

BROMELIACEAE

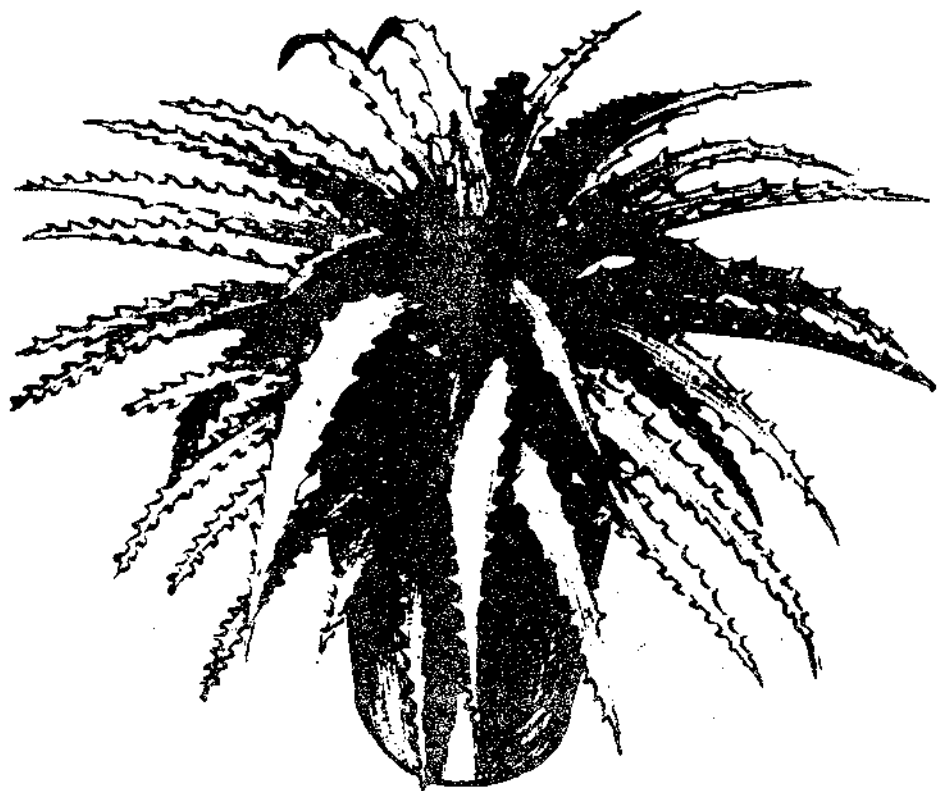
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THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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.

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EDITORIAL

This year has seen a return to the traditional field days, and of course the Bromeliads VII conference. All great society assets.

I wish to thank all who gave help in any way to put out the Bromeliaceae in time and improve the content.

A Happy New Year to all members.

EDITOR

PROGRAMME

JANUARY

COMMENTARY	-	DES ANDERSON
BEGINNERS	-	
ITEM	-	PHOTOGRAPHY & SLIDES GREG AIZLEWOOD
PLANT FOR MONTH COMMENTARY	-	AECHMEAS OLIVE TREVOR & VAL URQUHART

FEBRUARY

COMMENTARY	-	NEVILLE RYAN
BEGINNERS	-	
ITEM	-	LANDSCAPING WITH BROMS PHYLLIS HOBBS
PLANT FOR MONTH COMMENTARY	-	NIDULARIUMS NARELLE ROWE

SECRETARY'S SECTION

Well, another year has gone. I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and on behalf of the Committee may I wish all members all you would wish for yourselves in the coming year.

We are looking at making both your Magazine and Meetings as interesting as possible for you. Any suggestions on ideas we greatly appreciate. By the same token, any criticism would also be looked at. If you are shy, there is no necessity for signatures. Don't forget the Suggestion Box at meetings, also the questionnaire in the last issue.

Subscriptions are now due. There has been no increase. Single \$7 - Family \$10 - Affiliated Societies \$7. Receipts will be sent with the following issue of Bromeliaceae.

The Seed Raising Group formed earlier in the year is off to a fine start. Anybody wishing to join us please contact either Olive Trevor or myself. Also, if you have any spare seed please send it to us.

Our next activity will be a Field Day at Jo Ketelaars home at Springwood on 27th March. Full details in next issue. Mark this date on your Calendar as "Jo's Jolly Jungle" is well worth seeing. Jo has had a short stay in hospital. hope you are feeling better now Jo.

Congratulations to the winners of Popular vote for 1993:

ADVANCED	-	Neville Ryan
NOVICE	-	Jo Ketelarrs

They will be presented with their trophies at A.G.M. in February.

We sadly advise the passing on of Ivan Phillips, who was a founding member and Clyde Wasley. We wish to express our deepest sympathies to both families.

REPORT ON NEVILLE'S OPEN DAY

An Open Day was held at the home of Neville Ryan at 69 Dawson Road Upper Mount Gravatt on Sunday 21st November between the hours of 1.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.

It was a very pleasant, mild Sunday afternoon and was very well attended by 31 members.

Gold Coast Society was represented by Diana Hughes the Secretary and Peter Ludowici both from Murwillumbah, Olwen Ferris and Graham and Wendy Besgrove, whilst members also travelled from as far as Caboolture to attend.

Apart from his garden, Neville had a selection of plants on display and also a Sales Table which was extremely well patronised. Don and Phyllis Hobbs assisted Neville on the day by manning the Sales Table - thanks to Don and Phyllis for your help.

A lovely afternoon tea was provided by Neville's Mum and a most enjoyable time was had by all who attended.

TILLANDSIA BERGERANTHUS

Yes, there is a plant moving around Queensland under this name. Is it a hybrid or a misnamed species? When at the Brisbane Conference I managed to acquire a plant of this name from Margaret Paterson of Gympie but she couldn't tell me much about it's history. When it flowered, out came the razorblade and I tried to work out a name for it. It is very similar if not identical to *T. stricta* except for the floral bracts having no scales. Note, they are supposed to be lepidote towards the apex.

It may have been imported under this name but whatever the case it would appear to be a typing error in the nursery catalogue. As far as I can trace, this name has never been used with the formal description of any species although, of course, we have all heard of *T. bergeri*.

Any information you can give would be appreciated.

By DEREK BUTCHER

CAN ANYBODY ANSWER DEREK'S QUESTION?

A VISIT TO LEN BUTT ON THE 18TH JULY 1993

We headed to Len Butt's place with a great feeling of interest and enthusiasm for we had heard so much about Len's garden and had great expectations about seeing his garden for ourselves, and believe me, we were not disappointed.

Len and his wife live at 25 Orlive Street YERONGA and have lived there since 1953 - approximately 40 years. They have two children and two grandchildren. The telephone No. is 8483515. Their property is approximately 1/4 acre in area, and has a south easterly aspect. I guarantee that every workable square foot of ground has a plant of some sort planted in it for we did not see one blade of grass. The front garden is landscaped in the form of a Rainforest and tree cover in the back garden provides adequate shade for the Bromeliads and other plants. All the trees were planted by Len and his wife, some of the biggest being a 100 ft. Rosegum and an 80 ft. Currajong. Len has 100 or so maturing trees in cultivation and approximately 80 planted palms. He encounters no frosts, mainly due to the extensive tree cover. His garden has been the home for Carpet and Green Snakes, Ring-tail and Brush-tail Possums, River Rats, Blue Tongue Lizards and Bearded Dragons, White Lipped Snakes and many birds.

Len has been growing Bromeliads for 34 years. He was a keen Cactus grower, but became converted and interested in Bromeliads and in 1967, together with Mary Grasselli was one of the Founding Members of our Society. Len has a great variety of plants - Palms and Bromeliads - but he leans towards growing Tillandsias, miniature Neoregelias and some of the larger Aechmeas. His favourite Tillandsia being Tillandsia Jaliscoantiolela. Pin Spot scale has invaded some plants in his garden and the Dendrobium Beetle effects his Orchids, whilst the grasshopper is a pest in the late Spring. Len does have a mini watering system around the exterior of his property, but prefers to water with hand held hoses.

Len has been Adviser and Writer for various gardening publications including Queensland Gardener of which he was Editor for four years. Queensland Gardener and Gardening Queensland. He was with the Department of Forestry for eleven years, and spent eight years at T.A.F.E. lecturing on Plant Proliferation.



Len's other interests are many and include Writing/ Writing Poetry, Surf Fishing with the Moreton Fishing Club, Native Fish, Study of Natural History, and Study of Ancient Civilisation, as you can see a very knowledgeable and busy man.

As a child, Len played no Sport as he was a "nervous kid" and being more of a book worm got the nickname of "Professor".

We were completely intrigued by Len's garden and our time there was not long enough. We found him to be an extremely interesting person, and would highly recommend anyone to visit.

Thank you Len.

In the next issue of Bromeliaceae, we will feature Roly, Evelyn and Doug Reilly. Till then Your Roving Reporter.

BROMELIAD SEED RAISING

Barday Binnie

The raising of Bromeliads from seed is, on the whole, not difficult, if they are given the correct conditions.

Naturally seedlings are not as hardy, as are mature plants but they survive adversities which would kill most other types of seedlings.

There are a number of reasons for growing from seed, the most important being; some plants, e.g. *Puya raimondii*, *Vriesea heliconiodes*, *Tillandsia utriculata*, etc., do not form offsets and must be raised from seed. The only way of hybridising is by cross-pollination and the raising of the seed thus obtained. Also the only economic way of obtaining large numbers of plants for commercial purposes is from seed.

The first essential for these purposes is a supply of reliable seed - the viability of which is variable, but mostly short.

Commercial seed is always suspect, not just for the accuracy of the name, but for the age, which often means lack of viability and thus disappointment. The best seed is usually from your own plants or from a source within your Society.

Seed from the sub-families Pitcairnioideae and Tillandsioideae are used in the condition as they come from the pod, as they are dry seeds.

The Bromelioideae seeds, however are surrounded by a sweet pulp. The sugars contained in this pulp are an invitation to fungal invasion and are therefore best washed off with water before sowing.

Having obtained reliable seed, the next thing is to supply the required conditions. Both humidity and light are necessary for germination. Should you have a plant house fitted with automatically controlled misters, humidity is no problem. On the other hand as the majority of amateur growers do not have such devices, other means must be employed. Wardian cases are excellent, so too are glass aquariums.

Pots or pans with glass covers are good for the small grower, probably the most inexpensive and reliable method is the pot enclosed in a clear plastic bag. In all cases the germinating and growing seed requires bright shade and protection from direct sun. Direct sunlight, except for early morning or late afternoon results in overheating and thus in dead plants.

Compost vary according to the growers conditions and the type of plant involved. The Pitcairniaceae and Bromeliaceae may in this case be considered as much the same, and similar composts used. For these on the whole, the compost is much the same as for a mature plant, but in a much finer condition.

The chief properties are; the ability to retain moisture without going soggy, allowing air to penetrate without rapid drying, stability, so that it does not decomposed rapidly, also a suitable pH value. This is obtained by preparing various blends of the following; -

peat - moss, sand, Vermiculite, crushed charcoal, crushed peanut shell, perlite or similar materials.

Garden compost may also be used, but in this case care must be not to introduce troubles in the form of pests and diseases. A mixture of equal parts of a peat moss, finewashed sand and vermiculite, form a good mixture this may be opened up with crushed charcoal, perlite crushed peanut shell or similar. Add peat moss or sand according to moisture retention requirements. Each grower should experiment to find the most suitable mix for local conditions. All the materials mentioned are inert or else they break down very slowly, so fertilising is necessary after germination takes place. Alternatively, small quantities of suitable dry fertiliser, may be added to the compost when mixing. Care must be exercised here not to add too much when doing this.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FIELD TRIP IN CAIRNS 23rd & 24th October

It started raining 20 minutes before we were to leave at 12 noon for Kuranda & it came down by the bucket full. On arriving Micheal & Zagar Hartnett greeted us with a nice cool drink. They have a nice collection and people bought some plants. The rain was easing, so we headed back down the range. We had a little time to spare so I asked one of our visitors, Elsie & Bill Chamblian could we call in to see their place. What a nice garden of bromeliads. After a short stop we went to members Horst & Jill Goetze to see their collection and to have afternoon tea, by this time the rain had stopped. Following we visited members places Anthony Scott (Tony), Neville Butcher; who had won the garden competition here in Cairns. If you want to see a tropical garden this is it, (his garden was on Gardening Australia earlier this year) and finishing at Betty Hedges who loves Neoregelia. Some of us stayed on for coffee. That evening we went to dinner at Fawcety Toms.

Sunday started at 8.45 am at the Marlin (big fish) Earlville where everyone went to our, Kay and Trevor Hannams place to see the collection of bromeliads, orchids and carnivorous plants. Here we also had morning tea. After, we went on to Melsomrock Nursery. What a beautiful display as we walked in IT OPENED OUR EYES to see the magnificent colours and plants (bromeliads). Plenty of plants were bought. We then went to Cairns Development Nursery. We were running ahead of time at this stage so we decided to call into a fern nursery at Gordonvale. When we arrived it was closed and would be opened again at 12 noon. The wait would have been 20 minutes and this would have made us late, so we then headed for our last place call. Bob and Lyn Hudson at Fishery Falls to see their plants and for our lunch BBQ style. Hamburgers \$2.50 each and a rolling raffle. Our weekend finished at 2.15pm.

Visitors were:	Merv and Judith Crockrell	INGHAM
	Bob and Pam Nevins	
	Helen Downey	KURANDA

WHAT A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!

FRIENDSHIP & PLANTS & PLENTY OF FOOD - RAFFLES - for a good time come to Cairns next October 1984.

Kay Hannam

HOST TREES AND PALMS FOR EPIPHYTIC GROWING

I guess I came from a fast dying era when a home was a thing passed on from family to family, not a viable asset, to be investment for future moving.

That is why I favour epiphytic growing, be it for bromeliads or tree loving orchids, which in many countries are companion to bromeliads. THESE COUNTRIES RANGE ALL THROUGH THE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, and up into Florida.

Most people have realised the great potential of growing the genus TILLANDSIA as an epiphyte, and also all the bromeliaceae that readily form stolons. Many also know that the tree to choose is one that does not shed it's bark, or produce resins in the bark that can be toxic to the epiphyte.

A LOT OF THE SPECIES Eucalyptus do so, and a good look at a good book on EUCALYPTS from your local library will soon tell you which.

Recommended is Kelly's "Eucalypts". Firm barked trees such as callistomen, melaleuca (excluding paperbarks) Baeckea, Banksia, Schotia, Taxodium and Brachychiton to but mention a few. The last mentioned is ideal for gluing tillandsias to.

In the palm family I have found that any rough or hairy stemmed plant grows stoloned miniature bromeliads very well, while the firm but smoother trunked species also are ideal for tillandsias.

In my garden, A WINDMILL PALM *Trachycarpus FORTUNAE*, is 10 metres high, and already has *NEOREGELIA FIREBALL* AND *NEOREGELIA FIREBIRD* doing very well. The entire trunk is narrow and fibre covered.

It faces south, but gets some western sun. In another place the rough fibre covered trunk of a *Sabal texacana* palm supports many miniature neoregelias, and a few vandas as well, the persistent leaf bases of this fan palm also act as platforms for the plantbases.

Tillandsias grow very well on the smoother palms such as the Bangalow, Ficareen, Alexandra Golden Cane, GREY CANE spindle palm etc etc. Although the fibre covered palms will still grow tillandsias they lose something aesthetically, and are much more appealing on a smooth trunk space, is my next planting project for Tillandsias and it faces a morning sun, which is important.

My particular love is the twisted or bulbous forms of tillandsia, such as *T. butzii* and I find this species does best for me on such a firm barked tree or palm.

Although glue seems the medium to secure tillandsias, they will grow equally as well if a base of sphagnum moss is place around where the roots eventually emerge. I find you must not the normal bagged sphagnum but a N.Z. fork soaked and if crammed around the base of your tillandsia dries out quickly more like a fibre than a moss. Cross banded panty hose pinned or tied act as a security fixer.

LEN BUTT

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 N.S.W.	\$ 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 B.S.I.	\$ 3.50
"A BROMELIAD GLOSSARY"	by B.S.I.	\$ 3.50
"BROMELIADS - A CULTURAL MANUAL"	by B.S.I.	\$ 4.00

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