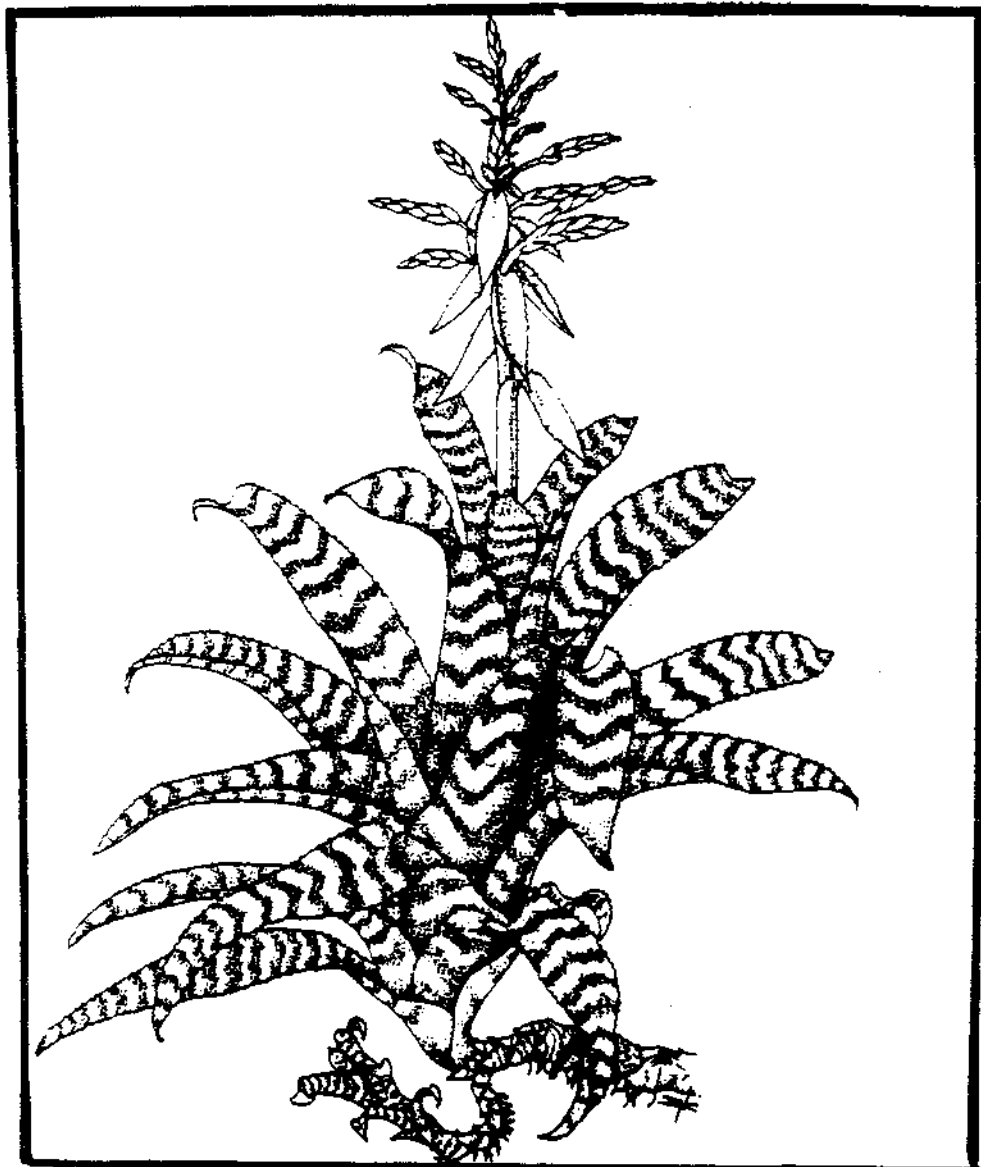


# BROMELIACEAE



*Aechmea chantinii* var. *chantinii*

MARCH - APRIL 1995

VOLUME XXVIII NO.

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

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

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|                              |  |             |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|
| PRESIDENT:                   | Mrs. Patricia O'Dea  | Ph. 8991900 |
| VICE PRESIDENT:              | Mr. John Higgins   | Ph. 8002561 |
| SECRETARY:                   | Mr. Michael O'Dea  | Ph. 8991900 |
| TREASURER:                   | Miss. Noela Tucker   | Ph. 8576570 |
| EDITOR:                      | Ms. Narelle Rowe   | Ph. 8001751 |
| ASSISTANT EDITOR:            | Mr. Len Trevor   | Ph. 3511203 |
| SHOW ORGANIZER:              | Mr. Bob Cross  | Ph. 2654364 |
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| LIFE MEMBERS:                | P. Paroz, L. Butt, G. Goode<br>and B. & R. Wilson.   |             |

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the contributor's own and are not necessarily those of the Committee or the Bromeliad Society of Qld. Inc.

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ON THE INSIDE

FEATURES:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1994 - by Out-Going President  
Mr. Len Trevor...3

A VISIT TO BERT & RUTH WILSON'S GARDEN - by Your  
Roving Reporter...6

A TRIP TO KAUTSKY COUNTRY - By Marg McNamara...9

RESULTS OF THE MINI SHOW FOR JANUARY...12

GROWING SPECIMEN BROMELIADS - by Mr. Des Anderson...13

BOOK REPORT - by Mr. Bob Paulsen...14

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1994.... Middle

SPECIAL FEATURES:

NEOREGELIA CAROLINAE VAR. MEDALLION - by Grace Goode.15

WINTER CARE OF BROMELIADS - by Mr. Len Trevor... 17

REGULAR ITEMS:

Programme: March/April.... 5

Popular Vote Results: Winners for 1994.... 13

Brom Group News Snippets.... 19

Coming Events.... 11

Books for Sale.... 21

Advertisements.... 22 & 23

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 1994/95.

Over all, the year has been a satisfactory one, however for me as your President, the year has been hard and disappointing. I ran for a fourth year against a personal belief that three years is enough in any job. I did wish to see an increase in attendance at general meetings. I hoped to do this by keeping meetings short and increasing the amount of plant talk in both the meetings and our magazine. The magazine has had a great year, thank you for that Narelle. The speakers at our meetings have made a great contribution. The shorter meetings have just not happened. I have been unable to control the duration of members talking without upsetting people and in several cases have had to drop whole talks and slide shows. This is very upsetting for the person who has done the preparation. The early start has done little towards earlier nights and the whole year has done nothing to increase membership or meeting attendance. We have been fortunate to have a steady flow of new members joining, but has been offset by a constant wastage.

On top of this we have had the sadness of the loss of Harold Caulfield and Yvonne Boorman. These were not easy situations at which to represent you.

I was saddened, even shocked, when I found myself taking the stock of our shop home. I really thought a club of our size would have been able to find a replacement to carry on that work. Bert, don't think I am not grateful to you for the great sales work you have done. Keep it up - there is still one box to go.

The next blow was Val's illness. That had only one bright spot, and that was Val's marvelous recovery.

You can't even imagine my despair when I was unable to get anyone to step into the gap. I was about to throw the microphone down and go home when Noel came forward and said he would do the minutes. Noel as a new worker coming forward, you gave me some hope and enabled me to hold some composure.

It enabled me to cope with the garage filling further with Society things. Michael returned from the west and immediately saw the plight of the Society and filled the Secretary's position. Thank you very much for your detailed work on behalf of us all.

Annual reports are usually like political speeches, full of glowing reports and promises. We have not had too much of that yet.

The Society has a strong band of very capable people within its membership who have tirelessly over a long period to make it the strong organisation it is. Many of these members have made their contribution and are not anxious to be recycled through the jobs again. We need new people to come in and add their ideas and effort to the group. During recent times we have had a few good examples of this with people combining with the old stayers to give a balanced result.

This year we have had a couple of exciting things come forward. We are to enjoy the fruits of these in the future.

The new plant displays launched at our January meeting has the potential to revitalise our meeting and display tables at our general meetings and public displays. John Higgins has done the work to get this off the ground. John, thank you for the hours you have put into this task. I know that John would like to be rewarded by seeing people bringing their plants in for display in ever increasing numbers.

For a considerable time now Don Hobbs has been talking about and working on introducing a colour segment to our magazine. Don has been strong and resolute in this regard. You see you have to be if you are going to make headway. Don has been through most of the processes necessary, and has the out going committee at least, well behind him. Don is now collecting the material for this project. If he approaches you, just feel honoured, and say "Yes, I will do my best". Then go home and battle with it. When Don has the required articles, I believe that our magazine will take a

great leap forward. I say thank you to Don for your continuing efforts. I believe that his real reward will be holding the finished article in his hand.

You have heard my thoughts on a fourth term and have probably worked out my attitude to a fifth.

I pledge my loyalty as a member and I am looking forward to volunteering to do some helping jobs here and there during 1995.



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PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT TWO METINGS:

MARCH:

PLANT COMMENTARY: To be advised.

ITEM: WHAT IS A BROMELIAD - Patricia O'Dea.

APRIL:

MINI SHOW: Judges to do a commentary of competition plants.

PLUS our "Show and Tell Table".

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VALE:

Mr. Col Feuerriegel a member of our Society, passed away on the 26th January, 1995. Our heartfelt sympathy go to family and friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A VISIT TO BERT AND RUTH WILSON'S GARDEN.

It was Australia Day, and we'd made arrangements to visit Ruth and Bert Wilson. We headed off full well knowing it was going to be an interesting afternoon. Believe me we were not disappointed.

Bert and Ruth live in a unit on the 10th floor of Peregrine House, 79 Moray Street, New Farm. Their telephone No. is 3585407. They have two daughters and 6 grandchildren - four boys and two girls.

To see their shadehouse area is to believe, and I can only do my best to describe it. The shadehouse faces North and is right on the Brisbane River - as are the units. They have cool river breezes, and the area is fairly heavily shaded with native and other planted trees and shrubs, including two Macadamia Nut Trees. The fernery and garden area consists of three terraced levels and would be well suited to mountain goats let alone two elderly people and I could only look and amaze at the hard manual labour both of them had done to achieve their goal.

"A labour of love" as Ruth put it.

Ruth told of Silver Eyes that come in for the water, the songs of Butcher Birds and Magpie to serenade her, a pair of Willie Wag Tail nesting, Green Tree Snakes, Rock Lizards, Skinks and of a very large Carpet snake that slid over her feet one day when she was sitting at the potting bench and working with a plant.

Bert and Ruth look at growing foliage plants as they decorate the foyer of Peregrine House and also the adjoining units of Falcon House. Because of the small area of shadehouse, Ruth grows Vrieseas and Tillandsias whilst Bert is an orchid man but also likes to grow ferns and cycads.

Ruth said she has no favourite genera as she enjoys them all, but if she had to choose it would be Tillandsia bulbosa. This particular Tillandsia has a bulbous base, leaves of dark green with orange to red tips and has orange flowers. It grows best mounted on driftwood or cork and is foliar fed with Wolfgang

Fertilizer. Bert finds fish emulsion best for ferns, but he does vary fertilizers and prefers cow manure watered down and foliar feeding.

They have encountered problems with feral cats and grasshoppers. They have no frost problems due to the closeness of the river, but the strong winds off the river can be very drying and so they need to watch their watering programme. Also because of the surrounding tall buildings, the sun doesn't get to the shadehouse in the winter, till quite late in the morning and consequently the area can become very cold.

Their watering is by a sprinkler system throughout the three terraced levels of garden, and irrigation pipe has been placed through the rock walls. Ruth prefers to handwater the plants in the shadehouse, and she has taps at either end of the fernery for this purpose. Brisbane Town water is the supply or rainfall.

Ruth joined the Society after seeing a display at the R.N.A. Nick Kemp was the Secretary and the Society did small displays on either side of the door near the Sheep Pavilion. Nick Kemp gave Ruth the start of her collection. She has been growing Bromeliads for approximately 23 years and has been in the Society for the same period of time. Together they have participated in the Society by doing the catering for the Christmas parties and the Combined Shows. This job was later filled by John and Yvonne Boorman.

They did displays for the Combined Show, and Show displays at Brookfield and Booval and the Chelsea Flower Show. Ruth was the first member to win the Tom Schofield Award. The Trade Table was originally Bert's idea and he started it with a float of \$200.00 and upon retirement handed back \$2000.00.

Ruth's other interests are many and varied and include Leatherwork, Painting, Crocheting, she makes all her own jams and chutneys, she makes porcelain dolls, she has done cake decorating. The largest cake she iced, covered a kitchen table and took the theme of "The Lady Who Tied the Apples on the Lilac Tree". Ruth has also had a book of poetry published. Bert enjoys growing orchids



and playing his organ. Bert and Ruth hosted a Garden Party for the 10th Anniversary of the Society and had annual Garden Parties to follow and I believe Bert and his organ playing were a feature at these functions.

Bert and Ruth are now Life Members of our Society and we are truly honoured to have them so.

Comment or Suggestion? Ruth wanted to know what happened to the "Come to Order Bell" which she gave to the Society. Ruth reflected on her time in the Society and recalls happy times, good friends and a very happy period of her life.

When it came to a particular interest or humour to tell I truly didn't know where to begin and I hope that Ruth will write an article for the Bromeliaceae on 'Reflections'.



Greg and I came away truly touched by these elderly couple. What a great afternoon we had. We thank you both for your hospitality and kindness, and I can only wish that we are both doing what you are doing when we are 80 and 84 years of age

Pictured on previous page Bert and Ruth in their garden, with one of Ruth's Vrieseas - a multi bract Red Vriesea.

Your Roving Reporter.

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### A TRIP TO KAUTSKY COUNTRY.

By Marg McNamara

Whilst in Brazil in June, 1990 I made a rather eventful trip - it was a trip to Kautsky country. Mr. Robert Kautsky and his family live at the Domingos Martins, Espirato Santa - the state north of the state of Rio de Janeiro.

We arrived at the domestic airport at 7 a.m. Our departure was not correctly arranged so we were put on standby for the 4 p.m. flight. Instead of staying out at the airport we decided to go on an exciting trip to Sugarloaf Mountain by cable car. It was breathtaking - not only the scenery but by just floating thru' the air, above the deep, deep sea, in a small, heavily laden cable car. The sway of the car together with the altitude made one somewhat squeamish in the stomach. Don't look down was the feeling, so, being a very short person I sneaked into a corner and stayed there - praying!

This bluff - Sugarloaf - is 1299 feet above the sea. It's impressive but overshadowed by the Corcouado Peak, the symbol of Rio.

When we hopped off the cable car we needed a drink so it was to the garden bar we went. After a Brazilian fruit and liquor drink we were fit to do anything!

Three hours of roaming around, taking slides, exploring, looking at the bromeliads growing on the stone walls and branches of the trees, we decided to return the only way out, by cable car. It was rocking to and fro but

this time we pushed ourselves against the side and enjoyed the scenery.

Back to the airport, caught our 4 p.m. flight and up we went to Vitoria in the state of Espirato Santa. After a two hour drive from the airport to our hotel we were happy to go to bed.

Day 2. Roberto Kautsky was not available to see us until after lunch - it was Sunday and all his grandchildren were there. He has a LARGE family.

To fill in time we went to the Blue Rock High country - this area had a blue tinge, even the *T. usneoides* was blue. After lunch we went back to the Kautsky home. Mr. Roberto Kautsky greeted us speaking broken English. He appeared to be a happy man and seemed proud to show us his collection.

Aechmeas, Cryptanthus, Vrieseas and Nidulariums were growing so happily under a cover of shade cloth and overhanging branches from huge trees. We wandered the area admiring the plants and listening to this man for an hour. Roberto and his family have a soft drink factory so after afternoon drinks of the family product we began a memorable ride up his sacred mountain. The truck was the oldest and roughest I have ever ridden in.

Being the smallest I sat in the middle with the gear stick, I was right - it was the gear stick.

It took four or five shuffles to to change the gears but who would want a limousine to go where we were going

The way up was horrific - swing this way to catch the narrow ridge and then swing that way about one foot up - see - saw Marjory daw - but alongside this pot hole track were bromeliads growing all the way. Fantastic! We reached the top. From here we could see for miles.

Roberto's mountain extended some thirty miles. This mountain had been in his family forever it seemed. Many, many members of the Kautsky family had died from the dreadful malaria and here and there were wooden

crosses in memory of them. (I believe that malaria is on the increase again and people dread going through some areas.) The entire mountain plateau where we were was festooned with as many bromeliads and orchids as he could find. Aechmea and Vrieseas I wish I could have. Here they were being protected and cared for for future generations.

His dedication to preserve the Brazilian species of all genera was profound.

After roaming around and taking a few photos suddenly the light disappeared and we hurried to get back into that faithful old truck.

We weren't worried we were just plain happy that this man knew how to steer the vehicle down to the good road below.

Roberto Kautsky has been honoured by his colleagues who have given his family name to the following bromeliads.

Aechmea kautskyana  
Cryptanthus scaposus variety kautskyanus  
Neoregelia kautskyi  
Vriesea kautskyi  
Billbergia kautskyana and he showed us a small Nidularium which will carry his name.

It was dark dark when we left but what a day!

I hope to visit Brazil again when I can afford it.

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#### COMING EVENTS

Bromeliads III South Australian Conference  
APRIL 14 th - 17 th 1995.

MINI SHOW: 20 th APRIL 1995.

SCHEDULE: CLASS 1. Billbergia species & hybrids.  
CLASS 2. Guzmania species & hybrids.  
CLASS 3 Pitcairnia species & hybrids.

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RESULTS OF MINI SHOW 19/1/95

Advanced: Class 1. Neoregelia species and hybrids - miniature.

1st. *Neoregelia Fireball X ampullacea* (L. & O. Trevor)

2nd. *Neoregelia pauciflora X Fireball* (L. & T Muller)

Class 2. Vriesea species only

1st. *Vriesea philippocoburgii* (L. & O. Trevor)

2nd. *Vriesea ensiformis* (L. & O. Trevor)

Class 3. Dyckia species and hybrids.

1st. *Dyckia Fosteriana Hyb.* (D. Andersen)

2nd. *Dyckia fosteriana* (L. & O. Trevor)

Intermediate; Class 1.

1st. *Neoregelia Meyendorffii X Fireball* (N. Rowe)

2nd. *Neoregelia ampullacea X pauciflora X Granada*  
(D. & J. Upton)

Class 2.

1st. *Vriesea racinae* (M. & P. O'Dea)

2nd. Nil

Class 3. Nil

Novice Class 1.

1st. *Neoregelia pauciflora* (N. & L. Weir)

2nd. *Neoregelia Fireball X Granada* (N. & L. Weir)

Class 2.

1st. *Vriesea saundersii* (n. & L. Weir)

2nd. Nil

Class 3. Nil

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QUEENSLAND INC.

INCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31.12.94

| <u>INCOME</u>                     |                  |               | \$                |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Subscriptions                     | 1994             | 934.00        |                   |
|                                   | 1995             | <u>168.00</u> | 1102.00           |
| Plant Sales Commission - Meetings |                  | 164.95        |                   |
| - Combined Show                   |                  | 2603.10       |                   |
| - Mt. Gravatt Show                |                  | <u>26.00</u>  | 2794.05           |
| Raffles                           | (nett)           |               | 330.80            |
| Sale Of                           | - Society Badges | 68.00         |                   |
|                                   | - Books          | 1935.60       |                   |
|                                   | - Sales Stickers | 358.00        |                   |
|                                   | - Binders        | <u>49.20</u>  | 2410.80           |
| Advertising                       |                  |               | 50.00             |
| R.N.A. Show Contributions         |                  |               | 450.00            |
| Interest                          | - Bank           | 84.30         |                   |
|                                   | - Term Deposits  | <u>737.61</u> | 821.91            |
| Excess Expenditure / Income       |                  |               | <u>2380.34</u>    |
|                                   |                  |               | <u>\$10339.90</u> |
|                                   |                  |               | =====             |

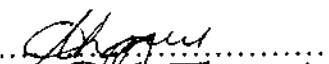

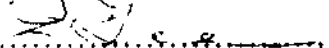
BROMELIAD SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET as

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

|  |                     |            |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| Balance B/f 1. 1.94                      |                     | 37401.67   |
| Capital Purchases                        | - Display Equipment | 179.00     |
|  | - Typewriter        | 250.00     |
|  | - Tape Recorder     | 200.00     |
|  | - Library           | 270.00     |
|  |                     | 899.00     |
| Fully Depreciate Equipment - Typewriters |                     | (99.32)    |
| Adjust Value of Stock on Hand            |                     |            |
|  | - Books             | (656.29)   |
|  | - Badges (new)      | 1502.85    |
|  | - Badges (old)      | (395.51)   |
|  | - Sales Stickers    | (358.00)   |
|  |                     | 93.05      |
| Adjust Equity in Combined Show           |                     | (.70)      |
| Adjust Value Trade Table                 |                     | (116.77)   |
| Adjust Value Term Deposit Westpac        |                     | 255.35     |
| Float                                    | - Secretary         | 46.00      |
| Excess Expenditure / Income              |                     | (2380.34)  |
|  |                     | 36115.94   |
| LESS Depreciation Adjustment             |                     | (500.13)   |
|  |                     | 35615.81   |
| LESS Subscriptions in Advance            |                     | (168.00)   |
|  |                     | \$35429.81 |
|  |                     | *****      |

I hereby certify this Balance Sheet represents a true and accurate record of the financial affairs of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Incorporated.

|              |   |           |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| R. HIGGINS   |  | AUDITOR   |
| G. AIZLEWOOD |  | TREASURER |
| L. TREVOR    |  | PRESIDENT |

at 31st December, 1994

ASSETS

|                            |                       |          |            |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------|
| Cupboards                  |                       | *        | 76.60      |
| Display Equipment #1       |                       | *        | 635.09     |
| #2                         |                       | **       | 179.00     |
| Slide Library              |                       | *        | 112.05     |
| Projector                  |                       | *        | 350.90     |
| Slide Carousels            |                       | *        | 244.80     |
| Lapel Microphone           |                       | *        | 100.20     |
| Badge Maker                |                       | *        | 180.56     |
| Tablecloths                |                       | **       | 89.60      |
| Typewriter                 |                       | **       | 250.00     |
| Tape Recorder              |                       | ***      | 200.00     |
|                            |                       |          | -----      |
|                            |                       |          | 2418.80    |
| Library                    |                       |          | 2551.91    |
| Goods for Resale           | - Books               | 3609.81  |            |
|                            | - Sales Stickers      | 302.00   |            |
|                            | - Badges              | 1502.85  | 5414.66    |
|                            |                       | -----    |            |
| Bank A/c                   | - as at 31.12.94      | 2599.63  |            |
|                            | - Subs in Advance     | (168.00) |            |
|                            | - Unpresented Cheques | (297.18) |            |
|                            | - Trade Table         | 1733.12  | 3867.57    |
|                            |                       | -----    |            |
| Term Deposits              | - Westpac             | 4898.01  |            |
|                            | - Commonwealth        | 4747.20  |            |
|                            | - A.N.Z.              | 10000.00 | 19645.21   |
|                            |                       | -----    |            |
| Advances                   | - Secretary #1        | 100.00   |            |
|                            | - Secretary #2        | 50.00    |            |
|                            | - Treasurer           | 50.00    |            |
|                            | - Plant Sales         | 50.00    | 250.00     |
|                            |                       | -----    |            |
| Share Equity Combined Show |                       |          | 1781.79    |
|                            |                       |          | -----      |
|                            |                       |          | 35929.94   |
| LESS Depreciation on *     | @ 20%                 |          |            |
|                            | ** @ 10%              |          |            |
|                            | *** @ 5%              |          | (500.13)   |
|                            |                       |          | -----      |
|                            |                       |          | \$35429.81 |
|                            |                       |          | =====      |



## BROMELIAD SOCIETY (

## STATEMENT OF INCOME &amp; EXPEND

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u>                             |                     | \$            |              |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Rental   | - Meetings          | 210.00        |              |
|  | - Property Storage  | <u>200.00</u> | 410.00       |
| Bromeliaceae                                   | - Printing/Postage  |               | 917.44       |
| Stationery / Telephone / Postage               |                     |               | 714.6        |
| Social Costs / Xmas Party / Friendship Evening |                     |               | 484.85       |
| Subscriptions                                  | - B.S.I.            | 52.30         |              |
|  | - R.H.S.Q. Inc      | 10.00         |              |
|  | - Selbyana (93/94)  | 195.39        |              |
|  | - Q.C.G.C.          | <u>10.00</u>  | 267.69       |
| Life Membership Badges / Certificates          |                     |               | 60.50        |
| Purchase Of                                    | - Trophies / Prizes | 86.90         |              |
|  | - Door Prizes       | 26.00         |              |
|  | - Display Materials | 179.00        |              |
|  | - Typewriter        | 250.00        |              |
|  | - Tape Recorder     | 200.00        |              |
|  | - Books             | 1328.51       |              |
|  | - Badges            | 1552.85       |              |
|  | - Library           | <u>270.00</u> | 3893.26      |
| Bus Trip                                       | (nett)              |               | 38.00        |
| Insurance                                      |                     |               | 643.40       |
| Maint & Repairs                                | - Amplifier         |               | 51.50        |
| R.H.S.Q. Inc Crockery Replacement              |                     |               | 35.00        |
| Advance  | - Secretary         |               | 50.00        |
| Federal Government Tax                         |                     |               | 24.25        |
| Bromeliads VII Proceedings                     | (nett)              |               | 2749.65      |
|  |                     |               | <u>-----</u> |
|  |                     |               | \$10339.90   |
|  |                     |               | =====        |

## POPULAR VOTE RESULTS

Awards were made to the overall winners of the Popular Vote for 1994 at the February meeting.

ADVANCED SECTION WINNER was Mrs. Phyllis Hobbs and she was presented with a lovely hand cut Bohemia Crystal Rose Bowl.

NOVICE SECTION WINNER was Genny Vauhkonen and she received a hand cut Bohemia Crystal Sweet Bowl.

Congratulations go to you both.

### POPULAR VOTE RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 1995.

ADVANCED: 1st. *Tillandsia Wildfire* (*multicaulis* X *deppeana*) - L. & T. Muller.

2nd. *Tillandsia cyanea* - J. & R. Higgins.

2nd. *Aechmea* sp. (formerly) *Straptocalyx* X *poepigii* - L. & O. Trevor.

INTERMEDIATE: 1st. *Tillandsia tectorum* - M. & P. O'Dea.

2nd. *Neoregelia Blood Red* ('Fireball' X *Strawberry Cup*) - D. & J. Upton.

NOVICE: Nil entries.

JUDGES CHOICE: *Tillandsia tectorum* - M. & P. O'Dea.

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### GROWING SPECIMEN BROMELIADS.

If you wish to grow specimen bromeliads, that is very large ones in baskets, it is best first to become a nudist or if you are a shy type buy a clothes drier or take you washing to a laundromat.

I grow all my big specimens in hangers on a hills clothes hoist under fifty percent shade cloth. Some quite large ones up to half a metre across are growing in four or five inch pots. To get large neoregelias, I grow them in old wash up drainers. It is possible to grow them on just a bit of wire mesh with no potting mix at all.

The secret. Put your plant in the container, hang it on the clothes line, fertilize once a week with a foliant fertilizer, forget about it in all other respects and in five years you have quite a large specimen. With

time I clean off dead leaves about once a year. I never repot. If you are a person who likes clean pots you'll just not have to look at you pot until it completely disappears from sight.

Growing big specimens is the lazy growers way out as there is very little work attached to the job. My conclusions drawn from my growing of specimens are bromeliads need no mix whatsoever, the container they are growing in does not matter but it is essential to fertilize for good healthy growth. This works for me. It may work for you. If interested be daring become a nudist and grow a few specimen plants.

Article by Mr. Des Andersen.

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### BOOK REPORT

By Bob Paulsen.

NEW BOOK "BLOOMING BROMELIADS" by Ulrich and Ursula Baensch.

This book is 8½" X 11", 272 pages and has 1000 colour pictures. It covers bromeliads in their habitat, history, biology, growth factors, cultivation and propagation and growing at home and outdoors. There are 730 species, varieties and hybrids of 33 genera included. The price is high but we are trying to get the best price possible. A good initial number of orders will help to keep the price to a minimum. People who have seen this book say that it is beautiful and the photography outstanding.

A deposit of \$100.00 per book is required with your order which should be sent to the Treasurer.

"TILLANDSIA" by Paul T. Isley III.

Another order of this well known and outstanding book is being considered.

This publication brings together a representative cross-section of this fascinating genus.

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NEOREGELIA CAROLINAE VAR. MEDALLION.

Kelsey Williams wrote about this plant in Nov./Dec. issue 1975 in the journal of the Bromeliad Society of U.S.A. He obtained the plant at a nearby nursery in California. He found the plant most unusual and could not resist buying it.

It was rather large with many broad leaves, without any marking of any kind, plain dark green all over. He took it home and placed it among his other neoregelias but it did not flower at the time his neoregelias were flowering. After four or five months his mystery plant threw four healthy pups. All the four grew into fine plants. One was outstanding with several interesting characteristics.

This Neoregelia Carolinae var. Medallion was four years old, had not flowered, although treated with Ethrel. It continued to grow from the centre, forming a continuous rosette. It did not grow a single root, but became top heavy, necessitating the removal of some of the bottom stem and planted in another pot. This procedure took place about every nine months.

The plant never ceased to grow, the pattern of the leaves always changing. A beautiful thing the whole year long. The longer the days, the more brilliant the rosette. As the days grew shorter, the leaves became blotched with red, instead of being red all over, especially in the centre of the rosette.

It was fed occasionally with a weak solution of liquid fertilizer in the cup. As there were no roots there was no need to fertilize the potting medium.

James Elmore of Florida, also wrote about his experience with *Neoregelia Carolinae* var. *Medallion* in Volume 1 No 1 Summer 1978. He fell in love with the plant after a picture of it appeared with Kelsy Williams article. He was determined to obtain the plant. Kelsy Williams had kept the first *Neoregelia Medallion* and given the other three pups to friends. One of these was Dr. Donald Rock. He had managed to root the plant and get some pups from it, above the original four. He sensed Elmore's enthusiasm to own a plant and asked \$1000.00. This was beyond Elmore's expectations and after some considerable haggling and negotiations Elmore got his *Neoregelia Medallion*. He never did tell anyone what he paid Dr. Rock for the plant but admitted it was several times the next most expensive plant on the market. But he considered it well worth while as there was no other plant in his collection like it. Elmore calls *Neoregelia Medallion* a most spectacular mutation. At the time he wrote the article he said there were only 11 Neo. Medallions in the world, including his large plant and its two pups.

I wish my experience with *Neoregelia Medallion* could have been as rewarding and fruitful. I have found it to be a most frustrating plant and its behaviour impossible to forecast.

Last year I had seven *Neoregelia Medallions* and three of them threw the lovely rosette in the centre. The other four went the way of all *Neoregelias* and flowered in their centres. I thought it was a good average, considering the plants temperament and reputation.

This year I have nineteen *Neoregelia Medallions* and all of them have flowered, not one of them rewarding me with a spectacular rosette. They have flowered prematurely, with sparse leaves. Even the three which rosetted last

year have flowered. All of my plants have good root growth.

I have been told by the pundits, to not discard the plants which have flowered, as their pups often will come good and throw the rosettes.

There are hundreds of *Neoregelia Carolinae* var. *Medallion* throughout the world today, and the price varies from \$40.00 to \$50.00. Not a dependable plant and a gamble. Maybe the drought, the cold winter - who knows - which caused my nineteen *Neoregelia Medallions* to revert back to mediocrity. Mutations are renowned for their erratic behaviour.

Article by Grace Goode.

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### WINTER CARE OF BROMELIADS

It is easy. You should care for them as you would care for yourself. If you leave a human being in the field in winter without adequate shelter and clothing, he will show signs of deterioration very quickly. If that person is weak due to poor nourishment through lack of good food and drink, it is most likely that he will be overtaken by sickness and could even perish.

Plants out of their habitat are much the same. Bromeliads are tougher than most plants, and probably tougher than human beings. If you give them a reasonable chance, they will come through for you. The effort is not great and well worth while.

For a large percentage of our plants there is little or no need to do anything extra in winter as they come from areas with climates similar to ours. However, some action needs to be taken for plants that are deemed to be cold tender. In deciding what form your care is going to take you should study the habitat of the plants and then try to vary your conditions to meet the plants natural requirements.

If a plant requires a heavy shade cloth to protect it in summer, the same shade will rob it of much needed warmth from the sun in winter. Consider a shade cloth that will be adequate in winter and then have a throw over to give the extra protection needed in summer.

I have observed that plants stand up well early in the winter and when you think you have escaped the ravages

of winter (about July and August) the cold winds start and your Bromeliads go backwards quickly. I am sure that the south and western sides of our plant house should be closed in, at this time. This should break all the cold dry winds which seem to do all of the damage. It could be that the winds are just the last straw that breaks their backs. The winds are dry as well as cold and the closing in will help to hold moisture as well. This wind break needs to be a removable cover which can be folded and put in the shed in the same way as your summer shade cloth is treated.

A sickly child (cold tender plant) is usually given a course of vitamins or a tonic to build up its strength for the winter which is approaching. Remember the Hypol, Cod Liver Oil etc, that we were fed as children.

The 'Hypol' for plants comes in the form of Potassium. This is known under the name of Potash (e.g. Murate of Potash, Sulphate of Potash). In the well known N.P.K fertilizers, Potash or Potassium is denoted by the term K. A light feeding of (P) Phosphorus also known as super should also be given. The (N) Nitrogen should be reduced or cut out as you go into winter. Nitrogen promotes growth which is not desirable in winter.

The (K) does not prevent cold damage. It strengthens the cells of the plant and makes it harder for the damaging fungus to get a hold on the plant. You should also try to prevent and physical damage to the plant by insects etc., as it is through these damage points that a fungus, which is usually the final killer, enters the plant. This is the main reason that the risk to a plant is increased if it is repotted during winter. A preventative fungicide spray before trouble appears is also advantageous.

It is important that a plant goes into winter with a potting medium which has not broken down (become soggy). If the mixture is one year or more old it is too old. A plant that went through last winter in a new mix may not go through this winter in the same mix. It would be like going through winter with your feet in a bucket of cold water.

When cold damage appears in the form of, leaves dying, spots developing, centres rotting out, roots rotted off, it is too late to alter your shade cloth, cover the western wall, feed Potassium, spray the plants, or repot the plants.

The time to start planning and doing these things is now. They should all be in place by June. Mild feeding with (P.) and (K.) can continue and an occasional spray for any suckers or fungi is always advantageous. Have a good winter and don't forget to look after yourself as well.

Article by Mr. Len Trevor.

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#### BROM GROUP - NEWS SNIPPETS

Our Brom Group resumed for 1995 with our first meeting on Saturday 28th January with 10 members attending, these being Liz and Noel Weir, Len and Olive Trevor, Doug and Joy Upton, Nancy Kickbush, Len Butt, Neville Ryan, and Narelle Rowe, with apologies received from Greg Aizlewood and John and Genny Catlan.

Programme for 1995 was organized with topics including "Know Your Plants", "Potting Mixes", "Fertilizers" and "Potting on Seedlings". It is also our intention to have a couple of "Garden Visits" during the year providing suitable times can be arranged.

Noel Weir followed up the idea of procuring fresh and viable seed from the Australian Seed Bank whilst Nev Ryan will look at getting a current American Seed List with a view to obtaining overseas seed. The programme for January took the form of a "Know Your Plant" walk around Olive and Len's nursery. Set out below are some plants that caught our attention.

Aechmea drakeana; which Olive had flowered for the first time. This particular plant is found in Equador and is epiphytic in forests growing at an altitude between 750 mtrs. and 1500 mtrs.

The plant had pink bracts and blue flowers. Olive acquired this plant from Peter Tristram.

Billbergia amoena var. stolonifera; This plant can have plain green leaves or variegated. It grows well in hanging pots with stolons projecting up to one foot. Flowers have red bracts with dark blue/green petals.

Neoregelia Carolinae Var. Medallion: Olive received this plant from Grace Good. Olive described this as a medium sized Neoregelia which needed feeding to make it



stand up in the centre. It has dark green leaves with a dark red rosette standing up to four inches high Aechmea holtonii; This rather large aechmea is very spiny and about 1 mtr in diameter and 1 mtr high. It has a tall upright spike with red scape and branched bracts. This plant gives many offsets and Olive also got this plant from Peter Tristram.

Aechmea Flamingo: which is Aechmea fendleri x Aechmea chantinii. this is a medium to large plant. Leaves are red with silver banding. It has a branched scape with pink bracts and blue flowers.

We discussed that not only fertilizers but different environments effect the growth and form of plants.

Our morning finished with us looking at Olive's extensive collection of Aechmea nudicaulis. This plant has a large habitat and ranges from Mexico and the West Indies and from the north west of Columbia through to Brazil. Its size varies from a small to a medium sized plant and has bright red bracts and bright yellow flowers. We looked at the German clone - Aechmea nudicaulis var. flavo-marginata, Aechmea 'Mary Hyde' which is a cultivar of nudicaulis (variegated), Aechmea nudicaulis var. aequalis which is a small plant heavily banded with pink/red bracts and yellow flowers, with a more compact flower spike.

A notable trait of all Aechmea nudicaulis is the crimping at the base of the leaves.

Our morning finished relatively early with the date for our next Brom Group to be announced at the February Meeting. Please remember all members are welcome to come along and share in a morning of fun and plants.

If any members of the Society have seed that they would like to pass on to our seed raising group we would be more than pleased to receive it.

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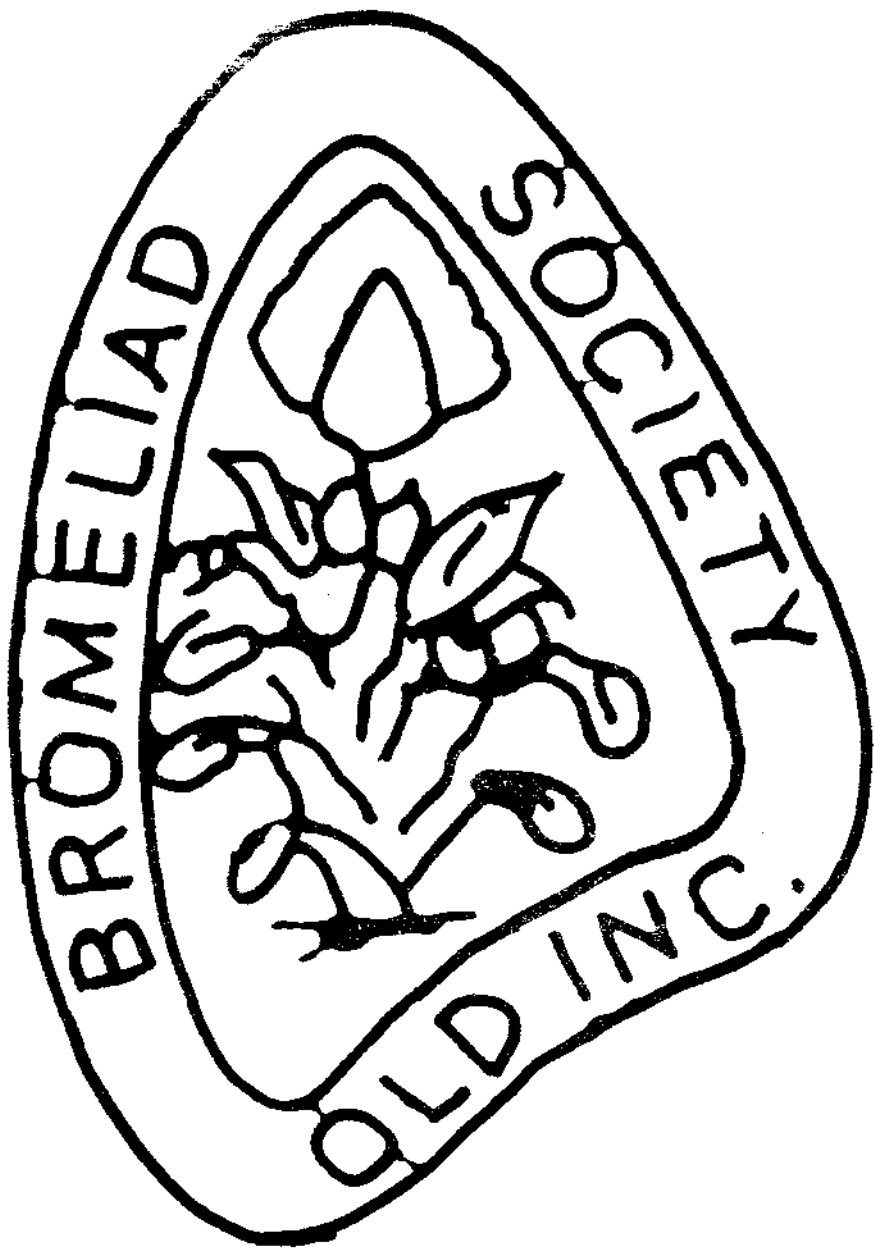
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