



# *Bromeliaceae*

Volume XXXI Number 4 July/August 1998



## BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

P.O. Box 565, FORTITUDE VALLEY,  
QLD. 4006 AUSTRALIA

*General meetings held on the third Thursday of each month except December at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, Queensland, commencing at 7.30pm.*

PRESIDENT	:	Mr Bob Cross	Ph: (07) 3265 4364
VICE PRESIDENT	:	Mr Doug Upton	Ph: (07) 3378 3511
SECRETARY	:	Mrs Dorothy Cutcliffe	Ph: (07) 3394 4134
TREASURER	:	Ms Nola Tucker	Ph: (07) 3857 6570
ASSISTANT TREASURER	:	Mr Noel Weir	Ph: (07) 3266 1700
EDITOR	:	Mr Doug Upton	Ph: (07) 3378 3511
SHOW ORGANISER	:	Mr Bob Cross	Ph: (07) 3265 4364
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	:	Mr Bob Paulsen	
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	:	Ms Cheryl Basic, Mr Perry Crawford, Mr Barry Genn, Mr Perry Smith, Mr Neville Ryan, Mr Noel Weir	
COMBINED SHOW COMMITTEE:		Ms Cheryl Basic, Mr Bob Cross, Mr Neville Ryan, Mr Mike Symmons, Mr Len Trevor, Mrs Olive Trevor, Mr Noel Weir	
LIFE MEMBERS	:	Mrs Grace Goode, Mr Peter Paroz, Mr Bert Wilson	

*Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and may not reflect the opinions of the Editorial Committee of the Society.*

"Bromeliaceae" is the Journal of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. and is published bimonthly.

PRINT POST NUMBER: P.P. 43427/0002

**VOL XXXI**

**Number 4**

**Price: \$3.50**

Copyright: Permission is granted for reproduction provided no contrary advice is included by original authors, and provided proper acknowledgment accompanies each item when published.

## Cover Photograph

### *A Section of the Central Display at the Combined Show.*

The show tables display plants for competition, they hold beautiful well formed colourful specimens each deserving of an award, but it is the central display that produces the highest accolades from the general public. The blending shape, texture and colour at this years show, managed to arrest one's senses to the point where members of the public asked, "Are they real?" Our show organiser and his band of worthy helpers can be proud of their efforts. To all the other stewards and minders, congratulations, well done.

Photographed by Doug Upton

## Combined Show Report

The Combined Show presented us with an opportunity to view, display and discuss many beautiful and varied plants in the competition section. The show benches were a visual treat, with seventy plants entered in the various classes. Variegated vrieseas and colourful neoregelias drew the eye, while the floral arrangements inspired many to try their hand at a centrepiece or two.

Len and Olive Trevor exhibited some unusual plants such as Neophytum Galactic Warrior, a variegated plant which blushed pink on the leaf edges and Guzvriesea Marion a truly pretty plant. It was great to see so many Billbergia entered again. The lovely 'Hallelujah' with its dark maroon leaves and white splotches. Neoregelias are always well represented. 'Amen', a very dark broadleaved plant entered by Bob Paulsen was deemed worthy of first place, while other notable entries included Neo.Concentrica Bennie, Neo.Orange Glow and Neo.Carnival Queen.

The novelty section provides our creative bromophiles with an opportunity to amaze us and this year was no exception. Doug and Joy Upton entered 'The Snake' a realistic image of a cobra coiled in a basket, raising its head threateningly it drew many favourable comments and on a more sensitive note 'Pretty as a Picture' where bromeliad flowers had been arranged on a wooden picture frame. Patricia O'Dea's Tillandsia magnusiana, beautifully grown, was presented in a decorative pot and resembled a miniature grass tree, showing a lovely contrast between the silver-grey leaves of the plant and the dark shiny glaze of the pot. The Gold Coast Society was well represented by their display. John Catlan and Genny Vaukonen provided the special plants which were highly commended, Neville Ryan showed us how tillandsias could be grown with his contribution to the display.

Overall, an enjoyable show, with willing helpers on hand to move tables and plants as the need arose. A display to please the public eye and further promote our plants.

Jeanette Henwood  
Chief Competition Steward.

# Contents

Office Member Listing		1
Cover Photograph with Combined Show Report		2
Guest Editorial	Liz Weir	4
Complicated and too Technical	Member & Derek Butcher	5,6,7
A Change of Colour	Des Andersen	7
An Aechmea orlandiana Story	Mrs.P.Reeves	8,9,10
Centrefold Combined Show Photographes		
Newsletter	Forthcoming Events	15
	Monthly Meetings	15
	Study Group Meetings	15
	Show Reports	15
	Roster for Plant Raffle	15
	Centrefold Listing	15
	Ipswich Report	16
	Advertising Rates	16
	Letters to the Editor	17,18
	All and Sundry	19,20,21
Advertising in Bromeliaceae		22,23
Greeting Cards, Video 'Bromagic' , Society Badges and books for sale		24

## GUEST EDITORIAL - LIZ WEIR

Looking back over our early attendance at monthly meetings and how ignorant I was about all matters concerning Bromeliads, I am amazed at how far I have come along the road of knowledge by simply listening and asking many questions.

Initially I barely knew the difference between the genera and often was left way behind when speakers and members were discussing plants displayed at the meetings. But gradually the light dawned, and without apparently working too hard, I have learnt a lot about Bromeliads and how to care for and cultivate them.

With the gaining of some knowledge came the courage to ask questions without appearing too ignorant, and to also take part in general discussions.

I have a great admiration for some generous members of our society who share their vast knowledge with others at these meetings.

Then of course I am a member of the study group. The sharing of information and cultural techniques on a more personal basis is one of the great attractions of the group. I suppose asking a 'dumb' question is easier to do in this smaller group.

Our breakfast meetings are always lively, and the generosity of our hosts Len and Olive Trevor is immense. We arrive at Ferny Hills at approximately 7.00am to find Olive preparing the main course of our breakfast and each member adds their offering to the breakfast fare. It has been found to be extremely difficult to keep conversation over the breakfast table strictly to the topic (bromeliads) but the meal is always a happy event.

When eventually the meeting settles to business, our hosts have a comprehensive reference library on Bromeliads which is on hand and readily shared when required.

Members of the Study Group are very enthusiastic about hybridising and wander through the shadehouse hopefully searching for compatible plants in flower. Olive often reports on the progress of the Group's seedlings and on any of the thousands of plants in the shadehouse which may be at an interesting stage.

Once a month we all enjoy this meeting and I would encourage other Society members to join us for the experience. I know that I go home and attend to my plants with renewed enthusiasm.

## Editor's Notes

*It is unfortunate 'Complicated and Too Technical' is published minus the author's name. This article had been on my desk for a number of months before I asked Derek Butcher would he consider a reply. I offer no apology to the author for this delay.*

*I had thought not publishing the article would trigger some enquiry and the author might then submit a name, non de plume, initials or even a postal address, nothing has been received.*

*While the article is well written, and regrettably, some members will agree with the author's theory, the majority of members would never agree. I thank Derek for his reply.*

## Complicated and too Technical

Hypothetically, it is the time of our next Australian Bromeliad Conference. On the left hand side of the stage I see myself standing behind a podium arranging my notes. On the right side is another podium, and standing behind this is Derek Butcher. Introductions completed, it has been acknowledged I am to speak first. With a polite cough I clear my throat and begin.

"It has been maintained that the chemistry student who knows most about the subject is the one who has just finished his first course therein. The basic laws and sweeping generalities have been given, and the ramifications, complications, and expectations revealed in later years have not been encountered.

Something of the sort seems to apply to the gaining of some familiarity with the bromeliaceae. One ultimately comes to know that there are some cryptanthus varieties that aren't flat; that there are neoregelias without red tips, and plants with red tips that aren't neoregelias; that fine lengthwise parallel lines on the leaves don't necessarily signify a guzmania and some guzmanias are without such markings; vrieseas that look like tillandsias and tillandsias that look like vrieseas; etc., etc.

My theory is, you don't have to know all the minutiae, to get a great deal of enjoyment from your plants. Certainly it's nice to know as much as possible about them; but they're just as pretty, whether or not you have the precise classification. Walking through the shade house and delighting at the different shapes and colourations of each plant is always quite enjoyable, it could never be diminished because of insufficient information.

I have a leopard spotted vriesea and a vividly marked small plant that seems to be a guzmania, both are nameless. Another plant, it came labelled as a *Nidularium fulgens*, clearly it wasn't; with its glossy leaves and bronze-red tints it may be a form or hybrid of another genera. To me they're attractive as is, and wouldn't be much more so if I had a complete identification. Besides, if you stress classifications you may have to re-learn names from time to time; what used to be *Nidularium amazonicum* is now officially *Wittrockia amazonica*, though according to someone with authoritative knowledge it's most likely a variety of *nidularium innocentii* instead.

So, if the growing of your bromeliads takes precedence over your cataloguing them, take the matter of nomenclature in your stride; I for one can have a lot of fun without pretending to be a taxonomist."

"I hand the floor to Mr. Derek Butcher."

On the left hand side of the stage we have an un-named and undescribed person making it difficult for conversation. Normally humans are lucky in that they have a recognised Mother and their names are officially registered. Surely the same things apply to plants if we are to compare bromeliads with bromeliads or even know we are talking about bromeliads.

I love investigating things to find out "Why is it so" and therefore have correspondents from around the world, or to be more precise, the world of Bromeliads. When I find things of interest, funnily enough, I want to share it with others and write articles.

Some say these articles are technical or even too technical, without really defining what technical means. Let us say it means "I'm not interested in that." What are they likely to be interested in? Is it what's on next meeting or who won what in the Competition?

I often smile to myself when reading competition results with the non-technical person in mind. Logically, if the name of the plant is not important, why print it. If we don't know the name of the plant then the name of the owner is superfluous too! Bang goes the newsletter.

Over the years I have met people who have said names are not important, only for them to be brought down abruptly to the real world on the purchase by mail order of the wrong plant. This is either a misconception of the plant from the buyer or regrettably, sometimes, on the part of the seller.

Humans continue to learn while they are interested in a subject and I'm forever learning. As an example I cannot take *Nidularium amazonicum* to *Wittrockia amazonica* to *Nidularium innocentii* on face value. I would want to know WHY, and ALSO it has been called variously karatas, aechmea and canistrum in the past. I'm just built that way.

However, I do believe I have a right to write articles about things I know about, and, it is up to the editor to decide what to publish. For those who complain about ALL articles being too technical, I do suggest that the answer is in their own court and they should write non technical articles. For example, I find articles on soil mixes and fertilizers too technical but I haven't complained so far. The effect of Ph on the availability of the various chemicals is a science in itself. So I continue to write articles about names and their importance because I know that there are some people who DO actually read and understand them. Remember that you too can be an expert in any area of your choice. These days you can become a bromeliad fanatic just by sitting at your computer and surfing the net. As a gardener your collection should grow at the same rate as your knowledge of bromeliads. If it doesn't, then I feel sorry for you.

Derek Butcher  
Fulham S. A.

---

## A Change of Colour - Des Andersen

In our neck of the woods during the last month or so, we have been plagued by grasshoppers. All of my sheds are usually free of this vermin, however, when I went to the first shed I saw a *Tillandsia leiboldiana* almost in full spike had been completely shredded by several of the smaller green grasshoppers about a couple of millimetres long.

I quickly dispatched this tribe or so I thought, a few days later two of my *T.edithae* had every leaf damaged by yet another tribe of these pests. Naturally I killed these and again I believed I had done a good job, BUT, on the next watering I discovered another *T.edithae* damaged, and there in all its glory, was this single large RED hopper eating the heart out of another *T.edithae* spike. This fellow was also given a hasty demise.

When I say this large grasshopper was red the next time you see a *T.edithae* in full bloom you'll have his exact colour.

Now I'm no scientist, but I have always believed plants and perhaps this tillandsia in particular, have powerful hormones or some plant secretion that can produce a colour change, for up until this last 'BIG RED', all other grasshoppers were green or light brown. Can anyone give an answer ?

Caloundra, Qld

**An *Aechmea orlandiana* Story - Mrs P.Reeves**

In the Nov/Dec 1997 issue, page 14, John Catlan's article on 'Inducing Blooms in Bromeliads' was very interesting. It brought to mind an article written many years ago by Mulford Foster for the National Horticulture Magazine of Washington. While Mr. Foster's article also deals with inducing blooms, this is far from the whole story. The reason for experimentation at a particular time, and the naming of a newly discovered bromeliad is the crux of the article. It will, I'm sure, give the reader a further insight into the fine character of a dedicated man. Mr Foster's article was titled 'A Step Ahead of Mother Nature'. I hope you will reprint it in your Journal.

Mrs P.Reeves.

"Ever since time began, plants have sort of had their own idea of when to flower and fruit. Naturally, that urge to reproduce their kind has generally come after some periods of cold, drought, or unusual conditions when there has been possibly some danger of a stoppage of growth or an extended rest period. Of course, if plants just grow year after year with no danger of extinction, then there would be no necessity for the developing of reproductory parts such as flowers which produce the fruit that contains the seeds of the next generation."

" Many years ago in the Azores when they grew pineapples in enclosures under glass, a carpenter accidently set fire to a pile of shavings while working in one of the pineapple houses. To the surprise of the owner, the plants instead of being destroyed burst into flower a few weeks later, quite out of season for their regular crop. The fruit, being marketable at an off-season, was readily sold and the extra profit nearly paid for the loss from the fire. From then on the natives in the Azores made a frequent practice of smoking the pineapple plants."

"About twelve years ago when Rodriguez was working in the U.S. department of Agriculture Experiment Station in Porto Rico, he observed that one of the big pineapple growers was shipping his fruit to the American market some months in advance of the other growers. Rodriguez found that his culture was the same as that of the other growers except that each year he would erect over certain areas a cloth tent, building a smudge fire underneath for the duration of the twelve hours. Flower and then fruit followed in a short period. Curiosity soon led Rodriguez to experiment with wood smoke and he found that it was the action of the ethylene gas contained in wood smoke which caused the flower bud to form within a few days after being exposed to the gas. He published these findings in January 1932."

" The government experiments of forcing and hastening pineapples into fruit

prematurely in Florida have been based on the findings of Rodriguez's use of ethylene gas. Although similar work has been done with acetylene gas in Hawaii by Collins (published in 1935) and in Australia by Lewcock (made known in 1937), the difference in climate and soil conditions make ethlene more effective in Florida than Hawaii."

"These facts I had been aware of through the friendship of Dr.W.C. Cooper, plant physiologist (member of the Experimental Station of the Dept. of Agriculture in Orlando, Florida) whose interest in forcing pineapple blooms coincided with mine of getting other bromeliads to bloom prematurely. We made many experiments with bromeliads, such as aechmea, vriesea, billbergia and quesnelia, using the carbide method and the acetylene were more predictable. Later we collaborated on the idea of a predictable forced bloom for a very special occasion."

" In the summer of 1939 on my first plant collecting expedition into Brazil I had the great pleasure of discovering a new bromeliad (along with many others) belonging to the genus Aechmea, which because it was such a striking plant of light green leaves embossed by black splotches with its flower head of orange bracts topped by white flowers, I made the request of Dr Lyman Smith of Gray Herbarium at Harvard who was making all identifications of my collected material, to name this particularly beautiful plant for the city of Orlando, Orange County, Florida, which is my home. Although he said this was a bit irregular in the rules of botanical nomenclature, botanists of old have done it for even less appropriate reasons. Orlando, whose city and school colours are orange and white was, as Dr Smith said, fast becoming the home of the world's largest collection of living bromeliads, my collection alone containing hundreds of different species."

I was very anxious to make public to the city of Orlando this unusual plant and chose the propitious time of the 1941 Annual Meeting of the State Horticultural Society to give out the announcement. To make complete the effectiveness of the presentation, I wanted to have the plant in full bloom with its orange bracts and white flowers. So, on March 4th, six weeks before the convention, with the assistance of Dr Cooper acting as anaesthetist in this delicate operation, the ethylene gas was administered to two of these beautiful plants by placing them in a special room where a continuous flow of atmosphere of 1 part of ethylene to 1000 parts of air was kept constant for a period of twenty-four hours. Our patients were given every care and consideration and watched carefully. Suddenly during the first week in April we had the great thrill of seeing the flower

head pushing up from the centre of both plants. And greater was the thrill to discover on the morning of the opening day of the convention, April 15<sup>th</sup>, that the flowers were actually open, which I was proud to announce to the convention that evening."

"When we decided to carry out this particular experiment I thought it best to use two plants, one a mature plant that had already developed a strong new side shoot but which I supposed had not yet bloomed as we had just a few months previous, brought it from Brazil, and the other, a half-mature plant which would not ordinarily bloom until December. Apparently those plants were as anxious to show off at the convention as I was to have them, even though the mature plant (which I later found on closer observation) had already bloomed before I brought it from Brazil. Not wishing to be outdone by the younger plant, this oldster promptly proceeded to send its flower head out of the new strong shoot attached to its side and indeed the display was much larger and more complete than the one on the smaller plant. This urge to reproduce its kind is difficult to repress. Mother Nature will have her way."

"This is only one example of what are the possibilities in forcing blooms of bromeliads. Mr T. Ralph Robinson, president of the Florida State Horticultural Society, and formerly senior physiologist in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, was very impressed with the timing of our forced bloom. He suggested that when making herbarium specimens of bromeliads which had no flower at the time of collecting, the living plants could be forced and identification made, long before the normal bloom would appear."

"Mr Robinson himself has done some definite work in forcing blooms, by ethylene treatment for pineapple breeding work from immature plants to hasten the making of reciprocal crosses, work that led to his suggesting the enlistment of Dr Cooper's aid in securing bloom in time for the meeting of the Horticultural Society. He was particularly interested in the success of this first attempt with an ornamental bromeliad, as he invited me to give the feature lecture at the opening meeting of the society."

"Thus man adds his knowledge to the affairs of the plant world, in an effort to keep one step ahead of Mother Nature."

*Members will remember Mrs. P. Reeves answered the Vriesea and Guzmania extra pupping method in our Jan/Feb issue. The lady also lives in Orlando, Florida.*

## Combined Show Competition Results 1998





Class	Plant	Entrant
1 Tillandsia	1st. T.caput-medusae hybrid	D&J Upton
2 Tillandsia in Flower or Spike	1st. T.cyanea X lindenii	L&O Trevor
3 Vriesea in Flower or Spike	1st. V.Margaret Ruth 2nd. V.Charlotte 3rd. V.Lucille variegata	L&O Trevor L&O Trevor L&O Trevor
4 Vriesea Decorative Foliage	1st. V.hieroglyphica X fosteriana 2nd. V.platynema 3rd. V.saundersii hyb.albomarginata	L&O Trevor L&O Trevor B&M Paulsen
5 Guzmania	1st. G.sanguinea X wittmackii lilac 2nd. G.Broadview 3rd. G.Marbella	L&O Trevor L&O Trevor L&O Trevor
6 Other Tillandsioideae	no entries	
7 Tillandsioideae in Flower or Spike	1st. V.Christiane 2nd. G.Luna 3rd. G.wittmackii 'Rood'	L&O Trevor L&O Trevor L&O Trevor
8 Cryptanthus	1st. C.'Kit Hilbers' 2nd. C. Cloud Cover 3rd. C. Snow Flake	B&M Paulsen B&M Paulsen B&M Paulsen
9 Billbergia	1st. B.Halleluja 2nd. B.Pink Patches 3rd. B. Catherine Wilson	M.Symmons D&J Upton N&L Weir
10 Aechmea	1st. A.Mexicana flava-marginata 2nd. A.fasciata 'Morgana'	L&O Trevor L&O Trevor
11 Neoregelia	1st. N.Amen 2nd. N.concentrica Bennie 3rd. N.Aussie Dream (Orange Glow)	B&M Paulsen N.Freeman L&O Trevor
12 Niniature Neoregelia	1st. N.Sweet Nellie #1 2nd. N.cyanea 3rd. N.Sweet Nellie #2	N.Freeman B&M Paulsen N.Freeman
13 Nidularium	no entries	





14 Intergeneric	1st. Neophytum Galactic Warrior	L&O Trevor
	2nd Guzvriesea Marion	L&O Trevor
15 Other Bromelioideae	1st. Canistrum triangulare	N&L Weir
	2nd. Quesnelia marmorata	N&L Weir
16 Bromelioideae in Flower	no entries	
17 Hectia/Dyckia	1st. D.leptostachya	B&M Paulsen
	2nd. D.fosteriana 'Betty Fennell'	B&M Paulsen
	3rd. D.brevifolia	B&M Paulsen
18 Pitcairnia	no entries	
19 Other Pitcairnioideae	no entries	
20 Specimen - any genus 3 or more connected mature plants.	1st. T.ehlersiana	D&G Andersen
	2nd. Neo.fireball X ampullacea	N&L Weir
21 Novice-any genera Mary Grasselli Award	1st. Neo.Rosy Morn	C.Basic
	2nd. T.gardeneri	P. Kesby
	3rd. G. 'Vulcan' X gloriosa	C&D Cutcliffe
22 Bromeliad Decorative Pot	1st. V.Christiane	L&O Trevor
	2nd. Neo.tristis fleur	N&L Weir
23 Bromeliad Decorative mounting	1st. T.magnusiana	P.O'Dea
24 Miniature Display not to exceed 1m	1st. Neo-olens cv 'Vulcan'	D&J Upton
	2nd. Cryptanthus on wood	D&J Upton
25 Novelty Display not to exceed 1m	1st. 'Snake'	D&J Upton
	2nd. 'Pretty as a Picture'	D&J Upton
26 Floral Display cut Bromeliad flowers berries or bracts	1st. 'Summer'	O.Trevor
	2nd. 'Winter'	O.Trevor
27 Floral Display Making the most of one inflorescence	1st. Guz.lingulata	O.Trevor
28 Best Tillandsioideae	Nez Nisso Memorial Trophy	L&O Trevor
29 Best Bromelioideae	Hudson Perpetual Trophy	M.Symmons
30 Best Cryptanthus	Grace Goode Perpetual	B&M Paulsen
31 Best Pitcairnioideae		B&M Paulsen
32 Reserve Champion of the Show		M.Symmons
33 Champion Bromeliad of the Show		L&O Trevor
34 Tom Schofield Memorial Award	Vriesea vinicolor	L&O Trevor

**NEWSLETTER**

 Forthcoming Events 
  Member's Forum 
  Show Reports  
 Society News

**Newsletter**

Monthly Meetings

16th. July **Mini Show**

Commentary by the Judges.

Class

1. Billbergia species and hybrids
  2. Vriesea species and hybrids
  3. Pitcairnioides not listed elsewhere
- Advanced – Intermediate - Novice.  
 - Talk on books & 'Gossip from the North Coast' – Bob Paulsen.

20th. August **Popular Vote**

Any genus, any species

Advanced – Intermediate - Novice

Plant commentary

- Plant of the Month 'V' &amp; 'W'

MONSTER RAFFLE (see page 16)

- Novice growers class – Len Trevor

7.30pm sharp .

- 'Let's talk about Aechmeas'.

Olive Trevor

Aechmea photo slides

**Study Group Meetings**

25th July 7.00am

29th. August 7.00am

Venue- 232 Canvey Rd. Ferny Grove

**Show Reports**

Popular Vote – 21st. May

Advanced

1st. L&O Trevor - *Neo. Bobby Dazzler*2nd. D&J Upton - *T. streptophylla hybrid*

Intermediate

1st. M. Symmons - *Neophytum Burgundy*2nd. R. Cross - *Bill. Afterglow*

Novice

1st. C&D Cutcliffe - *Neo. concentrica albo marginata*2nd. I&D Hole - *Neo. Rohers Best***Show Reports**

Popular Vote – 18th June

Advanced

1st. D&J Upton – *T. deppeana*

2nd. (four way tie)

R. Paulsen - *B. nutans hybrid*R. Paulsen - *C. Charmain Price*N. Ryan - *T. streptophylla*D&J Upton - *Neo. pauciflora*

Intermediate

1st. B. Cross - *B. porteana*2nd. B. Cross - *G. Ruby*

Novice

1st. C&D Cutcliffe - *V. platynema*

X saundersii

2nd. I&D Hole - *O. gurkenii*

Plants on tables May &amp; June Meetings

*Neoregelias; Takamura X Grande, Bobs Baby**Billbergia; nutans saundersii, Rube,**Pink Patches, Elegant**Vriesea; carslbad,**Ronnbergia; petersii,**Tillandsia; araujei, bulbosa carmineai,**duratii, flabellata X fasciculata, tenuifolia,**pseudobaileyi, punctulata, funkiana, fasciculata*many varieties of *ionantha, geminiflora, jalisco-**monticola, hildae*; many more tillandsias

too numerous to list.

**Centrefold Photographs**

A selection of plants from the Combined Show.

1. SHOW CHAMPION

*V. hieroglyphica X fosteriana*

2. RESERVE CHAMPION

*B. Hallelujah*3. *G. sanguinea X wittmackii*

4. Section of sale plants

5. 'Summer' floral arrangement

6. *Neo. Amen*7. *Cry. Kit Hilbers'*

8. 'Snake' novelty display

## Newsletter – continued

The President of the Ipswich Bromeliad Society, Mr. Allan Freeman, invited Brisbane members (B.S.Q.Inc.) to their Society's May general meeting, thirteen members accepted the invitation. Rather than just talk about bromeliads, it was decided to show our Ipswich hosts photo slides plus a commentary. The slides covered beautiful plants, Australian Bromeliad Conferences and bus trips, also some of our early shows displaying bromeliads. Memories came flooding back to delight each and every one of us. The supper was delicious, congratulations to the Ipswich Bromeliad Society for a great evening.

---

The R.N.A. & I. Show Display – Thursday 6th to Saturday 15th August. Members are requested to assist with plants for the display. Set up commences from 4pm on Wednesday 5th, for enquiries please contact our Show Organiser Mr. Bob Cross. Show Stewards are needed, if you can assist please contact the Roster Steward Joy Upton, or our Secretary, Dorothy Cutcliffe at the July general meeting.

---

During the May and June general meetings members voted to donate plants for a MONSTER RAFFLE. All proceeds will be forwarded to the Cairns Bromeliad Study Group Inc. in aid of the 10th Australian Bromeliad Conference. Members are asked to donate quality plants to ensure the raffle is a success. The MONSTER RAFFLE will be held during our August general meeting.

---

Members are invited to attend our next field day to be held at the garden residence of Mr. Bob Cross, our Society President. Saturday 29th August 1PM 23 Queenstown Avenue, Boondall. Ph: 3265 4364

---

Do you have a story to tell? After belonging to a Bromeliad Society for ANY length of time, it has to be impossible to say NO! In the next edition of Bromeliaceae we shall begin publishing 'My Bromeliad Story'. Members are not asked to write a book. Perhaps a page or two, it depends on you, anything related to bromeliads; why are bromeliads important to you, how did you first become a collector? Or perhaps you may have had an experience similar to Liz Rowland's 'Good Deed' (see Jan/Feb 1998 issue). Sign your name, however a pen name is acceptable. Address your work to the Editor C/- Doug Upton, 101 Jerrang Street, Indooroopilly 4068.

---

All articles, competition results programme details and other items of interest for publication must be in the hands of the editor by the following dates :

September – October Edition.....20th August  
November – December Edition.....15th October

## Letters to the Editor

I have to quote from a letter published in the last issue page 11 'Letters to the Editor'. "I like reading the letters you receive, I wonder what you have got that other Editors haven't got. Why do people write to you?"

Putting aside the many 'thought provoking articles' Mr. Butcher has contributed to this Journal, I wonder if he realizes his letter to the Editor has put him among a company of people who write to this section of Bromeliaceae, and as such, he is now in a position to answer his own question.

Allowing sufficient time for Mr. Butcher to recover from this realization he might like to answer on behalf of the many who write to the Editor.

S&L Cooper  
South Brisbane.

---

I thought you would like a bit of a break! You are always answering questions in the 'All and Sundry', so I've decided to help out. I found this question and answer in an old Bromeliad book. I think it's pretty good, hope you find it worth the postage stamp. The question....I brought some *Vriesea* seeds on your recommendation but I am afraid someone will have to wheel me down in a wheelchair to see them bloom. They are now four months old and about 1/4 inch high. How many years do they take to bloom? Are they all like this or is my culture incorrect? A little warning with a life expectancy of twenty years on what seed to grow and expect to see in flower before passing on to the land where bromeliads grow on one's halo would not go amiss. From Australia.

The answer....Dear Down-Hearted from Down-Under. If your four month old *Vriesea* seedlings are 1/4 inch high – all I can say is that you are doing well by them and that you have no need to despair. Also, if you keep out of the way of fast moving locomotives, man-eating sharks, and avoid eating pickles with your ice cream, there is no reason in the world why you will not see your *Vrieseas* in flower.

Peter Carrol  
North Queensland.

*Thank you Peter, your help is certainly appreciated. Yes I think it is worth the postage stamp.*

*Ed.*

---

I'm writing this in response to the letter from Derek Butcher in the last issue of Bromeliaceae. Derek you have misconstrued what I said, perhaps others may have done so too. I wrote of my specimen plant *Vriesea vagans*, i.e. it is a large plant of many connected plants forming a specimen. In fact, the number of connected plants is in excess of fifty. They are truly *Vr.vagans* as you have described, (*Vr.vagans* should be 25-30cm in diameter and the leaf-sheaths very dark.)

## Letters to the Editor - continued

The plant is growing in a ten inch hanging basket among my many large specimen plants, all in excess of one metre in diameter. The largest of all is *Vr.flammea*, now so large I can't lift it by myself. I also have numerous *neoregelia* of this size. To achieve these specimens I never repot or remove off-shoots~ each plant continues to multiply and in time reaches what I have called 'my specimen plants'. The plants have grown so large they entirely cover their containers. All of my plants get foliant fertilizer once a week, and~ like Olive & Len Trevor, I DO totally believe "You've got to feed them Derek!" They all hang happily on a Hills clothes hoist in a shed covered by 50% shade cloth. I'm well aware of the difficulties you would have to grow such plants in South Australia, but in the Sunshine State plants of this size can be achieved in ten years or less with the sensible use of fertilizers.

Des Andersen  
Caloundra Qld.

I liked Kathy Dorr's article 'Hybridizing', I agree with you, indeed a very knowledgeable person. Her article was informative and descriptive, technical but quite easy for the novice (like myself) to read and understand. Let's have more articles like this one.

Terry  
Grafton~ NSW.

Derek Butcher and Interested Member have both asked the question, 'What does the Study Group Study?'

I am not a member of this group, only because it's not convenient for me to attend their Saturday meetings, I've got to work. I've read reports of their activities (admittedly not many) but, I fail to understand why there is a need for these two persons to make such a fuss over it.

What I'd like to suggest Interested Member should attend a couple of the group's meetings (disguised of course) take careful notes of the goings on report them to Derek, and then both (together) can expose what the Study Group study.

When all of this nonsense is over and done with, let's ALL get back to where our true interests lie, and I quote - (a) To promote good fellowship among all people interested in Bromeliad culture and in horticulture generally. (b) To further the knowledge and advancement of all that pertains to Bromeliads including their natural history, cultivation and hybridisation.

Martin  
Toowong, Qld.

*When Martin wrote, 'admittedly not many' I am sure he was referring to the Group's Reports and not their activities.*

Ed.

## All and Sundry

Q/. Chromosomes are known to control all of the growth, development and functions of tissues pertaining to our bromeliad plants. Chromosomes are composed of a number of separate chemical materials that aren't fully understood. These materials are termed genes. Each gene or group of genes is supposed to control or influence characteristics we would like to produce and combine in a progeny when we cross pollinate. To date I've been unable to produce anything that suggests a combination of the parent plants. Why is it difficult to reproduce the vibrant colour of one plant to the perfect shape of another?

A/. Biology – growth, reproduction, structure, a complex field for the layman such as myself. When reading more or less fundamental botany reports and articles, I am in desperate need of explanatory footnotes and an appended glossary to fully understand some of the unfamiliar botanical concepts and terms. Even then, my limitations necessitate a dictionary close at hand. Nevertheless you have touched upon a subject that is of immense interest to me and society members, so, I shall endeavour to answer from what I have learnt. In your letter, or should I say, reading between the lines, I suspect you are familiar with genetics.

In truth, bromeliads and all plant life are intricate pieces of nature, influenced by their environment and an urge to survive, but also limited by the depth of their genetic make-up. Putting together the reproduction organs of two bromeliads belonging to a species, we expect transmission of some of the plants qualities to the progeny, at times it can happen for us, other times disappointment.

In your letter you mentioned chromosomes are composed of a number of separate chemical materials. Well then you must also be aware there are uncountable genes present on the chromosomes, some of which may be dominant, some recessive, others intermediate while still others may be expressed only when in combination in certain arrangements with other genes. The final combination may produce inferior or a superior development, and your progeny may succeed or succumb accordingly.

Almost every book on growth and reproduction informs the reader – genes determine the seen and the unseen characteristics of our plants. Also, many hybridizers have been confounded by the appearance, in the progeny, of traits they did not see in either parent plant. Because of the unseen in our plants, it is impossible to foretell with any certainty, what we will produce in our hybridization work.

Of course, this does not mean you will never reproduce the vibrant colour to the

perfect shape. In fact something of what you wanted to produce could already be there hidden in those disappointing progeny. Have you thought it may require the selfing of the F1 generation progeny to get the desirable reassortment combination that you are seeking and which did not appear in the F1 generation – why not give it a try. On one hand there are no certainties, on the other your experimentation could be sufficiently rewarded.

Plant breeders will wish you every success and advise accurate records should be kept. Questionable plants in cultivation today do nothing for bromeliad horticulture.

Q/. We have seen colour slides of bromeliads growing in full sun in their natural habitat, they always look healthy and colourful. In nature the lower dead leaves remain attached to the plant and this can spoil the overall beauty of an area. Under cultivation we remove these dead leaves and it does enhance the visual appeal of our gardens. However I believe our plants never attain the fine stature and colour of those in habitat. Our bromeliads grown here in full sun have horrible burn marks~ yet on those high rocky cliffs in their habitat, they seem to be unaffected by the sun. Last year we landscaped our garden with bromeliads, it was a mistake, we are unable to grow our bromeliads in the sun, can you advise? I have enclosed a list of bromeliads used in the garden.

A/. In landscaped gardens many plants are grown in full sun, however with some plants, full sun does not mean subjected to a day of continuous exposure. Many plants will benefit with some relief. There are occasions when dappled sunlight through a tree or shrub can offer partial shade during the hottest hours of daylight. These areas are suitable for a number of bromeliads, your listed plants should grow well in such areas. Can I suggest you include dyckias and hechtias and other similar types of xerophytic and saxicolous bromeliads. You have written of bromeliads in habitat growing in full sun on high rocky cliffs. Generally speaking the higher the altitude the higher the moisture content of the air and it will be found that the resistance of the plant to the sun is greater. When we decide to landscape with bromeliads this is great, but we should know which plants will tolerate 'full sun'. There is certainly a need to acclimatize before placing our plants in an open garden. Never expose your plants directly from the protection of the shade house to an open sunny position.

Q/. After my *Vriesea* 'White Line' flowered it produced two pups. Several weeks later I removed both and potted them in a good open mix. I expected the mother

plant to pup again and it did, it produced another two. My plant would seem to pup easily and it's not the problem, my problem is that the first two pups have died. One of them even produced its own pup before they died. I don't want to let my plant cluster, I want to produce more plants so I need to remove the new pups. Are V.'White Line' pups hard to grow, is there something extra I need to do?

A/. Your V.'White Line' does not have special needs over other vrieseas. Should any new off-shoot die my first reaction would be to ask myself was I too hasty in removing the off-shoot – was it of reasonable size ? Because one of the off-shoots produced a pup, suggests it was not strong enough to withstand an injury it may have received upon removal. Remember off-shoots should have between six to eight leaves before removal. As both of your off-shoots died it is probably safe to assume they were too young, do not be in a hurry to remove the latter two. Also do not plant them too deeply.

P.S. Vriesea 'White Line' cv. of (*X poelmanii*), U.S. Patent Plant #6.619.

Q/. I have heard *Puya raimondii* could become extinct. Very few people have seen it in flower as it takes over one hundred years to develop an inflorescence. Years ago Indian sheep herders destroyed many of these puyas because their sheep got entangled in the lower spiny leaves, we do not hear if this destruction has continued. Because of its size and the length of time to maturity, people have lost interest. When my husband and I visited the United States (some years ago now) a mural painted on a wall in the Chicago Natural History Museum showed this magnificent bromeliad among scattered volcanic rocks. I hope this puya will survive mans destructive nature, don't you agree ?

A/. I have no information of Indian sheep herders destroying this plant however I can remember reading where some protective measures were instigated to protect *Puya raimondii* in Bolivia and regions of the Peruvian Andes. I also remember reading, seed of *Puya raimondii* has been distributed to many countries. Perhaps the story of becoming extinct is a rumour without confirmation. The mural painted on the wall of the Natural History Museum in Chicago was painted by a museum staff artist E. John Pfiffner.

*Puya raimondii* was formerly called *Pourretia gigantea* by the man who first discovered it in 1874 in the Peruvian Andes near Aija, Armond Raimond. It was described by Harms in 1923 and renamed *Puya raimondii*.

## \* BRISBANE BROMELIAD CENTRE \*

### HUGE SELECTION

Aechmeas, Vrieseas, Guzmanias, Neoregelias, Nidulariums, Tillandsias,  
together with a variety of rarer species and hybrids.

Barbara & Lorraine

342 Becket Road

BRIDGEMAN DOWNS

BRISBANE 4035

Phone: (07) 32632516

☎ Visitors Welcome ☎

## > 'BROMAGIC' BROMELIAD NURSERY <

421 Hunchy Road, Palmwoods Qld 4555 (Australia)

Phone/Fax (07) 5445 0441

Specialists in m/order. Quality offsets or advanced plants at affordable prices.

***Always new varieties available***

Send \$1 (stamps) for pricelist. Visitors welcome by appointment.

### BROMELIAD VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

e-mail [bromagic@ozemail.com.au](mailto:bromagic@ozemail.com.au)

Web site: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~bromagic/>

## \* FOREST DRIVE NURSERY \*

*Located at Repton south of Coffs Harbour*

Specialising in species and varieties from mostly imported stock.

Tillandsias to titillate even the most discerning fanciers.

Beautiful Vrieseas including silver species,

Guzmanias, Aechmeas, Neoregelias, etc.

VISITORS WELCOME - PLEASE PHONE FIRST ON (066) 554 130

☎ Mail Order list - send S.A.E. ☎

Peter Tristram

C/- Repton, N.S.W. 2454

**THE OLIVE BRANCH**

Len & Olive Trevor  
232 Canvey Rd  
FERNY GROVE QLD 4053

**Specialising in hybrid Vrieseas, Aechmeas, variegated Neoregelias, Skotak hybrids, Aussie Dream and varieties, and other quality bromeliads.**

Send large S.A.E. for list

**VISITORS WELCOME BY APPOINTMENT**

Please phone first on (07) 3351 1203

**PINEGROVE BROMELIADS****SPECIALISING:**

Neoregelias, Aechmeas, Tillandsias, Vrieseas, Guzmanias,  
Rare Species, Hybrids

**\* VISITORS WELCOME \***

Opportunity to view over 8000 different species and hybrids - OPEN 7 DAYS

Send large SAE for mail order list - Phone: (066) 834188

June & John Buchanan  
P.O. Box 61, Pine Street.  
WARDELL. NSW 2477.

**M.J. PATERSON****LARGE RANGE OF BROMELIADS FOR SALE**

Specialising in our own hybrids

**Neoregelias & Tillandsias**

☎ Do call in if you are up this way but please phone first ☎

M.J. Paterson  
212 Sandy Creek Road  
GYMPIE 4570  
Phone: (07) 5482 3308



## RAEMAUR PLANT FARM



Specialist Growers of Tillandsia Seedlings.  
Hard grown to suit all Australian conditions.

Specimen Plants, Seedlings and  
surplus seed sold when available.

WRITE FOR A FREE PRICE LIST TO:

Raemaur Plant Farm

P.O.Box 115 Hurstbridge 3099.

Ph: (03)9718 2887 Fax:(03)9718 2760



## Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc.



Greeting Cards For Sale

Ideal for corresponding with friends and fellow bromeliad enthusiasts

Featuring colour photographs of *Guzmania danielli*, *G. Orangeade*, *Vriesea Asahi*, *Vriesea Hybrids* (group), *Tillandsia bulbosa*, *T. duratii*, *Aechmea cucullata*, *A. servitensis v. exigua*, *Portea fosteriana*, *Neoregelia Hybrids* (group).

The video 'Bromagic' is now available. Running time is 95 minutes.

Society Badges are now available.

'Bromagic' Video at	\$45.00 each
Greeting Cards at	\$1.00 each
Society badges at	\$5.00 each

Contact our Secretary.

### Books for Sale

	Member	Non Member
'Bromeliads for Everyone' by Bea Hansen	\$2.50	\$3.00
'Bromeliads for Everyone 2' by Bea Hansen	\$11.50	\$13.00
'Bromeliads in Australia' by Brom Society of NSW	\$2.00	\$3.00
'Growing Bromeliads' by Brom Society Australia	\$11.00	\$12.50
'Genus Tillandsia' by Paul Isley III	\$3.00	\$3.50
'International Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids' by B.S.I.	\$3.50	\$4.00
'A Bromeliad Glossary' by B.S.I.	\$3.50	\$4.00
'Bromeliads - A Cultural Manual' by B.S.I.	\$4.00	\$4.50
'Brom. VII Conference Proceedings' by BSQ Inc. (1993)	\$20.00	\$22.00
'Brom. III Conference Proceedings' by BSQ Inc (1985)	\$10.00	\$11.00
'Hybridists Handbook & Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids' by Derek Butcher (3rd Edition)	\$6.00	\$7.00
'Distributional Checklist - of the Genus Tillandsia' by Lloyd Kiff	\$23.00	\$25.50
Plus Postage and Packing.		

