiful tectorums, a magnificent xerographica and a huge clump of funckiana were hard to beat. We gave first prize to Phyllis Hobb's tillandsia fasciculata which sported a beautiful inflorescence. This plant was also awarded the Nez Misso award for the best tillandsiordeae.

The standard in the cryptanthus class was also very high and we congratulate Doug Reilly on growing such excellent plants. Doug was observed during the weekend doing the rounds with his misting bottle. Surely this sort of devotion to plants needs to be rewarded. Doug can certainly teach us a lot about growing cryptanthus.

Phyllis Hobbs won both first and second in the neoregelia class. Both plants were well grown and well prepared as only Phyllis knows how. Her neoregelia Carolinae X Painted Lady x concentrica also won the best bromelioideae the Hudson Perpetual Trophy and the Champion bromeliad of the Show.

Congratulations to Doug Upton for winning his first prize in the novice section and thank you Doug for your entry in the Novelty section. Your "spider brom" was a real talking point and captured a lot of interest throughout the weekend.

Choosing the Tom Schofield award was no easy task as there were many deserving plants on display. A beautiful guzmania caroline displayed by Thelma Muller was one of many lovely guzmanias on display.

In closing I'd like to draw attention to classes 4 and 12 tillandsiordeae in flower and bromelioideae in flower. The schedule states classes 4 and 12 must have flowers (i.e. petals). Make sure your plant has petal colour otherwise your plant should be entered in the appropriate class.

Finally, I'd like to encourage all members to work towards preparing and entering plants in the competition in 1994. Our display is always well stocked with magnificent plants - our sales area is crammed full of beautiful sales plants, but our competition is still lacking. So come on members, lets do better next year.

Olive Trevor

## THE ADDED JOY OF GROWING EPIPHYTICALLY

Every opportunity I get to view bromeliads in private or commercial collections brings more to the fore my opinion that there is much to be said for growing these plants as in nature.

My initial addiction to this was when, many years ago, the dreaded pin spot scale got into my own collection from purchases made elsewhere. Despite advice from many sources, I still battle with this bogey, much of the joy of growing these plants can fly out the window, so to speak, because adding to a collection by swapping and trading is then gone and even the pleasure of helping to put displays together using your plants with others is not ethical. Only the heavily trichomed species of the genus Tillandsia seemed to be immune to this insect and perhaps genetic study into this aspect will in time eradicate the pest.

The powerful insecticides used by reliable commercial bromeliad nurseries are very successful so they do not have the problem, but these have a toxicity of perhaps S7 and as a garden and environment lover, I prefer not to dabble.

As I now have to adjust to this situation, and being a really dedicated bromelian, you just have to be if you want to increase a collection of plants you cannot swap or sell, but only buy more and more of.

My answer is to copy nature where possible, using suitable trees, fallen logs, sawn stumps with hollows, sandstone rocks and the withered leaf bases in certain palms.

Every private or commercial collector I know seems to have attempted epiphytic growing and many have achieved it to perfection. To see Dennis Cathcart's

transparencies of South America is to realise that the landscaping aspect as done in nature enhances the plant, improves the visual garden and adds to the appeal of growing attractive plants when the commercial value is no more.

Such, in my humble opinion is the truly dedicated bromelian, growing a much loved genus, with the thought of the sheer beauty of the plants themselves.

Open aeration growing on trees, non crowding of species, dappled to full sunlight and removal of older flowered clones is the only treatment necessary to eventually find the epiphytic plants have a minimum of the scale still active.

In the case of tree growers, choose a firm barked host, not one that sheds layers of bark, if the plant is fixed into a crotch or hollow branch.

You will, of experience, find that when the plant stolons, they should be encouraged to grow onto the actual tree bark as, when this occurs, the growth pattern will accelerate the stolons get better colour and natural pests be kept at bay merely by the plants own strength to eject them.

Growing on rocks, hollow low stumps and fallen logs is just as rewarding. In this case the subjects are easily kept under surveillance by a constant and regular spray of a soap based spray or a milder insecticide, such as the wide spectrum MAVRIK, to which is added an agricultural wetting agent (one drop to a bucket of mix, no stronger).

Len Butt



## FURTHER JOTTINGS ON BROMELIADS V11 1993

As mentioned last issue, this just must start with mention of Grace Goode's panorama of neoregelia colour that is always a welcome sight to see. The "for sale" offsets were, of course, first to disappear, before the ritual trek through the Goode garden (no pun intended).

My particular interest was the very unique new types of mini neoregelia that I hope will be soon available.

Suffice also to say and congratulate bus organisers for what turned out to be the best one day scenic trip our visitors could have had. The Mary Cairncross national park area with all that lovely palmwood/cum Montville areas always takes my breath away.

Back at the conference venue, let us dwell on those lectures, I really enjoyed them. Our overseas speakers certainly excelled themselves by imparting knowledge, geographical and botanical, on a very wide range of bromeliacea, so a special thank you to Elton Leme for being with us, opening up our knowledge of habitat bromeliads and sharing his expertise. To Dennis Cathcart also for his terrific transparencies and his obvious concern on conservation among those rainforests. Both these bromelians literally took us to South America!

I must, but it is with difficulty, now await the printed proceedings of Bromeliads V11, but I am sure they will be well worth the wait. The interstate and local speakers are to be commended for a job well done, there being quite a good amount of variety in the subjects chosen and from comments I have heard since no one was bored with any of the proceedings.



## PERSISTENCY PAYS

At the Sydney conference in 1991, Olive Trevor gave a talk on vriesea hybrids and her slides showed a standard of plant we all aspire to, but never attain. I always blame the problem on Brisbane weather! Since that time I have considered Olive as the No. 1 grower of Vriesea in Australia with Maurie Kellett a close second.

Whilst she may have been a No. 1 grower, I couldn't nail her down in that a No. 1 grower has No. 1 responsibilities in leading us to a more nationalised approach on Vriesea hybrids. For example, her plant list included a plant called Best Branched Belgium Hybrid, but she had already confided to me that she preferred her Grafton Gold (which has since become Grafton Sunset). This was a plant that she had purchased in the Newcastle area (Allan Ladd's work?) in 1983 on her way home from the Sydney conference. So how it became Grafton Sunset has me puzzled, although I understand that Terry Vogt had something to do with it. Perhaps he was the cause of the brilliant sun setting in Grafton that impressed Olive!

In her 1991 talk, Olive told us about the many hybrids that seemed to have evolved from seed from Belgium in some way or another. Between then and now I have been in contact with Belgium and it appears that this is the only country that has a Government Research Station almost totally involved with Bromeliaceae. When you read about 1500 crosses being done each year and 100,000 seedlings being grown on and yet only say 5 or 6 are considered worthwhile proceeding with (the rest are destroyed), you realise how indecisive we are in Australia. Under these conditions one wonders how "Belgium" seed got to Australia in the first place, but there sure is potential to have a varied and sometimes startling progeny.

You will have noticed that so far my hybrid check list has not included any Vriesea hybrid emanating from "The Olive Branch" mainly because Olive has done little hybridising herself. However, she has picked up those waifs and strays, seen their potential and with horticultural zeal has put many on the "wants" list of others.

I believe we should start now in trying to organise these better hybrids into some sort of order. Perhaps the Victorian Society will produce coloured photographs in their Vriesea project or perhaps we may see coloured photographs being circulated as part of the Australian registration programme, if it gets off the ground.

Lets look at a few names which should be included in the 4th edition of the Australian Check List:

1. **Grafton Sunset** - With up to 3 spikes, the main central one to 25cm long, 5cm wide, with strongly overlapping bracts of a golden orange colour, suffused with red.
2. **Golden Pride** - With branched spikes of a more golden colour than Plantation Pride, hence its name.
3. **Moon Glow** - Branched spikes, longer than Golden Pride, but with bracts more wider apart revealing the rhachis. Leaf markings faintly reminiscent of a *V. hieroglyphica* parentage somewhere.
4. **Olives Best** - Another branched specimen which started off as being called "Best Branched Belgium Hybrid" then to "Olives Best Branched Belgium Hybrid" which, if simplified to Olives Best, makes for easier writing and remembering. Another reason for my keenness to

have a simple name is that this self same plant is being offered by another nursery as *Vriesea* "Multibracts". All these synonyms will appear in my check list and if you are aware of other names "floating" around, please let me know.

There are other hybrids lurking in Olive's spacious shadehouses worthy of more appropriate names. For example, that "Carinata multibranching hybrid" which seems to be between the two *Vriesea carinata* hybrids pictured on page 41 in Padilla's book "The Colourful Bromeliads" is reminiscent of the brilliant colours seen in Queensland Parrots! But that's a later project.

**Derek Butcher**

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.**

**MINI SHOW - OCTOBER 1993**

**Schedule**

- Class 1 ..... Vriesea in Flower  
Class 2 ..... Vriesea Foliage  
Class 3 ..... Any Other Tillandsioideae  
Class 4 ..... Aechmea in Flower  
Class 5 ..... Billbergia  
Class 6 ..... Any Other Bromeliad

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**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND**  
**COMBINED SHOW - RESULT SCHEDULE**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Entrant</b>
1 TILLANDSIA	(1) Fasciculata	P. Hobbs
	(2) Xerographica	D. Andersen
	(3) Tectorum	B. Flanders
	H.C. Funckiana	T.J. Muller
2 VRIESEA	(1) Christine	T.J. Muller
	(2) Perfecta	T.J. Muller
	(3) Hybrid (yellow & orange)	T.J. Muller
4 TILLANDSIOIDEAE IN FLOWER	(1) Guzmania Wittmackii	T.J. Muller
5 CRYPTANTHUS	(1) Cascade	D. Reilly
	(2) Milky Way	G. Goode
	(3) Fosterianus	R. Reilly
7 AECHMEA	(1) A. Bert	N. Rowe
	(2) Roberto Anselmi	T.J. Muller
8 NEOREGELIA	(1) Carolina x Painted Lady x Concentrica	P. Hobbs
	(2) Cruenta hybrid	P. Hobbs
	(3) Wango Tango	T.J. Muller
MIN NEO	(1) Fireball x Granada	D. Reilly
	(2) Flicker	D. Reilly
	(3) Punctatissima	D. Reilly

- |    |   |                   |  |  |
|----|---|-------------------|--|--|
| 9  | NIDULARIUM  | (1)               | Nidularium<br>Antoineanum  | N. Rowe                                |
| 10 | INTERGENERIC  | (1)               | Guzvriesea<br>Viminalus Red<br>x Guzmania<br>Lingulata   | T.J. Muller                            |
| 11 | OTHER<br>BROMELIOIDEAE  | (1)               | Orthophytum<br>Gurkenii  | P. Hobbs                               |
| 12 | BROMELIOIDEAE<br>IN FLOWER  | (1)               | Aec. Recurvata<br>v. bengesii  | D. Andersen                            |
| 14 | PITCAIRNIA  | (1)               | Species unknown  | D. Andersen                            |
| 15 | OTHER<br>PITCAIRNIOIDEAE  | (1)               | Abromeitiella<br>breuifolia  | G. Lawson                              |
| 16 | SPECIMEN:<br>Any genus, 3<br>or more<br>connected,<br>mature plants                         | (1)<br>(2)        | Neo. Meyendorffii<br>x fireball<br>Till. Edithae   | G. Aizlewood<br>D. Andersen            |
| 17 | NOVICE:<br>Any genera.<br>Mary Grasseli<br>Award -<br>entrant never<br>won a first<br>prize | (1)<br>(2)<br>(3) | Neo. ampullacea<br>x pauci flora<br>x Granada<br>Neo. ampullacea<br>"Red Beauty"<br>Dyckia<br>Breuifolia | D. Upton<br>N. Kickbush<br>N. Kickbush |



19	NOVELTY DISPLAY	(1)	Spider Brom	D. Upton
		(2)	Courting	D. Andersen
	Not to exceed	(3)	On Tray	R. Reilly
	1 metre in any dimension			
21	FLORAL DISPLAY	(1)	Portea Petropolitana	R. Reilly
22	NEZ MISSO BEST TILLANDSIOIDEAE		Till Fasciculata	P. Hobbs
23	HUDSON BEST BROMELIOIDEAE		Neo.Carolinea x Painted Lady x Concentrica	P. Hobbs
24	G. GOODE BEST CRYPTANTHUS		Cascade	D. Reilly
25	BEST PITCAIRNIOIDEAE		Abromeitrella breuifolia	G. Lawson
26	RESERVE CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF THE SHOW		Till. Fasiculata	P. Hobbs
27	CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF THE SHOW		Neo Carolina x Painted Lady x Concentrica	P. Hobbs
	TOM SCHOFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD		Guzmania Caroline	T.J. Muller
	MARY GRASSELLI AWARD (NOVICE)		N.Ampullaceae x Pauciflora x Granada	D. Upton

## REPORT ON THE COMBINED SHOW HELD AT THE AUDITORIUM AT THE MOUNT COOT-THA GARDENS ON THE LONG WEEKEND IN JUNE

For those who think the Combined Show is on Saturday and Sunday from 9.00 a.m. till 4.30 p.m., you're quite wrong, for when we arrived at the Auditorium on Friday afternoon it was already a hive of activity, with people there busily bringing in plants for sales and for the display, and organizing equipment for the setting up of displays. The Show Steward was also there and on hand to accept plants for competition.

The hearty tea provided was a welcome break and appreciated by all.

Saturday morning arrived and although very windy conditions prevailed it did nothing to deter the long line of people at the front door, eagerly waiting to come in and the majority of whom headed immediately to the Sales Area.

The plant sales were very well represented this year, with a great variety of different plants of good quality. This no doubt contributed to the good sales of plants, particularly on the Saturday, thus making the area a little congested at times.

The display was again very eye catching, with the two trees laden with plants. Good to see a better response from the previous year, when the tree was a little bare. The display on the floor, as always, attracted much attention and interest from the Public, and the Stewards were ever ready and on hand to answer a multitude of questions.

Numbers of plants entered on the Competition Tables were a little disappointing with only 48 plants being entered. A far cry from 1991 when a record number of competition plants filled the tables.

The practical demonstrations were given on Saturday and Sunday by the following members.

Phyllis Hobbs - Lovely Neoregelias  
Peter Paroz - Mounting Tillandsias  
Len Trevor - Repotting Bromeliads  
John Higgins - What is a Bromeliad

The demonstrations were very well attended and even John doing the "Dog Watch" on Sunday afternoon attracted an extremely interested crowd of onlookers.

The Information table and Book Sales were kept busy with people eager to purchase the literature which was readily available and some interest was shown in Membership applications.

The number of people through the door for the weekend totalled 1593. 640 on Saturday whilst on Sunday - I must say a more subdued crowd - came to a total of 953. Encouraging numbers in attendance for another successful show.

The show finished at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, but that was when the work began again, to dismantle the display, pack up unsold plants and collect gear and equipment. What a job, but I must say, done with a great deal of help and co-operation from all.

Thanks go to many people. The organisers, the members and workers, the members who supplied plants for the display and for the sales area, and to the Kitchen Staff, who always had that hot cup of coffee on the go.

What a great weekend of fellowship I had. May more of our members become involved next year and on other occasions, to develop this bond of togetherness for the sake of our plants.

**Your Roving Reporter**

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