

BROMELIACEAE

Postal Address: PO Box 565
FORTITUDE VALLEY
QLD 4006

Registered by Australia Post Sept-Oct 1993

Print Post No. P.P. 434327/0002

VOLUME XXVI NO. 6



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.

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EDITORIAL

Another year draws to a close, an eventful one for our society, and this is to wish you all, a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year. For our newsletter, there has been a few changes for, I, venture to say the better, and hope it continues.

My thanks for helping so much with typing etc., go to two people Meryl Snow and Maria Owen. On behalf of all of us, thankyou. I understand there is a move toward more interesting and also better attended bus excursions as we enjoyed with Bob Paulson, it can be achieved and with just a little extra enthusiasm from all, will eventuate.

For those who cannot reguarly attend our meetings and functions this newsletter is for you most of all, so make your presence felt through its pages, WE DO NEED MORE AND MORE ARTICLES, no matter how short even a letter to say how you grow your plants or if you have a growing problem.

Our next big coming event in only a few days is of course the final 1993 meeting, and, yes, our break up party. LET US MAKE THIS ONE A "BOBBY DAZZLER"

Also putting my own opinion to the fore, I would like to see occasionally, speakers on other plant subjects allied to the great bromeliaceae. Many specialist groups are now doing this, and finding the diversity very interest rewarding.

REMEMBER ALSO MY FRIENDS THAT JAN 1ST 1994 our annual subs are due \$7 for a member and \$10 for a family.

EDITOR L.P. BUTT

POPULAR VOTE

SEPTEMBER

NOVICE	- Neo. paulistana	- GENNY VAUHKONEN
ADVANCED	- Till. streptocarpa	- NEVILLE RYAN)
	- Till. druid	- PHYLISS HOBBS) TIE
JUDGES CHOICE	- Till. tectorum)
	Till. streptocarpa) all HIGHLY
	Till. ionantha) COMMENDED
	Neo. paulistana)

OCTOBER

NOVICE	- Till. ionantha	- LEN BUTT
ADVANCED	- Till. globosa	- NEVILLE RYAN
JUDGES CHOICE	-	

SECRETARY'S SECTION

Don't forget Field Day - 21st NOVEMBER at the home of
NEVILLE RYAN
88 DAWSON RD.
UPPER MT. GRAVATT - PH 343-2267

1.30pm. -4.00pm. - (Plant Sales available)

Please make an effort to attend - you will be assured of
an enjoyable afternoon. Bring your friends and relatives
if you wish - we will even attempt to make your enemies
welcome.

Included in this issue is a questionnaire. It would be
appreciated if you would fill this in and return with
your Subscription.

PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 18th - CHRISTMAS PARTY

Video Tapes of BROMELIADS VII CONFERENCE are available.
There are 5 in all; - 1-ELTON LEME

2&3-DENNIS CATHCART

4-B. LARNACH, J. HIGGINS, J. CATLAN,

5-L. BUTT, P. TRISTRAM, PANEL
DISCUSSION

Cost \$25 each tape. Plus Packaging and Postage at cost.

PLEASE FORWARD PAYMENT WITH ORDER. INDIVIDUAL TAPES
MAY BE PURCHASED.

BOOKS FOR SALE

"COLOURFUL BROMELIADS"	by VICTORIA PADILLA	\$15.00
"THE BEAUTY OF BROMELIADS"	by TONY LEA	\$ 4.50
"BROMELIADS"	by BILL SEABORN	\$ 4.50
"BROMELIADS"	by WALTER RICHTER	\$ 3.50
"BROMELIADS FOR EVERYONE"	by BEA HANSEN	\$ 2.50
"BROMELIADS FOR EVERYONE" 2	by BEA HANSEN	\$11.50
"BROMELIADS IN AUSTRALIA"	by BROM. SOC OF NSW	\$ 2.00
"GROWING BROMELIADS"	by BROM. SOC OF AUST	\$11.00
"GENUS TILLANDSIA"	by PAUL ISLEY 3rd	\$ 3.00
"INTERNATIONAL CHECKLIST OF BROM HYBRIDS"	by BSI	\$ 3.50
"A BROMELIAD GLOSSARY"	by BSI	\$ 3.50
"BROMELIADS - A CULTURAL MANUAL	by BSI	\$ 4.00

PACKAGING AND POSTAGE AT COST

BILLBERGIAS ONCE MORE!

After the very interesting session put on by Patricia O'Dea re the genus *Billbergia* at our August meeting, I went home thinking of this genus of Bromeliads.

Browsing through my old letters, yes, I am the ultimate "bower-bird" of keeping memorabilia, so here was a last received letter by Victoria Padilla on that subject, urging me to send for her latest effort "BROMELIADS IN COLOR".AND THEIR CULTURE""

I subsequently did, and still have it, although to my knowledge it is quite rare now in Queensland, and was composed of very early back issues of the first B.S.I. NEWSLETTERS, put together and edited by Victoria herself!

Extracts from her letter, and from the book also, I feel add to our knowledge and understanding of the *Billbergia* genus. Here in Queensland, enthusiasts like our own Grace Goode, and her brother-in-law Mr. Wasley senior, of Sunnybank did much to enhance the genus here, beautiful hybrids appeared to be what the hybridisers were aiming for. Typical of these were YAYEE, MANDOS OTHELLO, and CURLY TOP.

What is now needed if we are to again improve the *Billbergia* and bring it back to popularity, is to concentrate on improving the flower colour as well as the foliage! *Billbergia* RED RAVEN and *Billbergia* MURIEL WATERMAN are proof this can be done.

Victoria Padilla tells us that at the time of writing a number of *Billbergias* had become obsolete, lists name changes around 1966.

B. amabilis to *B. vittata*.
B. boplandiana to *B. nutans*.
B. quintissima to *B. macrocalyx*
B. minuta to *B. nutans*
B. caespitosa to *B. distachia*
B. rohaniana to *B. vittata*

- B. calophylla to B. vittata
- B. rubro-cyanea to B. saundersii
- B. leopoldii once used for B. braziliensis
- B. thyrsoides to B. pyramidalis-concolor
- B. zonatus to B. vittata

As can be seen and noted some of these names are most probably now changed once again. Perhaps Harry Luther can fill us in on this?. With american hybridists like the famed Bert Foster, still in our memory it is pleasing to note the great billbergias they left us. For example the lovely cross of B. horrida var tigrina with B. euphemia var purpurea, which was named to honor the N.Z. lady bromelian Muriel Waterman. Another, Billbergia X Fantasia, a cross with B. saundersii and B. pyramidalis, and this used the best of both parents.

Distribution of billbergia seed among our members is one way to enhance the love for these plants.

LEN R. BUTT

BRIGHT IDEAS



What bright ideas did you have this month?

Do you have any new thoughts or suggestions to help us in programs for your meetings and the running of your Society.

If so please feel free to use the Suggestion Box now available to you.

- For example:
- Program topics for the meetings.
 - What Guest Speakers would you like?
 - What subjects would you like to see covered?.
 - Any ideas for different field trips.

So put those thinking caps on and we hope to hear from you soon.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

MINI SHOW SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 1993

- Class 1. Neo-miniature under 20cm. a) Neo. Amp Red Beauty
N. Kickbush
b) Neo. Pauciflora
J. Catlan
c) Neo. Strawberry Cup
G. Vauhkonen
- Class 2. Neo-other than provided for. a) Neo. Mon Petite
J. Catlan
b) Neo. Hybrid Skotak
G. Vauhkonen
c) Neo. Lamberts Pride
J. Catlan
- Class 3. Aechmea.
- Class 4. Vriesea-in flower or spike a) Vr. flammea
D. Andersen
b) Vr. rubyae
G. Vauhkonen
- Class 5. Vriesea-foliage a) Platynema x Saundersii
albo-marginata
G. Vauhkonen
b) Hieroglyphica
G. Aizlewood
c) Hieroglyphica hybrid
J. Catlan
- Class 6. Guzmania
- Class 7. Tillandsia a) T. seleriana
N. Ryan
b) T. schiediana
J. Ketelaars
c) T. flabellata rubra
D. Andersen

- Class 8. Any other genera a) Dyckia brevifolia
N. Kickbush
b) Pitcairnia Burle Marxii
J. Catlan
c) Bill. Deser's bigeneric
hybrid x Catherine Wilson
G. Aizlewood

REPORT ON NANCY'S FIELD DAY.

On Sunday, 3rd October, Nancy Kickbush of 3 Jirrima Street, The Gap, had a Field Day from 1.30 p.m. till 4.00 p.m. at her home.

Approximately twenty members participated in a leisurely stroll around her garden followed by a lovely Afternoon Tea. A member of our Society, Mr. Maurice Featherstone from Gladstone was there, and it was pleasing to see someone from further afield able to attend one of our Field Days and join in the fellowship.

Quite apart from her sales plants, Nancy had a wide variety of Bromeliads well grown and neatly presented. An eye catching feature was the display of mainly Neoregelias in the front garden.

I know the time and effort Nancy put into preparing her garden for us to view and we thank her for making it open to us all.

Nancy has been busy saving for a holiday to Bali in November and I know she'll enjoy that, so Happy Holiday Nancy.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

Society members Linda and Graham Percival of 8 Valentine Street, Southside Gympie will be participating in the Australian Open Garden Scheme on the 13th and 14th of November 10.00 a.m. till 4.30 p.m. A date to keep in mind if any of our members are up that way at the time.

JO'S PLACE

We featured Jo Ketelaars in the last edition of the Bromeliaceae and are glad to be able to publish the photograph of Jo holding her favourite plant - Neoregelia "Proud Beauty" a plant which she acquired from Grace Goode. Hopefully we are up and going with our Roving Reporting and I must say the response has been great and thank you to the people whose gardens we have already visited.



A VISIT TO DOUG AND JOY UPTON'S GARDEN ON THE 18TH
JULY 1993.

We arrived at Doug and Joy's home after a lovely casual drive along the Brisbane River down under the Indooroopilly Bridge. The navigator - myself - lost the way and it was only by chance we found our way there. Doug and Joy lives at 101 Jerrang Street, Indooroopilly, and have resided there for approximately 28 years. Their phone number is 378 3511. They have two children and one grandchild born on the 1st June, 1993.

Their property which is a sloping block is 40 perches in area and has a southerly aspect. The house and gardens are terraced to accomodate the slope of the land. All the trees and vegetation were planted by Doug and Joy. Their yard gets only dappled light because of all the very large trees about. At the bottom of their property, they have created their own little rainforest. What a tranquil place it was and what pleasure they must have had in making it. They have possums, various birds, including parrots and crested hawks roosting in the taller trees.

Guzmania is Doug and Joy's favourite Genera, whilst their favourite plant is Aechmea Orlandiana cv. Ensign which they acquired from John and Val Sax.

They water with Town Water run through a misting system which was installed by Doug's son as a surprise for him for his birthday. Doug and Joy grow most varieties of Bromeliads. Their potted plants on the ground are set onto small rocks and gravel. Their plants don't suffer from frosts, but they do have the ever troublesome grasshopper to contend with.

Doug and Joy have been in the Bromeliad Society since 1985-approximately eight years. Joy has known of Bromeliads since the early age of five years when she was introduced to Billbergia Nutans "Queens Tears", by her mother who called them Japanese Fuschias. Her mother also grew the ever popular Billbergia Pyramidalis.

Doug and Joy stumbled across the Bromeliad Display at the R.N.A., and Joy remembers Patricia O'Dea on the display at the Exhibition. They were introduced to the meetings from the Combined Show after the R.N.A.

Their first encounter with taking offsets from a mother plant was with Neoregelia Royal Robe. They took immature pups from the parent plant, only to see them die. A good lesson on propagation and a good thing they persevered and are now growing the beautiful plants that they are. Joy's other interests are crafts and Macrame. She has the most beautiful macrame hangers adorning her home and Doug enjoys working in the Rainforest and dabbling in artistic crafts i.e. making wind chimes.

We had a most enjoyable morning with Doug and Joy, and we thank them for the time they gave us.

Pictured you see Doug and Joy together in their garden.



We feature Len Butt and his garden in the next issue of Bromeliaceae.

Till then your Roving Reporter.

BROMELIADS DOWN UNDER

by D. CATHCART

THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN BROMELIAD SOCIETIES was held April 9th through 12th in Brisbane, Queensland Australia. Societies from all over Australia and New Zealand participated in this year's event, hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Queensland, Inc. This biennial event is the Australian equivalent of the BSI World Bromeliad Conference held here in the United States.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend BROMELIADS VII as guests of the Society in exchange for guest speaker duties. While small by comparison to the BSI World Conference, it had no less an energetic agenda. A full slate of speakers both Australian and foreign which included Elton Leme of Brazil, complimented the judged show, displays, sale, banquet and tour.

Best of Show was taken by Peter Tristram for his beautiful *Vriesea glutinosa* v. *variegata* in the first ever judged show held in conjunction with an Australian Bromeliad Conference. This competition brought out some of Australia's finest and will surely become a permanent part of future conferences. No less spectacular was the display in the lobby of the conference center, assembled from plants donated by many growers. The display included an exhibit of Australian bromeliad hybrids and cultivars, many of which are not as yet to be found in the U.S. We will eagerly await the release of some of these beautiful bromeliads to the world market.

Neoregelias form the backbone of many Australian collections, but most all bromeliad genera are also cultivated.

Tillandsias are popular and many are grown from seed as are other rare bromeliad species. The sales area of the conference reflected the members varied tastes in bromeliads and a smorgasbord of everything from *Ananas* to *Cryptanthus*, rare *Pitcairnia*s to *Neo*, *Tillandsias*, *Aechmeas* and more were offered. Prices, while higher than those in the U.S., were not prohibitive.

On the tour and after the conference we had the opportunity to visit a few private collections and commercial bromeliad growers. We were immediately impressed by the number of bromeliad species and their color. Brisbane is subtropical, but even in the temperate south, bromeliads in Australia benefit from abundant sunshine and warmth, taking on impressive shades.

Some nurseries rival their U.S. counterparts in both size and numbers of species offered. Though the climate in much of Australia is suitable for bromeliads in landscape, this remains an area where these plants are underutilized. Most bromeliads are still bought by collectors and a few by the general public.

Australians have a more difficult time importing bromeliads than we here in the U.S. Freight alone keeps importing out of the reach of many. All plants entering Australia are fumigated with Methyl Bromide and are then placed in mandatory three month quarantine. Losses are generally very high. The minimum cost for the inspection, fumigation, quarantine and subsequent inspections is over five hundred dollars for even the smallest shipment! Needless to say, Australians cherish their bromeliads and their cultural practices reflect that fact.

After the conference we were free to travel about and see some of Australia. We traveled to Melbourne in the temperate south, Alice Springs and Ayers Rock in the "Red-Center", to Darwin on the Northern Territory's tropical north coast, on to Cairns in far north Queensland then down to Sydney, the cultural capital of Australia. We trekked the rainforest swam the rivers, hiked the canyons and deserts, climbed Ayers Rock and dove the Great Barrier Reef. But with all the experiences we had, none were more rewarding than getting to meet the Australian people on their home turf. Our impression of them? We found the Aussies to be friendly, open, down to earth people who value the simple things in life. Their society is well ordered and cultured while retaining an air of the rugged individualist. Fiercely patriotic, they also have a great love for Australia's native flora and fauna, showing a general awareness of their environment not seen in this country. We felt welcome in Australia and look forward to another opportunity to visit the land "Down Under".

LOST...JO KETELAARS HAS LOST A PLANT WHICH SHE TOOK
TO THE MEETING. IT IS NEO. hal ellis
HAS ANYONE SEEN IT?

REPORT ON THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW HELD AT THE
AUDITORIUM AT MT COOT-THA ON THE WEEKEND OF THE 16TH
AND 17TH OCTOBER.

Once again our displays at the Royal Horticultural Show were of an extremely high standard, with the bulk of the plants for the display being supplied by Laurie and Thelma Muller, Don and Phyllis Hobbs and Olive and Len Trevor, whilst Patricia O'Dea, Nev Ryan, Nancy Kickbush, and Doug and Roly Reilly were also good enough to bring plants along for the display.

Our special Tillandsia display was absolutely beautiful, comprising of a background of Palms, a centre tree with Guzmanias and Tillandsias attached and small Tillandsia Trees in the foreground, and all being set in a colourful pebble base. Our second display featuring mainly Vrieseas, Neoregelias and Guzmanias was also very eye-catching and attracted a lot of attention.

Other Societies represented at the Royal Horticultural Show were:

The Hibiscus Society, The Floral Art Society, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Day Lilly Society, The Herb Society, The Cactus and Succulent Society, The African Violet Society, The Begonia Society, The Sunnybank Garden Club, and the Kenmore Garden Club, with the Floral Art Society again winning 1st Prize in the on going R.H.S. Award for their stunning exhibition of Floral Art.

Thanks very much to Phyllis Hobbs for her expertise in the setting up of our Displays and to Bob Cross for without his help in collecting and bringing the gear, we'd be lost. Thanks also to the members who supplied plants and helped with the display and to those who assisted overall on the weekend.

JOTTINGS ON THE R.N.A. DISPLAYS

1968 -1969

That very first two displays were something to remember! Perhaps not the lavishly planned efforts we now put on, but considering the variety and availability of such variety we had to work with in 1968 -69 very well worth the effort.

The pin spot scale had not reared it's ugly head at that time, so more exhibitors were available to participate. Something like 30 people bringing in plants in a society of about 50 odd. So many that many members took them home again, as space, a 12 foot semi-circle against the wall at the western end of the pavilion, would not accomodate.

The excitement surrounding the first one meant, for me quite a lot. Putting together a huge sheet of unbleached calico roughly 12ft by 9ft (3.9mtrs x 2.9mtrs)? Using a verandah floor to daub it with poster paints. The theme a giant waterfall, took a bit of doing!. That first bromeliad tree was a success only because of dedicated enthusiasts. Neslie Misso, Peter Paroz, Morris Jones, the two Grasselli's Barclay Binnie, the Hydes, and the Blouggy's all buzzing around offering advice and participating! The hessian covered cases to make a stand, the pine bark floor, and of course those really good large and small species bromeliads to furnish the whole display. My plastic macaw sat in that bromeliad tree, trying to make itself look natural against the painted waterfall. To my age-ing memory, onething is very clear. No tillandsias on that tree (except spanish moss) on any part of the stand. They were considered too valuable to risk for security reasons. The second year, we used long very thick bamboo as a hut or pergola and many wire pot hangers courtesy of Morris Jones. I believe Barclay Binnie made the iron ring top stands, portable, and used to pass a rope on chain through as the public barrier.

I can still see Nick Kemp, our dry-wit comedian up on that bamboo, tying and balancing. Nick and Mary often had verbal fisticuffs but it was all in good fun.

Many were the comments from the public, "How did we paint so well the red rings in *Neoregelia compacta*?, Why did we use loquat fruit on a stick in one specimen?"(The fruit of Bromeliad balance). Nick used to demonstrate it could

be eaten, anyway!.

And so the next few years and the stand rolled on, till we got the space and Barclay Binnie made another ARC step stand that fitted against the same entrance opposite door. Any one now still remember the 30cm masonite badge model made and displayed, second stand by Carlo Grasselli?

LEN P. BUTT

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