

BROMELIACEAE

PLANT OF MONTH JULY - FOLIAGE VRIESEA



VRIESEA SPLENDENS

JULY - AUGUST 1994

VOLUME XXVII NO. 4

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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 7.30pm.

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— PLANT OF THE MONTH APRIL —

Autumn Flowering Vriesea...

Plants tabled were mainly hybrids of Vriesea saundersii, carinata and rodigasiana Vriesea poelmanii x saundersii and Vriesea Fair to Middlin both medium sized plants with stiff grey-green leaves grow well under 70% shade cloth with a westerly aspect.

Vr. Poelmanii x saundersii has a lovely red branched inflorescence and Fair to Middlin has many branched golden yellow inflorescence. Both are reliable autumn flowering vrieseas easy to grow and keep in good condition.

Vr. carinata hybrids tabled were Vr. carinata x fenestralis one of Herb Hills early hybrids. Herb Hill has become a very active hybridist and his new releases are in great demand. This one has a simple inflorescence of unusual dark red shaded to green. The leaves resemble the parent plant Vr. fenestralis. The other Vr. carinata hybrids were Margaret Patersons hybrid of Vr. Favourite with Vr. carinata - De roose's Vr. Lucille and an unknown branched hybrid with dark red and yellow bracts. These are all small soft green leaf plants that require 80% shade.

The other two vrieseas were Vr. rodigasiana hybrids. One a finely branched flower of yellow to orange the other a seedling from Vriesea Grande has bright yellow clusters of flowers on dark red stems.

The bulk of our flowereing Vrieseas are spring flowers. The ones listed above all flower in the autumn and are a great addition to any bromeliad collection.

OLIVE TREVOR
The Olive Branch.

FRIENDSHIP NIGHT HELD ON 5TH MAY 1994 FOR

PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIPS.

Due to bad weather unfortunately only twenty five members attended our Friendship Night with ten apologies being recived and noted.

The weather did nothing to dampen the mood of the evening. Warmth and fellowship were the focus for the night.

Bert and Ruth Wilson received their Life Memberships for services given to the Society.

Len Butt's Life Membership was given for his contribution to the written and the spoken word.

Grace Goode received Life Membership for her contributions in the field of hybridizing.

President Len Trevor introduced each new Life Member individually recounting in great depth his thoughts and memories pertaing to each person and their contributions to the Society since it's inception. These comments I as a relatively new member found both interesting and amusing.

Peter Paroz - up to that time our only other Life Member - was present and joined in to make the Life Membership Club complete.

After the presentation of certificates, a hearty supper was enjoyed by all. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and I am sure all who attended did also

Congratulations once again to all of our Life Member

—PROFILE ON GRACE GOODE—

Some years ago, I found myself a prisoner in my house and garden lacking the killer instinct to drive a car, a necessary requisite if a motorist wishes to survive on our Queensland roads. Not wishing to become a resentful, carping recluse, I decided to build myself a paradise. What better subject of use for landscaping than beautiful bromeliads. So 'Bromania' was born.

In those early attempts I had to use many genera, as I did not have a big collection - aechmeas, billbergias, neoregelias, nidulariums, vrieseas, all in together. What a motley crew they were, but still lovely in those modest beginnings under a calliandra tree. The tree was not large at the time, but now



stretches almost from one side of the fence to the other fence, adorned with aechmeas. Because of our very wet monsoon season in the autumn I have found I can grow *Ae. fasciata*, *chantinii*, *orlandiana*, and the like, only in the trees, as they rot at ground level. I dreamed of the day when I could landscape with neoregelias, hundreds of them, flaunting their blushing hearts, in a bed of their own.

Now, the dream has come true and I can reject flowering neoregelias which don't approach the high standard demanded for the main display bed. I don't get time to feel lonely and there are always members calling, neighbours bringing in their friends, and the occasional busload of people from garden clubs. I am a willing captive of my garden. In sharing it with others, the pleasure is multiplied. "Paradise" as my New Zealand friends call it, and "Fairylant" the South Austrslians call it. So that is how Bromania began, an excercise in beauty, a retreat from the world.

When I first fell in love with bromeliads back in the 1960's, there were not many species and numbers were limited. The gassing of imported plants deterred would-be importers and most plants were obtained from seed from the Americas. The hardy "earth stars", that genus closest to my heart were a notable exception to the gassing problem. I have not lost a cryptanthus to gassing yet. The Neoregelias on the local scene were: concentrica, spectabilis, farinosa, marmorata, chlorosticta, ampullacea-types, and numerous carolinae hybrids, so called, but never carolinae-why, I wondered?. This was the material the hybridist had to use and, limited as it was, some lively hybrids were obtained.

In 1975 I attended the Silver Anniversary of the Society in Los Angeles feeling like a zombie for the whole ten days I stayed there because the seventeen-hour trip (my first flight) had left me with jet lag. The Los Angeles members were most generous with their plants, giving me those which were still rare. I brought back to Australia new blood-a hybridist's dream. I lost about six in quarantine, but exhorted the remaining flock to grow quickly so that I could wield the magic wand to enrich the Australian bromeliad population.

In the initial stages, the budding enthusiast polinate everything which is blooming, mainly because of lack of plants. With thousands of plants in flower, the experienced hybridist studies the desired qualities before dashing out with brush in hand. When sleep evades me, I think of potentialities of plants: size, form, colour, texture of leaves, resistance to heat and cold. But how many failures there are. One crossing came close to the heart's desire. This was Neo. marmorata with chlorosticta. I wanted the xize and formation of marmorata and the colour of chlorosticta, and so Neo. "Charm" was born in 1978 (and there is a photo of it in Victoria Padilla's book The Colorful Bromeliads).

Pleased with this success, I did the cross again and what a miserable lot they were. An elongated form of chlorosticta with few leaves, insipid in colouring and not showing much influence of marmorata. Ervin Wurthmann is correct, in my opinion, when he says it all depends on which parent is dominant at time of mating. It is a matter of chance; you can get an Einstein or a moron.

I managed to obtain a plant of Neo. cyanea from George Anderson in 1980 when I attended the Orlando Conference. What a wonderful plant to use in hybridizing. George is thrice blessed in my book. I crossed it with chlorosticta and I dare to think it is superior to "Fireball". I love the latter, particularly for landscaping, but it's leaves are too soft, suffering in our mild winters and burning in our summers. My hybrid, which I have called "Born of Fire" has short, stiff, pointed leaves, the colour is deep wine red, the size is that of 'Fireball'. It offsets generously and is indifferent to cold or heat. A wonderful landscape subject.

In hybridising I do not like to wander far from the species. My personal choice is species crossed with hybrids or vice versa. I have no love for hybrids crossed with hybrids, particularly hybrids selfed. They inherit all the weaknesses of their forebears: a big tendency to quill, and sensitivity to the cold. Granted, the grower can get a few super plants of outstanding quality, but I consider it not worth the time or space to grow a hundred or so seedlings to get a super plant. Most of all I prefer to use a variety of a species as the seed plant, as a variety has already varied from the species and has the seeds of change within it's genes. In using a parent like this the progeny show amazing diversity in form and colour and many good hybrids can be obtained.

According to my "stud" book, I have done twelve billbergia crosses, thiryseven crosses in cryptanthus seventy-five crosses in neoregelias, six bigeneric, and a few in the aechmeas. My most famous would

be Neo. "Amazing Grace", a variant from the "Sheer Joy" grex, which has lime colour with red stripes.

The greatest fulfillment I have received from a named cross was *Billbergia amoena* var. *minor* crossed with *horrida* var. *tigrina*. Six days before my sister died from cancer, I told her I was going to call a plant after her: *Billbergia* "Jean Bear". Her wan smile and "I'd love that, Grace", were the greatest rewards ever for me in the field of hybridising.

My experience in crossing bromeliads makes me believe that two highly coloured parents produce nondescript offspring, lacking the colour of the parents, cancelling each other out, as it were.

I think Neo. *olens* is a wonderful plant for hybridising, imparting its bright centre to its progeny, but, alas! also dominating with the sparse leaves. Oh! for a "Fireball" with the bright centre of *olens*. But who knows? Maybe some hybridist in the future will accomplish this.

Finally my days of hybridising are coming to a close. Most of my plants are grown terrestrially and peering into the innards of neoregelias at ground level is anathema to my back-the years are taking their toll. I sometimes think I must resemble a witch, crouching over my plants, muttering incantations. Oh, well! perhaps there is some magic in it.

Alexandra Headlands,
Queensland

(The Australian Bromeliad Society in 1982 honored Grace Goode with life membership for her work in the field of hybridizing.)

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article.

———— BROMS IN THE GARDEN ————

For years I have been trying to use bromeliads in areas of the garden that get full sun for most of the year. After a lot of sunburnt plants and experimenting, I realized that you had to know the plants that were used in the hybrid. This information can be found in Don Beadles book on Cultivar and Grex Names which was published three years ago. I started with species, - punctatissima, olens, sarmentosa, cruenta, foperior, chlorostrica and pascoaliana to name a few. All these will handle lots of direct sun, so you look for the hybrids that have either one or both of these species.

Start on your programme at the beginning of Winter when the sun hasn't got as much bite. Select well grown plants that will mature the following Spring, and put them in position. This will allow them to adjust to the change of growing conditions. The first plants in this new position will most probably get a bit of damage. Don't move them. Do some extra watering to help them handle the stress. Don't over fertilize as this will soften the growth and lead to worse damage. When they have formed pups, don't remove the old plant until the summer is over. If there are too many plants, remove the extra offsets so your specimen plant is a good shape and each individual plant can develop.

I don't remove pups on any miniatures. I leave three on medium and two on large plants.

Add colour to the gardenⁿ - do some experimenting

Good Growing - Phyllis Hobbs.

———— RESULTS OF MINI SHOW - MAY 1994 ————

- Class 1. Neo-miniature under 20cm. a) N. Kickbush-
Neo. ampullacea
b) L & T Muller-
Neo. pauciflora x
RED BEAUTY Fireball
- Class 2. Neo. other than provided for a) L & T Muller-
Van Dourme Cu. Gloria
b) L & T Muller-
Neo. Compacta -
Bossa Nova
c) J. Ketelaars-
Neo. concentrica
- Class 3. Aechmea a) L & T Muller-
Aec. Fia
b) L & T Muller-
Aec. Belizia
c) D. Reilly-
Aec. recurvata Cv
Aztec Gold
- Class 4. Vriesea - in flower spike a) D. Anderson-
Vr. espinosae
b) L & T Muller-
Vr. Tiffany
- Class 5. Vriesea - foliage a) G. Aizlewood-
Vr. hieroglyphica
b) L & T Muller-
Vr. fosteriana x
sledeliana
- Class 6. Guzmania a) L & T Muller-
Guz. Ma Vla
b) N. Kickbush-
Guz. Gran Prix
- Class 7. Tillandsia a) R. Reilly-
Till. mooreana
b) R. Reilly-
Till. recurvifolia
c) L & T Muller
Till. gardneri
rupicola

- Class 8. Any other genera
- a) G. Aizlewood-
Bill. Oeser's Bigeneric
x Catherine Wilson
 - b) G. Aizlewood-
Bill. Catherine Wilson
 - c) D. Andersen-
Dyc. fosteriana

THE COMBINED SHOW held at the Auditorium at the Mount Coot-tha Gardens on the long weekend in June.

A successful Combined Show is over for yet another year and a busy week-end was had by all who attended.

Friday was the time for setting up the displays, arranging the Sales Area and receiving competition plants. The competition tables were very disappointing with the number of entries being well down on previous years.

The customary tea of soup and sausage rolls was enjoyed by everyone and was a welcome break.

The centre was well represented with plants. A feature of the display was the tree which was adorned with various genera of Bromeliads. As always the display received great interest from the viewing public.

Plants in the sales area sold extremely well and all of the tables were sparsely covered with plants at the conclusion of the Show on Sunday afternoon.

Practical demonstrations were given on Saturday and Sunday by society members on various aspects of growing our plants and these demonstrations were well attended by interested spectators.

At 11.00 a.m. after welcomes from L. Trevor the President of the Bromeliad Society and Ruth Higgins President of the Cacti and Succulent Society the Combined Show was officially opened by our new Life Member Mrs. Grace Goode and presentation of trophies

and awards made to members.

The information table and Book Sales are always busy with interest shown in purchase of literature and new members signing up.

A total of approximately 1160 people passed through the door for the two days of the Show, and although door numbers and sales figures were down on previous years, I feel it could still be considered a successful Combined Show.

Thanks go to the organisers, the stewards, the members who supplied plants for the display and the sales area and to the Kitchen staff. Thanks to everyone really who contributed and helped during the course of the weekend.

Results from the Plant Competition are set out as follows:

————— COMBINED SHOW - RESULT SCHEDULE —————

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>ENTRANT</u>
1 TILLANDSIA	(1) T.bulbosa	D. Upton
	(2) T.durattii	D. Upton
	(3) T.fasiculata var clavispica	P. Hobbs
2 VRIESEA	(1) Vr. Nova	G. Aizlewood
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----
3 OTHER		
TILLANDSIOIDEAE	(1) -----	-----
	(2) Guz. sanguinea	J. Henwood
	(3) -----	-----
4 TILLANDSIOIDEAE IN FLOWER	(1) T.fasiculata	P. Hobbs
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>ENTRANT</u>
5 CRYPTANTHUS	(1) fosterianus cv. Elaine	D. Reilly
	(2) Moonbeam	D. Reilly
	(3) Ebb Tide	D. Reilly
6 BILLBERGIA	(1) Desers Bigeneric x Catherine Wilson	
	(2) Dr. Desers Bigeneric hybrid	N. Rowe
	(3) Golden Joy	N. Rowe
7 AECHMEA	(1) recurvata var benrathii	D. Reilly
	(2) Chantinii cv. Samurai	N. Rowe
8 NEOREGELIA	(1) Prinzler	D. Reilly
	(2) fosteriana	B. Paulsen
	(3) Meyendorffii cv. Mon Petite	B. Paulsen
9 NIDULARIUM	(1) -----	-----
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----
10 INTERGENERIC	(1) -----	-----
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----
11 OTHER BROMELIOIDEAE	(1) -----	-----
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----
12 BROMELIOIDEAE IN FLOWER	(1) -----	-----
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>ENTRANT</u>
13 HECTIA / DYCKIA	(1) Dyckia fosteriana hybrid No. 2	B. Paulsen
	(2) Dyckia platyphylla	B. Paulsen
	(3) Dyckia "Suntan"	B. Paulsen
14 PITCAIRNIA	(1) Species	D. Andersen
	(2) Species	D. Andersen
	(3) -----	-----
15 OTHER PITCAIRNIOIDEAE	(1) Abromeitiella brevifolia	G. Lawson
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----
16 SPECIMEN - Any genus, 3 or more connected, mature plants	(1) Vr. flammea	D. Andersen
	(2) Neo. Meyendorffii Fireball	N. Rowe
	(3) -----	-----
17 NOVICE - Any genera.. Mary Grasseli Award - entrant never won a first prize	(1) Neo. ampullacea x "Red Beauty"	N. Kickbusch
	(2) Neo. concentrica albo-marginata	J. Henwood
	(3) Neo. Furnace	J. Henwood
17a BROMELIAD IN DECORATIVE POT OR MOUNTING	(1) Neo. pauciflora x Fireball	D. Upton
	(2) Till. gardneri	R. Reilly
	(3) Till. Nigra	D. Andersen
18 MINATURE DISPLAY - Not to exceed 1 metre in dimension - inc. terrariums	(1) -----	-----
	(2) -----	-----
	(3) -----	-----

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>ENTRANT</u>
19 NOVELTY DISPLAY Not to exceed 1 metre in any dimension	(1) Something wrong somewhere brom (2) Bromeliad Off spring (3) Bromeliad Lairs	D. Upton D. Upton D. Andersen
20 FLORAL DISPLAY Cut bromeliad flowers &/or berries and bracts - accessories permitted	(1) ----- (2) ----- (3) -----	----- ----- -----
21 FLORAL DISPLAY	-----	-----
22 BEST TILLANDSIOIDEAE	Till. bulbosa	D. Upton
23 BEST BROMELIOIDEAE	Oesers Bigeneric x Catherine Wilson	G. Aizlewood
24 BEST CRYPTANTHUS	fosterianus cv. Elaine	D. Reilly
25 BEST PITCAIRNIOIDEAE	Abromeitiella brevifolia	G. Lawson
26 RESERVE CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF THE SHOW	Till. bulbosa	D. Upton
27 CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF THE SHOW	Abromeitiella brevifolia	G. Lawson
TOM SCHOFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD	Vriesea hieroglyphica	G. Aizlewood

THE TERRACED DYCKIA GARDEN
RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS 1970

The great flood of 1974 was infamous for destroying the large impressive Bromeliad collection put together as a labour of love by Harold Caulfield and staff.

From about 1965 to 1970 I spent many weekends wondering through a particularly interesting section of the gardens just behind the nursery workshops adjacent to the Domain. Access to this area was via a winding path and through a large bushhouse. The ground in this area rose steeply and therefore had been terraced to accommodate large plant growing areas. The far end of these areas had been reserved for the growing of succulents.

For those who still remember it, the gardens private greenhouse was on the tip terrace. Here the curator kept orchids and the rarer bromeliads. Along the upper terrace in large clumps-grew an impressive variety of the genus Dyckia.

Many of the gardens plants were filched-but no one seemed to bother this genus - maybe because of its formidable thorn edges.

Francis Valentine Marien, a specialist succulent grower to that garden was responsible for all succulents which included Dyckias. Frank was the best cactus / succulent man in the gardens and I learnt a great amount about the plants from him.

On the top terrace grew large clumps of Dyckia Altissima, a large plant, fiercely thorned, and made up of tightly packed rosettes of green leaves. The underleaves when mature were approximately 45 cm long and recurved. In bloom it presented a 60 cm spike of brilliant sulphur yellow flowers. It often carried a branched flower panicle and like most of the genus the top of the leaves are polished green while the underside is shaped like a boat keel with numerous grey lines.

On the second terrace were clumping rosettes of two other smaller and shorter leaf varieties. They were *Dyckia sulphurea* and *Dyckia frigida*. Both these plants displayed outstanding spikes of brilliant orange flowers. The habitat of these two plants ranges from Florida to Argentina. The polished burgundy rosettes of *Dyckia fosteriana* were also evident on a lower terrace and as always the keeled underside of the leaves showed silver grey multilines.

Early bromeliad collectors here in Queensland had more *Dyckia* in their gardens than appears to be the case today. Maybe there were more available or could it be that early cactophile people were more adaptable.

This article could not end without mention of two later arrivals. *Dyckia remotifolia* and *Dyckia "Lad Cutak"*. The latter being named after the succulent explorer Ladislaus Cutak who I first read about in Scott Haselton's 1950 books "Cacti for the amateur". Both are still gems I cherish.

L. BUTT

POINT OF INTEREST:

CISELIN 10 - is a great spray for ants and cockroaches It is available at Q.F.S Cleveland. It is least toxic of most ssprays.

VAL URQUHART

—VRIESEA IMPERIALIS—

Vriesea imperialis has long been a favourite plant. Early efforts to obtain it were frustrated by wrongly identified plants which came from a number of different sources. Included in the list of these plants were *V. regina*, *V. gigantea* and several unidentified, small, green-leaved vrieseas. Eventually I obtained a plant from Bill Morris in 1983 with assurances that this was the true, large, green-leaved form of *V. imperialis* (like many other bromeliads, *V. imperialis* has evolved several forms). Time has proven that these assurances were correct.

Early recollections of this plant include specimens in Grace Goode's garden at Alexandra Headlands - a plant which was later seen in flower with its magnificent inflorescence - a truly 'imperial' plant, and three very large specimens in the Sydney Botanic Gardens in 1983. These three plants were not in flower but were each 2 metres across and were planted in a group in the corner of the public display glasshouse. More recently Rolly Reilly flowered a specimen in Brisbane.

The plant obtained from Bill Morris was raised from an offset and was approximately 12cms in diameter when received. It gradually grew to hold pride of place in our collection, finally attaining a diameter of 2 metres in 1991. The next year in July/August 1992 the plant showed signs that it might flower. The centre became slightly swollen and the inner leaf tips took on a reddish tinge. This remained for a few weeks but did not develop into an inflorescence and finally reverted to a normal growth pattern with loss of colour on the inner leaf tips. The following year in July 1993 the plant began its flowering process in earnest and with dramatic changes. The number of leaves increased to almost double the normal and the plant glowed with health and fullness. The centre again became swollen and the inner leaf tips took on a reddish colour. The flowering head started to form deep in the centre of the rosette. The increase in the vigour and the size of the plant was in preparation for the massive drain of energy

that was to accompany the flowering process. The flower spike rose to the top of the rosette (about 1 metre) and seemed to be accelerating each day. At this time the weather was fairly dry (August) and we were preparing to leave on holidays for the next 4 weeks. Watering is provided by automatic sprays and so we expected to find even greater size and development when we returned, but to our surprise the inflorescence was still sitting where it was when we left. Right on cue, when we returned, growth started again and continued until full development of the inflorescence. This was reached in mid November and the inflorescence stood at 2 metres above the rosette, giving an over all height above the soil level of 3.5 metres. Large white flowers with petals up to 10cms long opened successively at night and were visited by hundreds of night flying insects and ants. The nectary glands produced so much nectar to attract these pollinators that it formed large droplets at the edge of the floral bracts. The weather was still fairly dry and flowering continued under these conditions until early January. At this stage the fertile flower buds had been used up and only the sterile, non flowering terminal buds remained, signifying an end to the flowering process. Seed pods were developing on all the branches. Then about 4 weeks after the last flower, the rain started and continued through February/March with little relief. The branches of the inflorescence recommenced growth, providing more fertile flower buds, and increasing the length of the inflorescence branches by about half again. This continued until the end of March with more night flowers and more pollination, until eventually the flowering was finished. By this time the branches of the inflorescence numbered between 60 and 70 and each carried from 10 to 30 ripening seed pods. This gave about 1300 seed pods and the branches hung down like long thin bunches of grapes. The plant was so top heavy that stakes had to be driven through the pot into the ground and the inflorescence had to be supported by tying it to nearby trees. It remains in this condition, with the seed pods still ripening. A few of the base leaves have dried out to reduce the moisture loss stress

due to transpiration.

Propagation of *V. imperialis* is by seed or by vegetative offsets which mainly form on relatively small immature parent plants. Several offsets collected from this plant in 1989 have now reached about 25 cms across. Based on the performance of the mother plant, I can expect to flower these offsets in 1999/2000.

This realization has made the following of *V. imperialis* a bitter-sweet experience.

John Higgins

— COMING EVENTS —

1. Caboolture Orchid Show
22nd, 23rd and 24th July
Venue: Memorial Hall,
King Street,
Caboolture.

This will be a display only.
There is a competition section;

1. Aechmea
 2. Guzmania
 3. Neoregelia
 4. Tillandsia
 5. Vriesea
 6. Any other genera
- First prize only will receive \$20.00

2. Mt Gravatt Show
29th, 30th and 31st July
Logan Road,
Mt Gravatt.

This will be a display only.

3. R.N.A Display
11th - 20th August
At the Horticultural Pavillion
Wednesday afternoon (10th) Set up display of
Bromeliads.

Stewards needed:

If you are available to be a Steward on our display at the R.N.A. Exhibition, please contact Joy Upton at the July Meeting or by phone (07) 378 3511 after 5-00 pm. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

4. Bromeliads VIII April 1995

Remember : April 14 - 17 1995 Adelaide

Opening : will be by Malcolm Campbell, perhaps best known for his T.V. role in ABC Gardening. A conservationist at heart, his most important work is with Greening Australia.

Fund Raising : We are planning 3 main raffles, 500 tickets each.

1. Tillandia to Australia wide, scheduled to be drawn in September.
2. Grace Goode has kindly donated a Beautiful
3. Pat Sweeny from New Zealand is known throughout the world in the DOLL kingdom and has kindly donated a Beautiful doll for the Raffle. All female members of the Committee were "clucky" on seeing it. Tickets to be sold locally, but any left will be offered at the Conference, when the raffle will be drawn.

Conference

Proceedings : We want this to be educational and enjoyable to as wide an audience as possible. Talks range from seed raising, importing, habitat etc, covering many genera. TILLANDSIA BUFFS please take note: Renate Ehlers will be on hand when we have an informal and technical 2.5 hours on the Friday, Starting 1 pm. This is a no-cost optional extra.

OFFICIAL START of the Conference will be at 4 pm when registration and plant sales begin. All speakers are now probabilities rather than possibilities. Dr Samyn from Belgium is preparing a paper, on the Old World Vriesea hybrids of today and yesteryear, for us to present.

Saturday: We are planning for talks in morning, with the afternoon free for scenic winery tour ending with a Barbie in Dr Reynell's old underground wine cellar.

Sunday: Morning talks with afternoon visits to local collections. Evening smorgasbord, with rare plant auction and drawing of raffles.

Brag Session: We hope you are already planning for your group to participate. Remember only 6 slides are needed and someone to talk or brag about them. The more group involved the more fun. Please keep us informed of your intentions.

Sales: The Sales area is not large and the number of sellers may have to be restricted. So please tell us if you intend to sell. Whilst there will be some keen resident S. Aussie purchasers, most sales will be taken by other delegates

START SAVING NOW. YOU'LL FIND S.A, GREAT May 1994

————NEW MEMBERS————

John & Beverley Collins - Paradise Point QLD
Bill Thwaites - Hobart TAS
Leslie & Valma Nothling - Eight Mile Plains

PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS

JULY

COMMENTARY - Bob Paulsen
BEGINNERS)
PLANT FOR MONTH) - Foilage Vrieseas
COMMENTARY - Len Trevor
ITEM - The Problems of starting a collection -
Bob Cross & Noel Weir

AUGUST

COMMENTARY - Genny Vauhkonen
BEGINNERS)
PLANT FOR MONTH) - Neoregelias
COMMENTARY Phyllis Hobbs
ITEM - Slides - Greg Aizlewood

————POPULAR VOTE RESULTS————

MAY - NOVICE.....
ADVANCED - Tillandsia compranata - Roley Reilly

JUNE - NOVICE - Tillandia bulbosa - Bob Paulsen
ADVANCED - Guzmania Grand Prix - Phyllis Hobbs
JUDGES CHOICE - Tillandsia streptophylla -
Neville Ryan

— SECRETARY'S SECTION —

We will definitely be ordering Elton Lem's book in the near future. The price is \$100.00 any orders to be forwarded with full payment.

Margaret Draddy of Sydney had a serious operation recently. I am happy to report that Margaret is home and recuperating.

Len and Daphne Butt had a car accident. Luckily both were only bruised and shaken.

On a happier note we have an award for one of our members:- A H.B.E. (Hit Bl...y Eighty) to Roley Reilly No certificate or badge Roley - Just our wishes for a Happy Birthday and many more to follow.

We are in the process of organizing name badges for Members. More about that next issue.

Also, any new memberships after June Committee Meeting are half price.

There are a limited number of books of Conference Proceedings for Broms VII available at \$20.00 + p & p (approx \$3.50). Also a very limited number of BROMELIADS III CONFERENCE (Brisbane 1985) at \$10-00 plus p & p.

Don't forget - Meetings now start at 7.30 pm.

SEED RAISING GROUP - NEWS SNIPPETS

Our April gathering was held on Saturday 30th at which 10 members attended. Greg Aizlewood brought along some *Billbergia rosea* seedlings. We discussed the fact that old seed seemed to have a slow germination period whilst fresh seed had a much quicker germination and more robust growth.

Neville Ryan brought along various *Tillandsia* seedlings - some growing on fly screen and palm husk. He had tried unnatural rubber basket liner which was unsuccessful in germinating seed. Neville had first cut cork - which also was not too successful because it is inclined to grow algae. He had trouble with algae growing on Coconut Fibre too. He had *Tillandsia baileyi* growing on a piece of polystyrene foam covered with stocking. He explained that *Tillandsia tectorum* likes a lot of air circulation and Neville grows his under 70% knitted shade cloth. Neville feeds his *Tillandsias* every two to three weeks with full strength African Violet Food. He waters daily - mid morning. He prefers to grow *Tillandsias* on natural cork - not compressed cork.

Neville stressed that when putting down seeds, it is extremely important to note the name and date of the seed.

Olive had a beautiful clone of *Tillandsia streptophylla*. She explained that the harder it is grown i.e. strong light and less water - the curlier the leaves will grow. We looked at *Tillandsia Eric Knobloch*, which is *Tillandsia brachycaulos* x *Tillandsia streptophylla*. Olive also had *Tillandsia utriculata* which she explained grows better for her in a pot as it stays moist and takes nourishment by the roots.

Nine members attended the May gathering held on the 28th. It was a very cold morning - 6 degrees at 7.30am but the temperature had been as low as 2 degrees earlier in the morning. It took a big effort for us to tear ourselves away from the cosy fire and head down to the garden. The topics discussed were water supplies and fertilizers.

Norm Catlan explained the differences between the acidity of rain water, bore water, Pine Mountain and

Mt Crosby water supplies and the effects that it had on propagation of seedlings.

He also explained that in order to keep seedlings growing successfully, a fertilizer with a N.P.K. (that is N = Nitrogen, P = Phosphorus, K = Potassium) of 5 - 25 - 12½ is required. The need for the high phosphorus is to establish a good root system and the high potassium enhances the seedlings ability to combat disease. Once the seedlings are established and planted out individually, a fertilizer with an N.P.K. rating of 10 - 10 - 10 can be used on a weekly basis at half the recommended concentration (i.e. If the fertilizer manufacturer recommends 2 drops per gallon, use 1 drop per gallon).

Norm also suggested using an iron deficiency supplement GU 49 in the potting mix. Olive showed us a *Vriesea bleheri* which she had grown from seed.

Greg Aizlewood gave us a run down on the seedlings he had taken along. These included *Aechmea fosteriana*, *Vriesea Nova* hybrid, and *Vriesea platynema* var. *flava*. Noel Weir had *Neoregelia kautskyi*, *Aechmea lueddemanniana*, and *Dyckia* hybrid seedlings which he had been successful in propagating.

The date of the next Seed Raising gathering will be announced at the general meeting on Thursday 16th June and all members are welcome to attend.

GROWING HINT FOR AECHMEA ORLANDIANA 'ENSIGN'

Success in growing *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign' is the result of growing it in large pots with lots of light fertilizer and water.

———— PROBLEM CORNER ————

Question: Is there any procedure for forcing plants such as *Guzmania sanguinea* to produce more than one offset?

Answer: Plants such as *Guzmania sanguinea* and *Vriesea elata* normally only produce one offset in the centre. To obtain more, it is necessary to remove this offset and the method used is as follows.

The leaves adjacent to the base of the offset are split so as to enable access to the area of the offset growth from the parent plant stem. Using a thin and sharp blade, separate the offset, if possible with a small portion of the parent stem attached. Do not apply any pressure to the offset stem other than at the absolute base as it is usually very brittle and easily broken.

Apply a good fungicide such as Previcur to the wounded parent.

Question very ably answered by Mr. Don Hobbs.

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by Victoria Padilla.....	\$15.00
"The Beauty of Bromeliads"	
by Tony Lea.....	\$ 4.50
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"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

(New book on Bromeliads)

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