

Bromeliaceae



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The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc.

P. O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley
Queensland, Australia, 4006 .

Home Page www.bsq.org.au

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 VICE PRESIDENT Mrs. Norma Davis Phone 07 3271 1326
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 Photography Mr. Doug Upton Phone 07 3378 3511
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The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. Society Badges

CONTACT MR. CHESTER CUTCLIFFE

Ph 07 3386 0505 or contact him at the meetings

Bromeliaceae COPY DEADLINES

March / AprilFebruary 10th, 2004

May / June.....April 10th, 2004

Please forward all copy to The Editor, 3 Derribong St., Boondall, Qld, 4034

Phone 07 3265 1547 Email edbromsocq@ozemail.com.au

Electronic copy in RTF or MS Word 7.0 or earlier- Times New Roman

Photographs to Doug Upton, 101 Jerrang St. Indooroopilly, Qld, 4068

Phone 07 3378 3511

Society Diary

NEWS

REPORTS

EVENTS

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the Third Thursday of each month except December, at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, Brisbane, commencing 8 p.m.

Classes for beginners commence at 7.30 p.m.

FIELD DAYS are held regularly in the gardens of members as advised .

MEMBERSHIP FEES Family \$20, Single \$15 pa

The BSQ Web Page can be accessed at the www.bsq.org.au

Annual Subscription

Members are reminded that the annual fees were due and payable on the 1st of January, 2004. Prompt payment will greatly assist the treasurer. Members who are unfinancial at the A.G.M. will be ineligible to vote or to nominate for management committee positions.

Members who have allowed their membership to lapse will not receive any further issues of *Bromeliaceae*.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

MEMBERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Annual General Meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. will be held on Thursday, 19th of February, 2004 commencing at 8 PM in the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm.

Business to be conducted will be:- The Presidents Report, The Financial Report, The Election of Society Officers, The Election of the Management Committee and Election of the Auditor. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary on request and will be available prior to commencement of the AGM. In the event of insufficient nominations being received for each vacancy, nominations will be called from the floor.

..... Competition Results

November

Intermediate

First G & N Aizlewood *Canistrum seidelianum*

Second G & N Aizlewood *Vriesea platynema* 'Variegata'

Advanced

First D & J Upton *Nidularium* 'Raru'

Second D & J Upton *Vriesea ospinae*

Competition Results 2003 Aggregate

Mini Shows

Novice Joe Green

Intermediate Yves Daniel & Lindsay Gerchow

Advanced Mike Symmons

Popular Vote

Novice B. Kable

Intermediate Yves Daniel & Lindsay Gerchow

Advanced Doug & Joy Upton

Convention Raffle

First Yves Daniel

Second Dr. Wardle

Third Mr. Green, Buderim

PROGRAM**January:****MINI- SHOW**Class 1: *Aechmea* - species and hybridsClass 2: *Vriesea* - species and hybridsClass 3: *Dyckia* - species and hybrids

Class 4: Any Other Mature (flowering) Bromeliad - species and hybrids.

Neoregelia ampullaceae, *Neo. punctatissima*, *Neo. tigrina*, and their hybrids. Members are requested to bring plants from the above list to the meeting for display and discussion.

February:**POPULAR VOTE:** Any Genus - species or hybrid

AGM

Slide Show by Doug Upton

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Bus Trips and Field Days Calender 2004

All enquiries, bookings and deposits where applicable, for the Field Days and Bus Trips should be directed to:-

Nancy Kickbusch, BSQ Field Day Co-Coordinator. Phone 07 3300 1704

Field Day

The first field day for the year will be held on Saturday, 3rd of April at the home of Jim and Beryl Bachelor, 10 Kevin Street, Capalaba.

9AM -12 PM. Sales of plants from 9.30 to 11.30 only. Cultural talks.

Morning tea will be served. Members, please bring a plate.

A Weekend Bus Trip with Nancy***Bromeliads and Surprises*** 15 & 16th May

The coach will leave at 6.30 AM from Roma Street opposite the Police Station; with a pickup at the Palm Dale Shopping Centre, Logan Road at 6.45AM

First Stop: The property of Robert and Melissa Dilling, Fedral, N.S.W. Please bring your own lunch.

The rest of the weekend is for the *Surprises*

Only 45 seats are available. Bookings with a \$50 deposit will be taken at the January meeting. There is a firm *No deposit No Seat* policy .

First in Best dressed.

If you liked the bus trip in October 2003, you will love this one.

All money to be paid in full by the March Meeting.

The total cost estimated at \$130. To be confirmed.

Field Day Bus Trip

Date 28th August 9AM to 12PM

Location The home of Yves Daniel and Lindsay Gerchow
7 Orme Road, Buderim.

Sales 10 to 11.30 AM only.

Morning Tea; Members please bring a plate

Lunch 12.30 PM at the Waterfront Hotel, Bli Bli.

After lunch, *for bus patrons only*, a surprise visit to a lovely garden and nursery.

The bus will leave from the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm at 7.30AM with a pickup at the BIG W, Gympie & Webster Roads, Chermiside at 7.45AM. Return about 5.30PM

The total cost is expected to \$25.00. To be confirmed.

Field Day

The last field day for the year will be held on the 30th of October at the Olive Branch, the home of Olive and Len Trevor, 232 Canvey Road, Upper Kedron from 9AM to 2PM, commencing with morning tea. Members please bring a plate. Plant sales from 10AM to 12PM only.

Lunch will commence at 12.30PM

There will be talks on various aspects of bromeliad culture and Conducted Tours of the bush houses.

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The Presidents Page

New Year

I trust that all members have had a healthy and happy start to 2004. The summer season has produced a range of variable weather conditions, with wet and dry, hot and cool, humid and dry conditions all evident during the period. In our collection these variations seem to have produced accelerated growth and abundant flowering in our bromeliads. The removal of offsets and potting up the new plants has made it a busy time. Now that the festive season has passed there should be more time for these tasks.

Annual General Meeting

The election of officers and the appointment of stewards will be held at the AGM. This activity will be held, as is customary, during the February general meeting. It is a time to reflect on what contribution we can each make to the Society during 2004.

Meeting Venue

As advised at the November general meeting the Management Committee has decided to return to the Church Hall for our monthly meetings. This was decided after an extended trial using the Church for the meetings and the hall for plant sales. Difficulties associated with plant security and the movement of members between the two areas has forced the closure of the trial. Plant sales will be conducted alongside the hall adjacent to the covered courtyard as has been the case in the past.

Bromeliads XIII Conference

This year will be one of increased activity for the Conference organising committee. Their work to date has set the stage for the conference to be among the many successful Conferences staged in the past. A successful conference is measured in many ways: By the numbers of delegates attending; the quality of the formal lectures and presentations; the diversity of venues to be visited etc.

Not least will be the informal periods where old friends can meet and renew friendships and new friendships will be made that will stand the test of time. This aspect has become a valued part of the activity and we hope that a good number of our new members will join with us and share in these activities in October, 2005.

John Higgins

The Editors Desk

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Opinions expressed in this publication are those of individual contributors and may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. or of the Editor.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all information in their articles.

Email address edbromsocq@ozemail.com.au

QUO VADIS

BSQ 'Wither We Goest'

As we commence the thirty-seventh year of the Society's activities, it's an appropriate time to look at the accomplishments of BSQ Inc.: A "State of the Nation" as it were. An inventory of our current status leads to the next thought, 'Where do we want BSQ to be in the years ahead ?

Astute watchers of specialist societies will have observed that these groups have an evolutionary pathway with some well recognisable phases. In our case, incorporation marked the end of one of the phases and the beginning of a new one. As an incorporated organisation, there are many additional responsibilities for some of the office bearers:- notably the Secretary, President, and Treasurer.

The reality is however, that the committee is the '*Board of Directors*' with responsibilities similar to those of the Boards of large companies! Serious questions have to be addressed :- Bromeliads XIII, The spiralling cost of insurance; The ageing of our membership base; The ageing of our committee; Is the Society ripe for a takeover; covert or overt ??

With the AGM scheduled about five weeks away, now is an appropriate time for members to take a serious look at their talents and see whether they are prepared to take up a position on the committee and guide BSQ through the first decade of the 21st century.

"Ask not what the Society does for me !

Ask what I can do for the Society"

Peter Paroz

.....
The pineapple, *Ananus comosus*, was the first bromeliad cultivated in Europe.. It took some time for additional bromeliads to enter cultivation. It wasn't until 1776 that another bromeliad (*Guzmania lingulata*) was brought to Europe. *Aechmea fasciata* followed in 1828 and *Vriesea splendens* in 1840.

2003 TILLANDSIA WORKSHOP

This workshop attracted eight participants, including one from North Queensland. As was the case in 2002, a diverse range of topics was discussed. One participant outlined her success, since the 2002 workshop, in growing tillandsias from seed. She sows the seeds onto frames covered with insect screening. To help keep the seedlings moist, the frames are suspended over bowls of water, and enclosed in a plastic "tent". This structure consists of a plastic sheet (such as those sold to protect floors when one is painting walls or a roof) "draped" over a weldmesh frame.

The basic steps in growing tillandsias from seed were discussed. Points made included:

- Tillandsia seed readily blows away on the wind. One way to prevent this happening, is to place a nylon stocking over the seed capsules when they are approaching maturity (this event is usually "signalled" by the capsules changing colour from green to light brown). When the seed capsule opens, the seed will be trapped by the nylon stocking. However as the seed will stay dry, it is unlikely to experience fungal attack, such as could occur if a plastic bag (which tends to "trap" moisture), rather than a nylon stocking, was used.
- The seed can be sown on coconut fibre (coir), which is secured to a piece of flat polystyrene foam by a length of fishing line. The coconut fibre "pad" should be at least 5 mm, and preferably 10 mm, thick when compressed by the fishing line.

In hot, dry weather, the coconut fibre pads dry out rapidly. One way to slow the moisture loss is to place a plastic bag over the pad. However, do not close the bag's bottom, because this may stop the coconut fibre drying out for long periods of time, resulting in fungal attack.

Techniques for separating "tightly-packed" clumps of tillandsias were demonstrated. With the right technique, few, if any, offsets are damaged in this process.

The ideal growing conditions for *T. gardneri* were discussed, as several participants had experienced difficulties in growing it. The consensus was that it requires more moisture and shade than most other grey-leafed tillandsias.

One participant described her success in growing the variegated forms of *T. cyanea*. These plants, while beautiful when well grown, are often regarded as "fussy" plants. One growing "tip" is to use rainwater, instead of bore water or reticulated water, as the plant appears very sensitive to the amount of dissolved salts in the water.

The many types of *T. ionantha* were discussed. While there are five botanically recognised varieties or forms, there are many other clones with significant differences, for example in growth habit, between them. Further, while it is sometimes stated that this species only flowers in spring or early summer, it is possible to select clones which, collectively, will flower for at least nine months of the year.

There was a presentation on the different clones of *T. streptophylla*. Of particular interest, was the contrast between a clone which is 10 cm tall at flowering, and one which is usually 40 cm high at flowering (at least in southern Queensland). Another interesting point is that the tips of the plant's leaves become progressively more "curly", as the plant dries out.

One participant demonstrated how to secure tillandsias to wooden "mounts" using various types of glue. One interesting point was that while solvent-based glues (of the Liquid-Nails type) provide good long-term results, they often need 24 hours (after application) to achieve the strength required to firmly secure the plant to the mount. Two ways of addressing this issue are to provide short-term support through either a rubber band, or using glue from a "hot glue" gun.

There was also a discussion on the ideal attributes of a tillandsia "house". It was agreed that, ideally, there needed to be good air circulation, while the structure should be at least three metres high. Another major point was that as tillandsias grow in a wide range of conditions in their natural habitat, perhaps several "houses", each with a different set of growing conditions, were needed!

The next tillandsia workshop will be held on 18 September 2004. Telephone Bob Reilly (07 3870 8029) for further information.

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There is no need to root offsets in a special potting mixture. Just plant them in the regular potting mixture you use for that type of bromeliad.

Bob Reilly

.....

Bromeliads, orchids, palms, cycads, gingers, ferns, aroids. Bob Wilson grew them all, and grew them well.

So begins an account, by Bruce McAlpin, of Bob's work in Costa Rica after his retirement in the 1960's; and of his development of a field station at 4000 ft for the Organization for Tropical Studies.

Members wishing to read more about this extraordinary plantsman are referred to 'The BROMELIADVISORY' Issues, September & October 2003 which are available from our library.

Cheryl Basic's Field Day

Our Coach Captain, Stephen, arrived at 7.30am, and we started from the Uniting Church, Merthyr Road on a showery forecast – a shower on the way to Valdora and one on the way home – in other words a great day! There were 45 of us assembled to look at Cheryl & Ralph's bromeliad and foliage collection in several "green houses". Their home is situated on the side of a hill with a NE aspect and their driveway is planted with lots of *Aechmea blanchetiana*, palms and succulents. The house overlooks the neighbouring cane fields in the valley flats, with a great panoramic view towards the coast.

On arrival, Cheryl had the kettle boiling and we participated in morning tea; and then across the paddock to the bottom green house where all the plants I wanted (needed?) were housed. Cheryl has a marvellous bromeliad collection as she imports from the USA and Hawaii. In her collection, she has an *Aechmea* 'Malva' which was a lovely mauvey purple. I am looking forward to owning one of those, if someone has a spare.

The shade houses nearest their home contain mostly neoregelias – many different colours and sizes. Fortunately, Cheryl had her pen and paper to enter up our wish lists, but she told me not to hold my breath. Ralph did the sausage sizzle expertly, and we adjourned to the verandah to enjoy the view and supped tea and coffee over a leisurely lunch. President John and Nancy Kickbusch thanked Cheryl and Ralph for their hospitality and congratulated them on their garden.

We continued on our way past the armoured reconstruction site from World War II on Yandina Creek Road to visit a palm place tropical nursery which had lots of different cycads, gingers and, of course, broms, as well as other foliage plants. Stephen showed us where Lake Wapa and Wapa Falls were, as well as the Observatory, and the education camp, "Warantha", for children.

At the Ginger Factory we all made bee-lines for the cool drinks and the ice cream parlour, etc. Across the road was a T-shirt factory and a macadamia product outlet.

Once again, it was a subdued lot for the run into Brisbane. My neighbour, Diane, won the raffle kindly donated by Nancy. These brom prizes were passed over to me as she was the only person on board who wasn't "brom mad". It was another well planned Field Day trip!

Full marks again to our organiser, Nancy Kickbusch.

Dorothy Cutcliffe

THE WOODBURN YOWIE

Most of us are well aware of the many uses of plants in various types of displays. But in Woodburn, NSW, they seem to have gone to the extreme.

Recently, I spent a weekend in northern New South Wales during which I had a most enjoyable few hours with June, John and Shane Buchanan in their Pinegrove Nursery and their forest of bromeliads. The next day, I visited Peter Tristram who showed me around his Forest Drive Nursery and his own hybrids at Repton.



On the way home, I drove up the Pacific Highway which winds its way along the banks of the Richmond River. I couldn't believe my eyes as I passed through the small town of Woodburn.

There, on the nature strip between the highway and the river, was the figure of a very large "man" standing near a half-grown emu - - and both appeared to be covered with Spanish Moss!! Some kilometres further on, I decided to make U-turn and go back to inspect.

No! My eyes were not deceiving me! But as well as a "man" and an emu covered with *T. usneoides*, there were all manner of Australian birds on the tree branches. It was a very pleasant riverside spot beside the busy highway.

It was quite obvious these figures were the work of The Copper Gallery which was opposite. The proprietor, Will Ponweiser, told me he had built his impression of the mythical Kilcoy Yowie some years ago and, because he had quite a lot of Old Man's Beard (as he called it) in his yard, he decided to cover the Yowie with it.

The *usneoides* on the emu makes it especially lifelike and, if one can dare say it, the same applies to the Yowie!

Will said he often has to replace the Spanish moss as it blows away with the wind and passing traffic. Woodburn's Yowie is well worth a stop when next you visit NSW.

Nicko (Ray Nicholson)

Variegated Cultivars That Are Sports

Because even the most stable of variegates sometimes loses variegation or changes the form of variegation we must look at the way that these cultivars are currently named so that they can easily be identified.

The only reference in the ICNCP rules is in Section 17.15 which states: "The words 'variety' (or var.) and 'form' may not be used in new cultivar epithets. However, when var. denotes variegated the epithet is established with the word 'variegated' written in full". This is not that informative perhaps because variegation plays a very small role in the general world of plant cultivars. Variegation is much more specialised in the Bromeliaceae where the following non-Latin adjectives could apply:-

- marginate (outside stripes)
- mediate (solid median stripe)
- variegate (varying width of stripes)
- striate (fine lines)

There are, of course, other adjectives that could be used but regrettably, I do not see us getting a general consensus on what ones to use.

The ICBN rules cover like-plants from the wild where the "normal" version is described at species level and the variegated form at the next level eg. *Aechmea coelestis* v. *albomarginata*. If you have a plant without variegations it becomes just *Aechmea coelestis*! This is easy to understand.

How Do We Follow the Instability of Cultivar Variegates?

The word 'Sport' has been in horticultural use for many years but has rarely been formally applied to Bromeliads. A 'Sport' is defined as a visible asexual mutation and occurs in bromeliads where offsets are different to the 'Mother' plant. To my mind there is a closer relationship between a 'Sport' and a 'Mother' plant than that between siblings in a grex and we should record this fact when it occurs.

While variegation can occur in the seed raising stage this is NOT included in this definition.

United States Plant Patent law covers all offsets of a patented plant whether sports or not but is broken by seed raising and this seems to be a firm basis to start from.

The phenomenon of 'Sporting' has become more prevalent in the past 10 years or so because of the avalanche of named variegated plants which are notoriously unstable. Just what do you do with an offset that is different from 'Mother'? To be strictly correct this should be destroyed but in reality they are not destroyed but even nurtured!



Neoregelia 'Pink Heart'



Neoregelia 'Piccolo'



Vriesea 'Lucille' variegata



Aechmea 'Ensign'



Guzmania Gisela



Guzmania (sanguinea x wittmackii)



Guzmania 'Georgia'

As an example, *Aechmea* 'Ensign' (See Baensch Blooming Bromeliads p44) should be an albo-marginate form of *Aechmea orlandiana*. It was raised by seed where the mutation occurred. Note that *Aechmea* 'Ensign' is not a sport of *Aechmea orlandiana*! A sport of *Aechmea* 'Ensign' is 'Reverse Ensign' which has a white median line. These will be linked in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry by a 'Sport' indicator. Any offset of *Aechmea* 'Ensign' which is not albo-marginate (or reverse) should in my mind be called *Aechmea* 'Ensign' sport until such time that it 'stabilises' and someone gives it a name. Even if it loses its variegation it should still be called *Aechmea* 'Ensign' sport and NOT *Aechmea orlandiana* because it still retains the erratic genes and could easily revert back to an *Aechmea* 'Ensign'.

Many of the registered variegated Neoregelias could well have developed as sports and not as siblings within a grex but the Registration form did not allow for this situation. This omission has now been rectified.

Plants that have sported directly from a species include *Billbergia* 'Perriam's Pride' which was originally *Billbergia distachia*.

So please use the word 'Sport' as a temporary measure to cover aberrant offsets. A more direct option is to use the epithet 'Novar' which indicates that a previously named variegated plant has lost its variegation and which could well be just a temporary aberration. For example *Vriesea* 'Gunther Novar' which has a propensity for losing its stripes!

This solution will make it easier for the 'Show Bench' to accept the inevitable non-stable plants that do not agree with the original description or photograph by the quick addition of an epithet. It will also help sellers (and purchasers!) of a plant to know its true relationship with its 'Mother' in that temporary period before possible new naming. Derek Butcher

.....

Although the pineapple is the only member of the family cultivated for food, several species including *Caroia* (*Neoglaziovia variegata*) are cultivated as a source of fibre. Pineapple stems are a source of the protein-digesting enzyme **bromelain** used as a meat tenderizer.

Because fresh pineapple also contains bromelain, it cannot be used in gelatine based molds since the enzyme breaks down the congealing proteins. Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) contains a tough, wiry core that was once used as a material for stuffing upholstery.

Bromeliads are Booming

Bromeliads are alive, well and booming in Queensland, Apart from our Society, there are a number of other bromeliad groups in Queensland benefiting from the current upsurge in interest in bromeliads. These are their stories.

The Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Association Inc.

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP Mackay - Central Queensland

This group was formed in March 2001 with 23 members attending our first meeting of the Bromeliad Group Mackay. As the group increased in membership it became obvious that we had to consider public liability insurance. Quite a few of our members belonged to the Pioneer River Orchid and Plant Association Inc. and after a few months of talking we blended into their club but still retaining our identity as the Bromeliad Study Group.

We meet every eight weeks at a different venue, usually a private garden where we hold group discussions, have a demonstration and plant sales or swapping. We have held to Bromeliad Mini Shows and this year we had 56 people attend the afternoon but a lot were reluctant to show their plants, believing they were not good enough to exhibit.

Our group is very enthusiastic about Bromeliads, seeking more information and sharing of knowledge with growers that can give us their time. We welcome anybody to our group to visit us and share your knowledge or ideas with us.

Mackay is experiencing water restrictions due to a lack of substantial rain over the past two to three years. A lot of us growers therefore have not had the opportunity to find out how our potting mixes may stand up to a true wet season.

Most of our members grow their collections in shadehouses and add colour to our gardens with our Bromeliads. Mackay's climate seems well suited to growing Bromeliads as we have very mild winters and lots and lots of sunshine.

If anybody is interested in visiting our members in Mackay please contact Jude Pullin who is the group coordinator on (07) 49 555 262.

Jude Pullin

The Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society Inc.

Bromeliads are alive and well on the Gold Coast with current membership at, 124 financial members and approximately 60 to 65 members attending meetings held at The Southport Community Centre, Lawson Street, Southport, on the 4th Saturday of each month. A wide range

of topics are covered by talks and demonstrations by members and guest speakers at the meetings; with a wide range of books from the Society Library available to members. Plant Sales begin at 12.30 p.m. with the business side of the meeting commencing at 1.15 p.m.

New members and visitors to the coast are always most welcome to attend with contacts being the President - Mr, Pat Ross Telephone No 5576 1186 OR the Secretary - Mrs. Narelle Aizlewood Telephone No. 5546 1161.

Members participate in Field Trips, garden visits, Shopping Centre Displays and plant sales of which there are four annually. Two being held at the Southport Park Shopping Centre and the other two at the Tweed Mall Shopping Centre.

2003 being our 25th year since the Society was founded in 1978, special Anniversary celebrations were held in September; and these included a giant plant display, plant sales, and a social get-together of members and guests from other plant societies.

Narelle Aizlewood

CAIRNS BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC. 1984 – 2004.

Verna and Robert Hudson formed the Cairns Bromeliad Study Group in May 1984, following their transfer from Brisbane to Cairns. The aim of the Group was “to promote and develop interest in bromeliads through friendship”. A few of the inaugural group are current members; others have relocated to southern districts.

Membership at close of 2003 was 101 financial members, including 21 country members and 5 juniors whose ages range from 7 to 11 years. Grace Goode is an Honorary Life Member for her assistance with “Bromeliads X” plus her services and dedication in promoting bromeliads.

For a few years, our growth had been stagnant until 1997 and with the decision to host the Tenth Australian Bromeliad Conference in Cairns, interest and membership has boomed. The conference was held at the Esplanade Tradewinds Hotel 26th – 30th August 1999 and was a huge success with total attendance of 158. We became an incorporated entity in May 1998 and changed our name to Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. in May 2002.

The median age of our members is 38 years - this also means some cannot attend every meeting due to family commitments but we now average over 30 and usually have at least two new members each month. They are a really happy group and are growing bromeliads to a very high standard – Cairns is the perfect climate to grow bromeliads.

Our meetings are held from 1.00 - 4.00pm on the first Saturday of the month from February and December is our Christmas Party. We still meet at member's homes and hope we can continue this practice for at least 2004 as it adds a warm dimension to the meetings, plus a good chance to check out plant growth and gain new ideas for our own gardens. Meetings include Popular Vote, learning segment and a beginner's class. We have a bi-monthly newsletter, field trips to Open Gardens and Display and Sales days
Lynn Hudson

The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc.

From a humble beginning about five years ago, our Society is powering along quite nicely thanks a very hard working committee. With the irrepressible Bob Paulsen at the helm, it makes for some very interesting meetings. We are averaging just under 90 at the last meeting. We hold our meetings at some of our client's and member's gardens. With a lot of bromeliads growing in a natural environment, this makes for very interesting meetings.

It's gratifying to see many members from as far a field as Toowoomba and the Gold Coast travelling up for the day. We also get a few notable visitors. The most recent was the Curator of the Sydney Botanical gardens, with other visitors from interstate and New Zealand.

We hold large raffles with interesting items other than plants. Our first show to be held in Buderim on the 1st and 2nd of May is sure to attract a good crowd; 28,000 vehicles a day pass through the town. This day we hope will give many people some insight what is happening in our Society.

Webb Site <http://www.sunshinecoastbromeliadsociety.com>

Yves Daniel

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Latitude and Day Length

South Latitude	Hours of Sunlight	
	Summer	Winter
15	12.9	11.1
20	13.2	10.8
25	13.5	10.5
30	14.3	9.7

BSI Australian Director

Geoff Lawn has been appointed as the Australian representative to the Board of Directors of the Bromeliad Society Inc. for the term 2003-2005

Geoff resides in Perth, W.A. and has grown bromeliads for over 30 years. His collection comprises 1000 plus plants in 28 genera, specialising in *Cryptanthus*, *Aechmeas*, *Billbergias*, *Neoregelias* and variegates.

In 1979, Geoff was the founding President (and later life member) of the Bromeliad Society of W.A. Inc. He has served also as Editor, committee person, and teacher of a local bromeliad judging school for 3 years. He occasionally writes articles, guest speaks, supports local Society Shows and also judges monthly meeting show bench competitions.

Geoff has attended two World Bromeliad Conferences and six Australian Conferences, lecturing at two of the latter. An avid bromeliad photographer, he has supplied several hundred photos for the fcbs.org/ Website.

During his 3-year term, Geoff hopes to encourage more Australian Bromeliad Societies to affiliate and more individuals to become members of the BSI. Subscribing to the excellent BSI Journal offers an array of cultural subjects for the novice and advanced hobbyist, new discoveries, field trips, World Conference Reports, nomenclature changes etc., all well illustrated with colour photos. Geoff will promote and enlighten on all the services the BSI can provide, as well as liaise about any concerns and queries the local Aussie Groups have with the Bromeliad Society International.

Email: grlcomosus@bigpond.com Phone : 08-9450 5634

Our congratulations to Geoff on this appointment; and our best wishes for a fruitful and satisfying term of office.

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Tillandsia and vriesea seedpods (capsules) can open very quickly, and the seed will then be blown away by any breeze. One way to prevent this loss, is to place a piece of pantyhose over the seedpods. The seed will be contained within the pantyhose. However, there must not be any large holes in the pantyhose.

The seed capsules of *Vriesea*, *Guzmania* and *Tillandsia* plants will often release their seed over several weeks (or longer) as each pod opens. However, one or two days with low humidity can result in a large number of pods opening simultaneously. A lot of seed can thus be lost if you do not keep a close watch on the weather forecast.

Bob Reilly

The BSQ Study Group Report

January 25th, 2003, began yet another year for members of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc., to participate and enjoy further Study Group activities. Usually, meetings are held at the home of Len and Olive Trevor on the 2nd. Saturday after each Society General Meeting. Any change to the Group's schedule, venue, date or times, is conveyed to members at each General Meeting.

Presiding over this year's meetings was Olive Trevor, (Chairperson extraordinaire), while yours truly has been elected to write an account of the Group's activities for publication in Bromeliaceae.

Over previous years, the Group maintained a positive interest in hybridizing and seed raising, crossing both species and hybrids. Objectives for 2004 will again include these exercises, and other related bromeliad subjects. For example; Nomenclature - getting the correct name. Study the Glossary - learn more botanical terms. Mounting of plants - not only Tillandsias. Landscaping with bromeliads - is it necessary to acclimatize? etc. etc.,

Subjects only briefly touched upon last year, will be placed on this year's agenda. Discussions on variance - described as the absence of uniformity in- the- overall structure and colour of a bromeliad, from that of others of the same species. And to deliberate, why these altered and different forms are attributed to the plant's genes as opposed to environmental factors.

This year's first Study Group Meeting welcomed Michael Pascal. Michael, a Society member, now lives and cultivates his bromeliad collection in far North Queensland. He discussed differences and puzzling characteristics of *Neoregelia carcharodon* and *Neoregelia pascoaliana*. He also spoke of the confusing aspects of plant identification and naming.

Bob Cross tabled *Neoregelia* 'Shelldance', its elegant conformation was somewhat spoilt by damage spots and marks to the lower leaves. Bob wanted to know the cause.

Viv Duncan showed several containers of *Billbergia* seedlings (unnamed) growing in coconut fibre. Viv spoke of their growth habits.

Keith Dawson's sealed transparent container filled with *Neoregelia marmorata* seedlings was impressive; Perfect young plants seemingly flourishing in a bare minimum of growing medium.

Olive Trevor tabled the hybrid *Aechmea* 'Forest Fire' and spoke of some changes to the distinguishing characteristics of *Aechmea blanchetiana*.

Bob Reilly

TROPICAL GARDENING IN THE SUB-TROPICS

Q lot of tropical plant enthusiasts (of which I am just one) in South - East Queensland embrace the whole ambit of tropical garden plants not just bromeliads. However depending on where you are physically placed in this large general area dictates to a large extent what you may grow. With microclimates ranging from mild coastal to those of the near inland of Ipswich and Gympie which I would assert are something less than subtropical with their potential to have long periods of cool dry weather with the chance of sub zero minimum temperatures between May and September. Much has been written on micro - climates – they DO influence substantially what can be grown in an area.

There are plants grown in this area today especially in the heliconia and various ginger families that I would have thought impossible twenty years ago. My congratulations must be given to the collectors of such plants and the relevant plant societies that have embraced a multitude of enthusiasts with similar interests. These enthusiasts have been responsible for the heart breaking trial and error experimentation that is needed to establish such data.

There is little gardening knowledge to be gained by the majority of our members by the promotion of the growing of bromeliads under shade cloth to the expense of all else. It may also be a little presumptuous of me to assert that the majority of our members do not have such a structure and like me, long to find out about which bromeliads will grow out of such conditions in a tropical or sub tropical garden.

We are in an area that can provide extreme weather conditions for bromeliads and other tropical plants. The period from August - November can be both hot and dry with high sunlight intensity and very low humidity compared with what can be expected in the summer months of December to March. For the bromeliad garden as opposed to the bromeliad shade - house this can be a time of bleaching out of the intense colours that have only become apparent some 4 - 6 weeks prior. This is especially disheartening and is possibly the reason many tropical plant enthusiasts turn to cacti and succulents but there is another story!

Returning then to bromeliads, I commend the following article that I found on the **FCBS web site** and have reproduced in its entirety as essential reading. It represents the southern Florida experience. Please let me know if you are growing any of the listed plants in the full sun and how they are travelling, or if we can add to the list from the large pool of plants that are available in S.E. Queensland.

My E Mail address is cuffes@ozemail.com.au or if you haven't access to E Mail, please send your information to my attention at the Society's address. I will compile the results and prepare an additional listing for publication at a later date. Please send as much information as possible regarding your experiences and the plants that afforded them and photos if you have them. Please indicate whether you require the photos to be returned.
 Greg Cuffe

TRUE FULL-SUN BROMELIADS

By Moyna Prince

This article appeared in the September 2002 edition of The BromeliAdvisory, the Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

The weather we've had this year has tried our plants in the extreme. While the winter was mild, drought conditions combined with sunny days stressed them. Then came the monsoon rains and the temperature climbed. These conditions tested the survival abilities of our toughest bromeliads, and it's been interesting to assess those that flourished versus those that needed more protection.

In our garden, there is one bromeliad that is a clear winner in the full-sun category: *Hohenbergia castellanosii*. You cannot give this bromeliad too much sun. It's a big, tough plant with upright form, and wide green leaves that turn fiery red from the tips down as it gets more sun.

I went to several of our members for suggestions, and listed below are their recommendations. The experts pointed out that most plants that have gone through this year's weather extremes without sunburn had the advantage of being planted in cooler months, thus giving them time to become acclimated (sic). You can't take a plant from a shady spot and place it in direct sun in July without getting some burn or bleaching. Sudden changes, length of sunny periods and humidity can also cause problems, even for well-established plants.

Here are some of the experts' suggestions for full-sun bromeliads:

Large

Aechmea blanchetiana, *Ae. eurycorymbus*, *Ae. mexicana* (inc. the albomarginated form), *Ae. bracteata* (all forms), *Ae. mulfordii*, *Ae. rubens*, *Ae. 'Little Harv'*, *Ae. chantinii* (black form), *Ae. 'Samurai'*.

Alcantarea vinicolor (tougher than *imperialis*), *Alc. imperialis*, *Alc. regina*

Androlepis skinneri

Hohenbergia castellanosi

Portea petropolitana (both var. *petropolitana* and var. *extensa*, the more common one)

Medium:

Aechmea pectinata, *Ae. ornata*

Ananas bracteatus, *A. comosus*

Neoregelia cruenta, *Neo. Johannis*, *Neo. compacta*, *Neo. Macwilliamsii*, *Neo. Marmorata*.

Quesnelia testudo, *Q. Arvensis*.

Wittrockia superba

Small:

Aechmea recurvata var. *ortgiesii*

Neoregelia olens, *Neo. 'Fireball'*

Orthophytum gurkenii, *O. Navioides*, *O. burle-marxii*

Most *Dyckias* and *Hechtias* (they'll require more frequent watering).

The genus *Pitcairnia* is usually very sun-tolerant.

The plants in the above list are the ones most readily available. Some more uncommon species, also recommended, are:—

Aechmea callichroma, *Ae. mariae-reginae*, *Ae. beeriana*, *Ae. aquilegia*, *Ae. bromeliifolia*, *Ae. castelnavii*, *Ae. disticantha* var. *schlumbergeri*, *Ae. phanerophlebia*, *Ae. tocanina*.

Hohenbergia stellata.

Neoregelia sarmentose, *Neo. tigrina*, *Neo. Bahiana*.

x*Neotanthus* 'Cardboard'

Portea leptantha.

Orthophytum magalhaesii, *O. maracasense*, *O. rubrum*.

Steve Correale, who grows and sells tillandsias, suggests the following for the full-sun treatment:— *Tillandsia fasciculata*, *capitata*, *chiapensis*, *strep-tophylla*, *xerographica*, *concolor*, *tricholepis*, *bulbosa*, *caput-medusae*, *ionantha* (all forms), *stricta*, *vernica*, *disticha*, and *didisticha*.. And don't forget *Tillandsia usneoides* !

As with other genera, if your tillandsias have been growing in the shade, move them to direct sun in the fall or winter.

To sum up: If you can provide your plants with a little shade, even from a nearby palm or your patio screen, they'll thank you. If they're going to be in full sun from sunrise to sunset, get them established in the winter. Otherwise, be prepared for at least a little bleaching.

(Thanks to the following who provided suggestions: Harvey Bullis, Nat DeLeon, Lynne Fieber, Peter Kouchalakos, Sandy Roth and Virginia Schrenker.)

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BOOKS FOR SALE

Bromeliads -- Next Generation by Shane Zaghini	\$33.00
Tillandsia Handbook by Hideo Shimizu and Hirouli Takizawa	\$58.00
Bromeliads for Everyone 2 by Bea Hansen	\$11.50
Growing Bromeliads by The Bromeliad Society of Australia	\$21.50
Genus Tillandsia by Paul Isley III	\$3.00
International Check List of Bromeliad Hybrids by B.S.I	\$1.50
A Bromeliad Glossary, 1977 Edition, by B.S.I	\$3.50
A Bromeliad Glossary, 1998 Edition, by B.S.I	\$18.50
Bromeliads -- A Cultural Manual by B.S.I	\$5.00
Distributional Checklist of the Genus Tillandsia by Lloyd Kiff	\$20.00
A Guide to Beautiful Neoregelias by S. Zaghini	\$20.00
1985 Bromeliads III Conference	\$10.00
1993 Bromeliads VII Conference	\$18.00

Inquiries: LIBRARIAN, Ms. Noela Tucker

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Tillandsia seed can germinate, and the atmospheric or grey-leaved tillandsias can grow, on a wide variety of materials. I have a small clump of *Tillandsia schiedana* v. *major* which germinated and grew on a piece of black shade cloth. It flowered for the first time this year. The clump is growing well and receives fertiliser and water at the same time as the other *Tillandsias* in the shade house.

Bob Reilly

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