

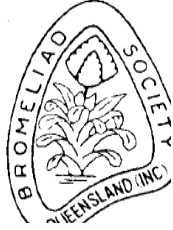
Bromeliaceae



VOLUME XLIII - No. 1

-

JAN/FEB 2009



The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc.

P. O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley
Queensland, Australia 4006,
Home Page www.bromsqueensland.com

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Olive Trevor	(07) 3351 1203
VICE PRESIDENT	Anne McBurnie	
PAST PRESIDENT	Bob Reilly	(07) 3870 8029
SECRETARY	Chris Coulthard	
TREASURER	Glenn Bernoth	(07) 4661 3 634
BROMELIACEAE EDITOR	Ross Stenhouse	
SHOW ORGANISER	Bob Cross	

COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Greg Aizlewood, Bruce Dunstan, Barry Kable, Arnold James, Viv Duncan, David Rees
SEED BANK CO-ORDINATOR	Roy Pugh (07) 3263 5057
AUDITOR	Doug Parkinson (07) 5497 5220
SALES AREA CASHIER	Anna Harris Accounting Services
FIELD DAY CO-ORDINATOR	Norma Poole
LIBRARIAN	Ruth Kimber & Bev Mulcahy
ASSISTANT SHOW ORGANISER	Evelyn Rees
SUPPER STEWARDS	Phil Beard
PLANT SALES	Nev Ryan, Barry Genn
COMPETITION STEWARDS	Pat Barlow
CHIEF COMPETITION STEWARD	Phil James
HOSTESS	Dorothy Cutcliffe, Arnold James
BSQ WEBMASTER	Gwen Parkinson
LIFE MEMBERS	Ross Stenhouse
	Grace Goode OAM
	Peter Paroz, Michael O'Dea

Editors Email Address: rossjanstenhouse@hotmail.com

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. gives permission to all Bromeliad Societies to re-print articles in their journals provided proper acknowledgement is given to the original author and the Bromeliaceae, and no contrary direction is published in Bromeliaceae. This permission does not apply to any other person or organisation without the prior permission of the author.

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

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

Front Cover: *Ae. recurvata* var *benrahii*

Photo by Ross Stenhouse

Rear Cover : *xGuzvriesea* 'Happa'

Photo by Ross Stenhouse

Contents

RECENT NEOREGELIA BREEDING	5
BILLBERGIA DISTACHIA 'PURPLE HAZE'	13
DECISIVE ACTION NEEDED - S.O.S NEO. 'HEART MUSIC'	15
WEIRD AND UNUSUAL PLACES TO GROW BROMELIADS.	16
AECHMEA SERRATA/SMITHIORUM	22
BROMELIADS ANONYMOUS	24
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	26
PLANT OF THE MONTH PROGRAMME FOR 2009.....	27
COMPETITION SCHEDULE FOR 2009	27

Note from the Editor's Desk

David Rees has asked me to remind people that the library books are only on load for one month MAXIMUM of one month. If you have any books out from the society's library please check to ensure you haven't exceeded the load period, if so please return them.

Important things to remember to do:

18th April - Bromeliad Symposium

18/19th April - Society's Autumn Show and Sale of Bromeliads at Mt Cootha Botanic Gardens

2nd & 3rd May - Australian Open Garden Scheme at Anne McBurnie & Philip Beard's garden

Books For Sale

The Society has the following books for sale:

• Starting with Bromeliads	\$18
• Pitcher Plants of the Americas	\$60
• Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual	\$5
• Back Copies of Bromeliaceae (2005, 2006 Editions)	\$4
• Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden by Andrew Steens	\$36
• Bromeliads: Next Generation by Shane Zaghini	\$33

Postage and package extra. Unfortunately we cannot supply overseas orders. Please phone the Librarian, Mrs Evelyn Rees (07) 3355 0432 to order books.



Recent Neoregelia Breeding

by Rob Smythe

Up to 2005 I dabbled with Neoregelia hybridization. The amazing success of one of my first hybridization attempts should have spurred me along much earlier. I crossed *N. carolinae* x *concentrica* x 'Painted lady' (eventually registered as *Neo.* 'Lost in Space') with itself. I spawned three variegated seedlings and thought nothing of it. Subsequently I realized this was a mammoth fluke as variegates almost invariably deliver albino or non-variegated offspring.

A friend passing through was given one. After all, I had three. Visitors coming north were asking 'Have you got any more of that plant with a girl's name on it (Caroline) that you gave John?'

Eventually I visited John and what a beauty it was. As near to perfect in shape, conformation and markings as any artist could produce. I said to John that this has to be named. He said to name it after his wife so it became *Neo.* 'Iris'. Pictures of *Neo.* 'Iris' and *Neo.* 'Lost in Space' can be found on (page 35 Jul/Aug 2008 Bromeliaceae).

The second plant of merit from this cross was what is now known as *Neo.* 'Champers'. (page 39 Jul/Aug 2008 Bromeliaceae). This plant quickly reverted, before registra-

tion, from variegated to green, yellowing in bright light. It was destined for the bin.

I don't have a competitive bone in my body but a southern visitor said to me that it was a possible show champion because of its shape etc. Off it went for registration as *N.* 'Champion'. Not acceptable I'm told. "Can't blow your own horn".

The fact that I told the registrar that I was from the Smythe family and that it was a genetically dominant trait carried no weight! Usually throwing in a bit of science helps! How did *Neo.* 'First Prize' get past him? Maybe it is not registered. Eventually my now non-variegated plant was registered as *Neo.* 'Champers'. This came about because in addition to sounding a bit like 'champion' the centre has all those white spots looking like champagne bubbles.

Without these I probably would not have registered it as it looked like a form of *N.* 'Bruiser' 'Novar'. This is a genetically closely related plant. Just change 'Painted Lady' in the formula above to *concentrica* and you have 'Bruiser'. To be absolutely honest with you, in the early days, post registration,

Bromeliaceae

Production Crew

Editor: Ross Stenhouse

Proofreader, and distribution manager:
Roy Pugh

Regular Contributors: Derek Butcher,
Rob Smythe, Rob Reilly, Peter Paroz

Bromeliaceae



Suppliers of fine tissue-cultured bromeliads

info@plantbiotech.com.au

www.plantbiotech.com.au

Phone (07) 5471 6036

**Postal Address: 7 Thougla Place,
Buderim QLD 4556**

**Lab: 99 West Coolum Road,
Mount Coolum QLD 4573**

I saw *N.* 'Bruiser' plants sold with either the correct or the 'Lost in Space', formula shown on the tag.

Neo. 'Champers' eventually threw a variegated pup which was registered as *Neo.* 'Champers Bubbles'. (page 37 Jul/Aug 2008 Bromeliaceae). The third variegated seedling in this trilogy was dumped as it was too white.

As another aside, see pages 166 and 167 of Andrew Steen's new book you will see a cultivar of *Neo.* 'Lost in Space'. Interesting, as at the time of publication, all plants of this registration were still in my garden. It took me years of selection of pup traits to get my desired plant's traits. I think *N.* 'Serendipity Girl' (page 33 Jul/Aug 2008 Bromeliaceae) took eight years to develop.

What is the bet that someone named their plant after seeing the formula of the cross on the FCBS site? This is not illegal but the two plants have to be identical according to plant data and not only with the picture.

That is enough about the older ones. I will now like to concentrate on the newer ones.

Mostly these have grown from seed sown from 2005 onwards. At the time of you read this they may not yet have appeared as photos on the FCBS site, however they should all be in the data bank. A lot of their photos were used as fillers in the last edition on Bromeliaceae (Nov/Dec 2008). Firstly, how do I cross them? - I imitate a bird's beak. Poke something into one flower, check for pollen, then place pollen into the pod parent's flower. I have learnt my lesson and only put the one cross onto the pod parent plant. I pollinate 4 to 6 flowers.

This helps me to decide if the plant is self pollinating and prevents mixed labels. Even now I still have troubles. I put the plant name in the pot media and the cross formula in the flower area. On field days people still

walk up to me with the crossing label in their hand. "Have you got a spare of this?" "Which vase did you take it out of?" Ho, hum, yet another one wasted.

Now for some of my more recent crosses. *Neo.* 'Bobby Dazzler' is quite magnificent in itself. From this I bred *N.* 'Soft and Cuddly' (Page 35 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae).

This was a result of a selfing of the plant. It was initially considered to be a throw away seedling. I look for early colouring first then unusual colour or markings, then for shape. As a seedling *Neo.* 'Soft and Cuddly' only survived due to its excellent shape. Several times I considered ditching it but then the pink suffusion started at the tips, and with yellowish leaves and a large size it became a stunner. At maturity, it threw in a couple of attractive red bands towards its centre.

A month later the yellow centre became stunningly pink. This one is just so different to any *Neo.* that I have seen. And rivals the best that I have bred. Another from the same cross named *Neo.* 'Bobby' is depicted (Page 31 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae). This plant morphology is as per *Neo.* 'Bobby Dazzler' but is more or less concolour red with a textured appearance. The Bobby Dazzler's yellow spots are completely missing. Two additional 'Bobby Dazzler' hybrids registered by me are *Neo.* 'Code Z' = *Neo.* 'Cordite' x *Neo.* 'Bobby Dazzler' and *Neo.* 'Rose Dazzle' = *Neo.* 'Rosy Morn' x *Neo.* 'Bobby Dazzler'. The former is very similar to *Neo.* 'Emerald City', and the latter is a softer marked, larger form of *Neo.* 'Bobby Dazzler'.

I use *Neo.* 'Rosy Morn' a lot in my breeding program as I like big plants. There are at least four forms of *Neo.* 'Rosy Morn' around. I use the white flowered form unless otherwise stated. I have also tried to produce plants like 'Rosy Morn' but with different leaf markings. So far most are big and quite a group will be registered this year. One of

these, already registered is *Neo*. 'Speckled Creation' = *Neo*. 'Rosy Morn' x 'Barbarian' and I believe I have got exactly what I was after (Page 4 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae).

Currently you could drive a truck between the leaves but as with all my crosses they are registered at first flowering, first pup stage and they themselves have rather juvenile leaves. I expect them to fill out with the next generation. Another smaller plant of the same cross is *Neo*. 'Tootsie' (Page 4 Oct/Nov Bromeliaceae) and there are more to register this year. *Neo*. 'Swagger' (FCBS site) is a selfing of *Neo*. 'Rosy Morn' and is again a large plant with lots of spots.

It was not what I expected. I think an ant may have brought in pollen from a nearby orange coloured plant. I mentioned this to the registrar but I do not know if it was recorded in the data bank. If I had not had so much success with 'Rosy Morn' hybrids I probably would have accepted it as a selfing as the parentage of *Neo*. 'Rosy Morn' is in dispute. Correct or otherwise it stands apart from the other from the cross. *Neo*. 'Whosamedad' as you might guess from its name is from an ant pollinated plant of *Neo*. 'Bobby Dazzler'. Whosa-me-dad, you have to say it with an Italian accent.

I do keep a list of plants flowering near each crossed plant and can often make a good guess as to what the pollen parent was. In this case the nearest source of pollen was obviously its own, followed by *Neo*. 'Charm', *Neo*. 'Rainbow' and *Neo*. 'Lambert's Pride'.

As much as I would have liked to register it as the selfing we have the sun bird to consider which can bring pollen in from afar. So when you study breeding with broms, always question the pollen parents identity.

We can take this one step further. The birds can bring seed in and deposit them in our seed trays. My son Aaron has registered a large well shaped brom as *Neo*. 'Mighty

Impact' which germinated in one of my *Aechmea* seedling trays. It does not look like any of my crosses. I could imagine one of these birds eating a pod from say, *Neo*. 'Red Gold', and dropping the seed into my *Aechmea* tray. 'Mighty Impact' is a strong plant demanding your attention and well worth registering.

Neo. 'Lucky Ducky', (Page 29 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae), *Neo*. 'Lucky Purple' and *Neo*. 'Caution' (Page 35 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae) are all from a selfing of *Neo*. 'Lucky 7'.

I was testing a theory with this cross. When you cross with *Neo*. 'Olens' it is extremely dominant. When the influx of plants collectively known as 'Aussie Dream's came on the market they separated into two groups. The larger are Skotak-like but Australian-bred plants The smaller 'Aussie Dreams' are more *Neo. olens* like plants. I could not accept that the larger group actually had *Neo. olens* in their make up.

The other parent *Neo. meyendorffii* was also suspect because of the larger size of its supposed off springs. This can be explained away as hybrid vigour. Well! selfing of *Neo*. 'Lucky 7' was the litmus test.

The orange colour of *Neo*. 'Caution' matches the colouration of the orange form of *Neo. meyendorffii* OK, but no sign at all of *Neo. olens*. Some marvellously purple toned centres appeared as well as barring so there is a third plant involved. This draws me to the conclusion that the so called *Neo. meyendorffii* used was actually a hybrid of the orange form carrying genes from prior indiscretions with *Neo. concentrica*. What I believe happened is when *Neo. olens* pollen was placed in onto the receptor flower of (*meyendorffii*?) some self pollination occurred. The selfing and the crossing explains the two strains of 'Aussie Dreams'.

Neo. 'High Tide' (Page 4 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae). What a dream come true for



Bromeliaceae

8

Jan/Feb 2009

me. Several years back I decided I wanted to produce a sun loving plant, bright orange like the shade loving *Neo* 'Lambert's Pride'. I crossed Neo. 'Lambert's Pride' onto the very sun tough Neo. 'Noble Decent' which has yellow leaves and orange red spots and tips when grown in the sun.

The first two seedlings were all I needed. Bright orange in the sun. I named one of them *Neo*. 'Orange Sun'. A good sun loving smallish clumper. Pups like mad.

I have been told it is a much larger plant grown in south Queensland. Shape still needed improvement. Back crossed it on to *Neo*. 'Lambert's Pride' and *Neo*. 'High Tide' is the first horse out of the stable. It is in my son's garden in Cairns so I don't know if it will be sun hard as yet. I have more siblings looking just as good in Townsville. These will get the furnace treatment.

Neo. 'DeRolf' x *Neo*. 'Screwball'. I have named three of these plants recently. *Neo*. 'Golden Giant'. (Page 29 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae). *Neo*. 'Sherlock' and *Neo*. 'Once Again'

The idea was to put the large variegated, well shaped species into a complex hybrid which needs to have its shape improved. They are all big plants with appearance dominated by the *Neo. johannis* influence with the exception that flowers are not white.

Neo. 'Sherlock' builds lots of yellow tone in the leaf and splashes it with orange red at centre and tips when grown in bright light. *Neo*. 'Golden Giant' is similar but with intense blotching'. *Neo*. 'Once Again' got its ignominious name because it must have hair pupped in the seedling tray.

When my selected seedlings grew up, many turned out to be it. I kept saying "Oh not again". Eventually took pity on it and removed the negativity from what I had been calling it.

You can't grow all the seedlings, and

early selection is necessary if you wish to mature them in two to three years. My frustration was that I could have chosen so many others for trial.

For improving the shape of plants I have often used *Neo*. 'Heart Music'? *Neo*. 'Heart Music Too'? in my crosses. I used Olive's plant which is the one without stripes. Up until using this I was using *Neo*. 'George's Prince' for this purpose. Generally the latter was unsuccessful as like itself it dominated with colour in the centre. Fussing about with growing conditions we could probably bring about full leaf colouration. There are enough of these pesky plants around without breeding more. *Neo*. 'Heart Music Too' has been my savior. *Neo*. 'Heart Teaser' = 'Heart Music Too' x self is one of the real gems that I have bred. This will be a future parent of well shaped broms. Another 'Heart Music Too' cross is *Neo*. 'Delicate' = *Neo*. 'Fever'

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Len and Olive Trevor

232 Canvey Road, Ferny Grove,
Qld 4053

Specialising in hybrid Vrieseas,
Aechmeas, Variegated
Neoregelias

Skotak Hybrids, Aussie Dream and
varieties, and other quality
Bromeliads

Phone (07) 3351 1203

Visitors welcome by appointment - Please
Phone First



Bromeliaceae

10

Jan/Feb 2009

x 'Heart Music Too'. This plant was quite unplanned for. It was just a green plant with a speckle here and there. Pat. Coutts was with me when I was about to throw it out. She said, "Rob it is different give it another year." With her long years of experience, I decided to give it a chance. It really is different and eye catching. Pat has earned the first pup.

Neo. 'Aussie Gem' x 'Black Bandit'.
Neo. 'Aussie Gem' colouring varies from orange red to red depending on light conditions. The leaves are concolour. *Neo*. Black Bandit is an amazingly variable grower. Growing in a cooler climate and presumably well fed I have seen it all pitch black.

In Townsville under harsh lighting and low feeding I have seen it almost translucent lilac. In my garden and in most gardens it is a smallish green plant going black over the top half of the leaves. I crossed them to try and get a black plant with concolour leaves and the better shape and colour distribution

like 'Aussie Gem'.

All those colours mixed together have the potential of producing black. One did come up black but took heavy fertilizing to bring the colour up. Green was obviously lacking. Shape improved but still green at the centre.. A failure.; I have sent a couple of pups to Bundaberg growers to see if it blackens more evenly there. The cross resulted in two registerable crosses. With the words "Aussie" and "Bandit" in the parentage naming came easily. *Neo*. 'Aussie Bandit' (Page 31 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae).

This is similar in size and appearance to *Neo*. 'Fairy Nice' but is not a runner and has unstable-coloured leaves and develops a bright red centre. The older leaves revert to green. In other growing conditions this unpleasant trait may be avoidable. The second registerable cross was *Neo*. 'Ned Kelly' (Page

FOREST DRIVE NURSERY

Located at REPTON, South of Coffs
Harbour, NSW

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
(02) 6655 4130

Mail Order List - Send SAE
Peter Tristram, PO Box 55, Repton,
NSW, 2454

MIDHURST BROMELIAD NURSERY

**SPECIALIST GROWERS OF
TILLANDSIA SEEDLINGS**
Hard grown to suit All Australian
conditions

Wholesale and Mail Order Only
Write for a free price list of Tillandsia
and other genera to:

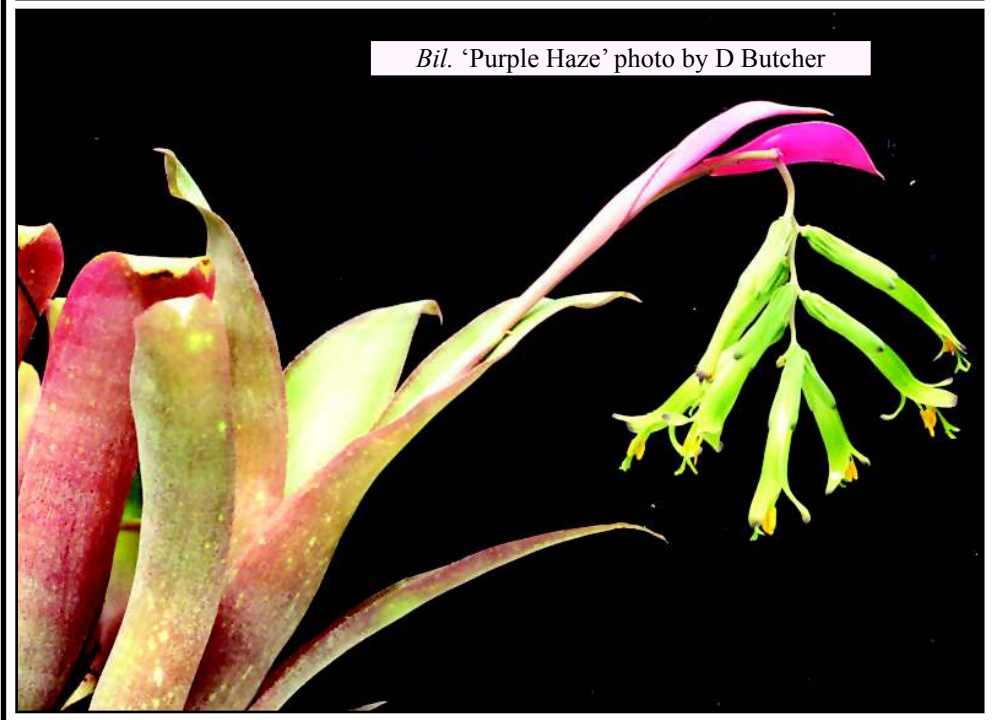
**MIDHURST BROMELIAD
NURSERY**

**P. O. BOX 612
HURSTBRIDGE, 3099**

PHONE (03) 9718 2887

FAX (03) 9718 2760

EMAIL : mossy@melbpc.org.au



37 Nov/Dec Bromeliaceae). An absolute gem as the photo will attest.

Thanks to my son Aaron in Cairns for culturing, photographing and naming some of my crosses. Namely *Neo*. 'Caution', *Neo*. 'Mighty Impact' and *Neo*. 'High Tide' mentioned above.

Billbergia distachia

'Purple Haze'

by Derek Butcher

This article was prompted by a photo by Kent Jacobsson of a *B. distachia* var. *straussiana* posted on [Http://fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) in Jan 2009 which looked awfully like what I had from Olwen Ferris in the 1980's as 'Purple Haze' only fatter!

It had been bought from a 'Flea Market' near Newcastle NSW as just *Billbergia*, leaving it up to the purchaser to find out more if they were interested. Kent's so called *Billbergia distachia* var. *straussiana* with its blue tipped sepals and petals, from a species point of view, would key out to either *B. distachia* var. *distachia* or var. *maculata* depending on how you view the spots.

Certainly the painting by Fossari and plants offered by Tropiflora have pronounced spotting as you see in *B. saundersii* so I lean more towards the type. However, this plant is of cultivar origin and as such should have a cultivar name linking in some way with 'Purple Haze'. As such 'Pink Piglet' in line with Bill Morris's reasoning behind 'Fat Albert' is the way to go. So check out plants you have as *B. distachia* var. *straussiana* when next it flowers, the name could well be wrong! You may be growing piglets!

Let us now move on to 'Purple Haze' which is a bit of an enigma because it had a few spots on the leaves which would link it to var. *maculata* but sometimes not, which

would link it to var. *distachia*.

In *Flora Neotropica*, Smith only quotes var. *maculata* as having flavous spotted leaves but in 1983 Reitz who originally described var. *maculata* said it had blue tipped sepals and petals. 'Purple Haze' has blue tipped sepals and petals. In the 1970's Olwen Ferris was selling *B. distachia* var. *straussiana* described as "medium small, grey-white vase flushed lavender. Pink bracts, blue petals on pendant spike" but decided to call it 'Purple Haze' probably because she realised her plant did not have totally green petals. Nothing was written about the change of name and the name was not registered. In the 1980's 'Purple Haze' was in several nurseryman's plant lists

I now go back to 1964 when I think this 'Purple Haze' originated coming to Bill Morris as *B. bakeri*.

Billbergia distachia by Bill Morris in *Bromeletter*(1)7: 1964

BROMAGIC BROMELIAD NURSERY

**421 Hunchy Rd,
Palmwoods 4555**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WEDS – FRIDAY 9:30 – 2:30
SATURDAY 9:00 - 4:00**

An extensive range of Bromeliads
including many first release
Neoregalia hybrids

www.bromagic.com.au

**For enquiries phone Sue on
07 54450441**

“In Dr. L B Smith’s Bromeliaceae of Brazil, 4 botanical varieties are listed, var. *distachia*, var. *straussiana*; var. *concolor*; var. *maculata*. The first 3 are described as having the leaves concolorous whilst var. *maculata* has leaves “flavous spotted” (pale yellow). The varieties *straussiana* (sepals blue at apex) and *concolor* (sepals wholly green) both have flowers with green petals, whereas the other two have petals tipped with blue.

I have raised *B. distachia* seed from Santa Catarina, Brazil as well as from other sources and some of these plants are quite interesting. Firstly the Brazilian seed labelled *B. distachia* has produced mainly plants with fat stubby tubes about 2” in diam., at their widest and 10-12” high. These plants vary from almost glabrous to moderately scurfy; the leaves are mostly green to green yellow with an occasional white spot.

One or two plants have occurred which are quite pigmented and produce a beautiful red plant and could be the horticultural variety named in the USA as var. ‘Rubra’. Again an occasional plant has been quite heavily spotted with cream spots and would fit var. *maculata*.

I obtained from one of the Australian Soc. Members in Qld, two very beautiful plants labelled *B. distachia* var. *maculata* quite heavily spotted cream (but no more so than the seedlings already mentioned) and also deeply pigmented. These red spotted plants are most attractive.

Another batch of seedlings that I raised, came from a Botanical garden in Germany labelled *B. bakeri* . This is listed by L B Smith as a synonym of *B. distachia* which it certainly is; however, all the seedlings can be easily separated from the Brazilian plants as they are completely silvery and pigmented with pink and red shades, and much more desirable to the horticulturist than the natural species. I say this because I feel that the

German type could have been produced by selection from the red, somewhat scaly forms mentioned earlier, but this is only guesswork on my part.

There are two more plants worth mentioning, one labelled *B. ensifolia* and the other *B. regeliana*, both names listed by Smith as synonyms of *B. distachia*. I have not flowered *B. regeliana* so cannot be sure it is a form of *B. distachia* but it produces the smallest tubes of any *Billbergia* I have seen, being often no more than 6” high and 1/2” wide, or smaller. The largest I have seen would be 8” X 1/2” . The plant is tightly clustering and not easy to grow.

B. ensifolia has flowered on a number of occasions and is *B. distachia* with the growth of the plant quite different from the rest. It is much like a tight form of *B. nutans*, being widest in the middle of the tube (up to 1” diam) and narrower both above and below. The leaves finally separate at the top and are much narrower and drawn out to a long narrow point. This characteristic is quite constant under my conditions (unlike *B. nutans*, the tube of which varies according to conditions). I haven’t flowered enough seedlings to be able to observe flower colour/variations, if any. “

I have therefore decided to get the ‘Purple Haze’ registered. 1964 was when mainly species were grown and from what Bill Morris said then, we had quite a range within this species.

To those of you who still grow species would you please check your collections, and, using the differences that Bill used 45 years ago, please photo flowering plants this coming ‘winter’ and send them to me for the records.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Peter Franklin and Kent Jacobsson for helping me get somewhere near the truth.

**Decisive Action
Needed - S.O.S Neo.
'Heart Music'**

Written by Rob Smythe MSc
Technical information added by Derek
butcher.

Since I started all this by telling Derek Butcher that he had his wires crossed with regard to *Neo*. 'Heart Music' I thought I had better do something constructive. Derek as we know operates within the letter of the law (rules) and is quite technically correct with his 'Heart Music' and 'Heart Music Too'. I know one case where he nearly deviated. He gave the same name to two different plants because there was an unregistered one already widely distributed. *Neo*. 'Bronze', I am referring to. For the purist, labels should be written *Neoregelia* 'Bronze' (Smythe) or 'Bronze' (Paterson) depending on which plant you have.

Currently species controversies are ultimately resolved by referring back to literature published may be 100 years ago. In 100 years time all the Cultivar Registration documentation will surely be archived except for say the last ten years of new hybrid records. Growers will refer back to these and they will be brom gospel. We must resolve this mess now and start to think of Cultivar registration in this light. Change things now and sort out our labels now.

Neo. 'Heart Music' (the striped one) was registered by K Golinski in 2000 from his CD and nobody queried this until a New Zealander pointed out an anomaly in 2004. One of the non-striated clones was called 'Heart Music Too'. In 2004 Keith confirmed that a plant with ('Black Olive x ?) on the label but without stripes was around. How many other clones were out there? Nobody

knew or were unwilling to divulge.

The problem is that plants called *Neo*. 'Heart Music' circulated world wide a long time back. Very much in demand. Took me about two years to get a pup. I even wrote my name on the back of a pup but it still went to America. Visiting Ipswich I found a red striated form in Carmel Cullen's garden. This to me is obviously the one used by Allan Freeman in his crosses. I am trying to confirm this with Allan. See *Neo*. 'Ticker', Allan's plant, named by myself and observe the striations. See also the four other registrations by K Golinski with the same quoted parentage from 1997 where *Neo*. 'Cozzie' has striations.

Where did these striations come from? Allan Freeman said he used 'Heart Music' as pollen parent. Did this have striations?! We have since learned from Allan via Carmel that the striated 'Heart Music' is actually a

**BRISBANE
BROMELIAD
CENTRE**

34 Haulton Road, Morayfield 4506
HUGE SELECTION
of
Aechmeas, Vrieseas, Guzmanias,
Neoregelias
Nidularium & Tillandsias
together with a variety of rarer species
and hybrids
BARBARA and LORRAINE
Phone (07) 5433 0303
VISITORS by APPOINTMENT

hybrid. We know that the striated version of Heart Music was in existence before 2000 because it was adult when it got into the CD. It is doubtful that it could have been non striated when it was used as a parent in 1997. Carmel very wisely has suggested in her previous article that ('Heart Music' x 'Prince of Darkness') be renamed *Neo*. "Prince of Happiness". Care should be taken here because 'Blue Mood', 'Cinderella' and 'Emotive' have already been registered by K Golinski with the same parentage and this newly named plant should be clearly different

This would leave a bit of work. The registrations of crosses 'Heart Music', 'Heart Music Too' have been confirmed by Keith Golinski. My plant without striations came from the Olive Branch Nursery as 'Heart Music'. After discussion with the registrar I changed my tag and registration to Neo. 'Heart Music Too' as it has no striations. If we knew what Allan used in his crosses, striated 'Heart Music', nonstriated 'Heart Music Too' or I hybrid which may need to be registered we could clear this up. I'm not holding my breath.

That solves all the problems for the future generations. One question from Olive Trevor relates to the difference in appearance of her plant to the registered plant. Keith Golinski grew his plants hard and hungry.

The difference is probably environmental. I will include two photos of my three plants originating from a single pup from Olive. One photo illustrates the great difference of one plant by just sticking its leaves out from the shade. I apologize for the quality of my photos and my plants but I was never expecting to write this article. I was just growing them along side a seedling which appears to be just the same at this stage.

Action needed

Register *Neo*. 'Prince of Happiness'

Bromeliaceae

after checking similar crosses.

The Queensland Society should have a motto which reads something like this. Confucius says "Never leave the registration of a hybrid you have created yourself to someone else because you are too lazy, the chances are they will make a mistake"

The future will then look after itself!

**Weird and Unusual
Places to grow
bromeliads.**

Author: Rob Smythe MSc

My interest in this started after the Townsville City Council invited me to give a talk on the growing of bromeliads at a rather low key garden orientated expo they were running in the Botanical Gardens. My topic was

"Bromeliads Grow Anywhere"

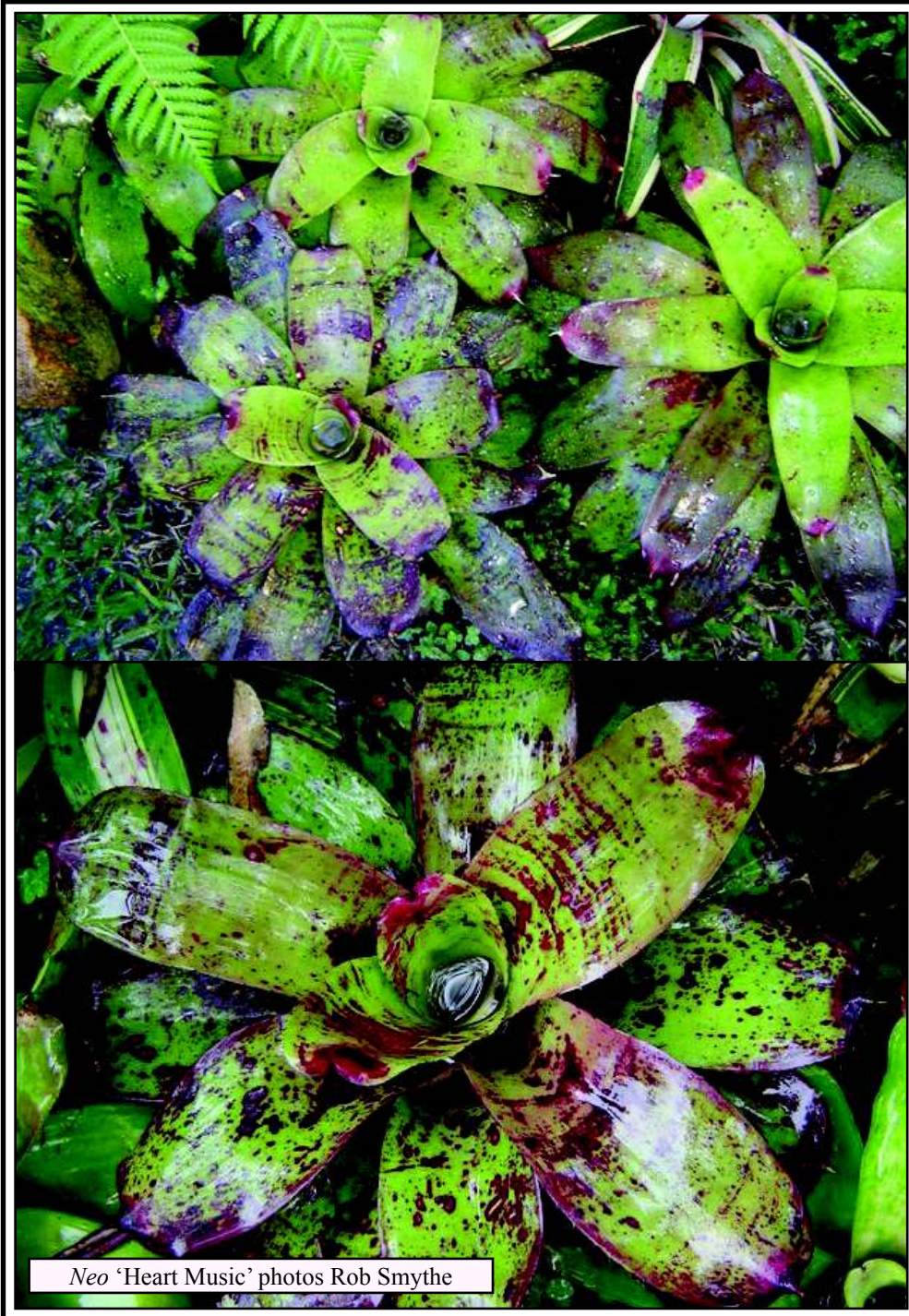
M. J. PATERSON

**212 SANDY CREEK ROAD,
GYMPIE, Qld 4570**

**Large Range of Bromeliads For Sale
Especially our own Hybrid Tillandsias
and Neoregelias**

**DO CALL IN IF YOU ARE UP THIS
WAY BUT PLEASE PHONE FIRST**

**PHONE / FAX
(07) 5482 3308**



Neo 'Heart Music' photos Rob Smythe

I decided to glue a Till to the brim of my cap. This would get the message over very quickly. This cap still sits on the corner post of my decking. The Till has grown flowered and multiplied over the past couple of years.

As semi-aquatic plants.

In Bromeliaceae Sept/ Oct 2007 p 25 I had a short article and photo of *Neophytum gurkenii* and an *Orthophytum* growing happily with their trunks and roots submerged in a fish pond. They are still doing well. I have had to reduce their size and have cut off a large amount of stem. They have never branched.

Since then I read of *Quesnalia arvensis* overgrowing swamps. I potted up a *Quesnalia* and submerged it in a pond, with its well water level a similar height to the pond water and it has grown well over the past few months. The submerged leaves naturally were not happy and were removed.

Since my article others have reported successes. I am not surprised that one *Neoregelia* is doing well as I have seen photos of these growing just above the water line in the middle of streams in the wild. Quite adult plants. They must endure a lot of water cover during flood periods.

Growing on wires.

This is well known and often reported for *Tillandsias*. I spotted small *Tillandsias* along barbed wire and now they are clumps. I have recently run out of barbed wire and strung up some clothes line wire as I desperately wanted to colour up some miniatures that I am currently breeding. Hanging pots don't slip and slide along barbed wire. I had the bright idea of gluing *Tills* along the clothes line wires and they work very well as slide stops.

Growing on Bones

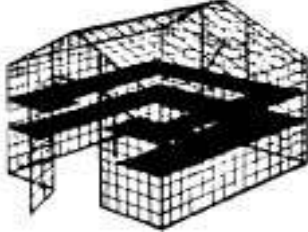
A Townsville grower specializes in this. She does not have a macabre bone in

her body. That is probably a poor choice of phrasing for this topic. She gets large bones from the butcher and lets the moderately large dog have his way with them. She recovers the bones, takes them down to the bush house and attaches her plants. I just looked back at what I had typed and I had typed doctor not butcher. This could be the start of a great crime fiction novel that I am destined to write.

Totem Poles

You need an old tree fern trunk. Drive a metal stake into the ground. Then drop the tree fern log over it. You would not think I would have to tell you that? Foolishly I used a broom handle for my first stake. It rotted and fell and squashed my first \$100 brom. I then begin to attach the broms. Smaller ones to the top and larger ones to the bottom. Use small clumpers or runners and vary the colours. I attach larger plants with black irrigation hose held on by two clouts. Black

**SHADE
HOUSES**
by Peters Glen
*Manufacturers of Orchid, Fern
and Shade Houses since 1976*



Ph: (07) 3207 2793
Fax: (07) 3822 2307
151 Railway Pde., Thornside, Q 4158
www.petersglen.com.au



Neo. 'Ticker', bred by Alan Freeman, registered by Rob Smythe



On Lattice

against black so you don't see the hose. Some effective choices in Neos are *Neo*. 'Short and Sweet', 'Fireball', 'Rosa Muller', 'Fairy Nice', 'Marble Throat', *ampullacea*, *tigrina*, 'Ornato', 'Guine'a', 'Wee Willie', 'Strawberry Cream'.

If you are going to cut one of your tree ferns down, remember to firstly chop all the leaves off, then let the first new leaf open and then cut it down. You can now take the top section off and restart it in sand in your bush house. This is for tropical tree ferns like *Cyathea cooperi*. Southern growers don't have to do this with their southern tree ferns. They just grow from the top log, no mucking around. You can buy these live logs in the shops down there.

I have made one totem using a star picket and pushed fern peat (kebab style) from dead epiphytes on to it. Did not quite work out as expected. With all the watering the ferns came back to life. Does not look too bad. Not sure which will win?

Hollow Logs

These are very ornamental and if you can get some from old hardwood hollow trees, with hollow branches, all the better. I have a lot of the very large plants growing in these. *Aechmea mexicana* and many of the giant *N. johannis* related neoregelias. In contrast I have a log with holes on the side and variagated *Aech orlandianas* look quite attractive sprouting out of these. Ants can be a problem and one time I even had white ants in one log.

Big Logs

When ever a tree comes down in the yard I chop it up. Longer lengths lie along the ground. Aech Forest Fire Hybrids make a wonderful display on these. The remaining logs go into piles and I place a whole range of plants in these. Soon the logs can't be seen. Palms rot quite quickly and can be mulched to make good peat. Before this I drill holes

with a 'key saw' and then plant my broms. Usually get up to about 4 years of growing. Much smaller logs you can hang horizontally along a fence or even hang vertically from a tree.

Rocks

I have even heard of people drilling holes into rocks to hold plants in place. That is just too much trouble. Set the plant in place with any fast setting glue. This alone is no good as it breaks down in sunlight and cracks away when you hose it. When the glue has set, put a band of silicon sealant which is useless for a while but once set allows for a lot of movement. Use the guttering type. Growing is slow and often these once cute gardens become mounts for large bromeliads and the rocks seem to disappear. Well, one of mine did and the second is heading down the same path. These rocks are now covered with very large pots of landscaping plants e.g. *Hohenbergia rosea*.

Smaller pots are stuck into the crevices leaving the rocks no longer visible. There are some wonderful examples in gardening books (The Tropical Garden by William Warren publisher Thames & Hudson Pp140-143,208) where rocks have been integrated with a water feature like a pond or a waterfall. Just not possible on my quarter acre. I never envy but I can dream.

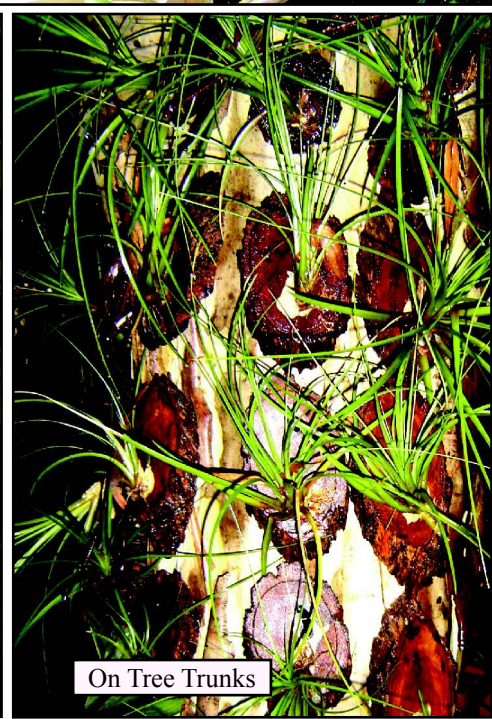
Rockeries

These are the best of all especially if you have a dull and boringly flat block of dirt.

With a small retaining wall at the back pile up the rocks. You may like firstly, to mound with dirt to get a greater spread of your rocks. Plant your plants in the crevices held firmly by some garden mulch.

Ornaments

It is quite an added attraction to have bromeliads growing out of ornaments. My little monkey looks exceptionally cheeky and



Trees

To me this does not fit the title of the article but sort of wraps up epiphytic growing.

Hopefully the photos will speak for themselves. If the trees shed their bark it never looks as good as you have to firstly attach the plant to something which you then have to nail to the tree. It looks a little odd but I have nailed a section of Aluminium lattice on to a bark shedding tree and I just place Tills in the holes and they grow. I call Tills "Grey Grasses" as they grow fast up here. They nearly need mowing. They come up everywhere. I have another similar section of lattice nailed to a barren brick wall of my potting shed.

My potting shed is worth mentioning. It is actually the aviary my boys had when they collected parrots and pheasants. The flight area is my seedling area and the shed part is my potting area. The skirting board below the roof is covered with overgrown tillandsias. One wall is covered with tillandsias glued to cross sectional cuts of my callistemon tree branches. Cut the branches at a 45 degree angle and they look fine. The longer side of the shed has the Aluminium lattice plus Tills. I'm not mad on Tills but they keep falling to the ground and I have to

mow them or mount them somewhere. They look great clumped on trees. On top of my potting shed you would find a multitudes of cut down foam boxes full of my seedlings. Altogether not a pretty sight so no photo is supplied here.

The trees they do the best in my yard are the callistemons and the melaleucas. Next best would be palms and corkwood. Buckinghamia and umbrella trees would be the last of the good ones.

Aechmea Serrata/ Smithiorum

by Ross Little of PineGrove Bromeliad
Nursery.

We are not the one's doing it, we are trying to correct the naming problem.

For many years now I have been growing *Aechmea Smithiorum* never calling it or referring to it as *Aechmea Serrata* except on purchase only to find at flowering time we got *Ae. Smithiorum* again.

As a member of The Hunter District Bromeliad Society for many years, we have discussed the confusion of the identity of these two plants with Peter Franklin many times & have agreed we are growing only *Aechmea Smithiorum* in this country. Although the problem does still exist there it's not as bad as it was, however on moving north to take-over PineGrove we have found the problem to be huge up this way & in learning to use the computer I'm finding the problem is just as big in the electronic world eg: e-bay.

Alas the leading paragraph of the article on *Aechmea Serrata* in Bromeliaceae Nov./Dec. 2008 is inferring that PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery is selling one plant under two names, therefore doubling sales & readers should be made aware of this problem. (yes there is a problem).

**WILDFIRE GARDEN
BROMELIAD NURSERY
ALCANTAREA'S FOLIAGE VRIESEA'S
NEOREGELIA'S & OTHER GENERA**

**VISITORS WELCOME
BY APPOINTMENT**

**Cheryl Basic
1560 Yandina-Coolum road
Yandina. 4561
Ph. 07 5472 8827
Mob. 0403 193069
wildfire@budgetnet.net.au**

Since taking over PineGrove I continually correct people as to the identity of these 2 plants so as not to be selling them a plant they already own, sold to them by various other nurseries or bought on e-bay as *Ae. Serrata* which they clearly have not got. The comment of doubling sales was also made by myself against other sellers who do know the difference between these 2 plants, just choose to sell two plants rather than one (double the profit).

I also refer to my Smith & Downs & my copy of *Das Pflanzenreich - Bromeliaceae von C. Mez* (in Latin), both excellent publications. The discussion I had with Derek was that in both of these publications there is no mention as to the size of the serrations on the primary bracts, do we need a magnifying glass to see them or are they clearly visible as in the line sketch on page 1902, fig. 648, Smith & Downs - *Flora Neotropica*, Monograph #14, part 3, Bromelioideae.

As I am continually pointing out to people that the plant they have been sold as *Ae. Serrata* is clearly not & the reason being is the lack of serrations to the primary bracts, the bracts on *Ae. Smithiorum* are entire - smooth edged, with-out serrations (spines), whereas they are serrated on *Ae. Serrata*, hence the name.

As it is difficult to get people to believe what we are telling them, as most people don't like to feel/admit they have been fooled or sold a DUD, I contacted Derek to find a clear photo of the serrated primary bracts so as to have it published to help correct this situation, as we do tend to believe what we see in print. Derek was able to provide a photo which has now been posted on F.C.B.S. & now in *Bromeliaceae*. However a full page photo of *Ae. Serrata* - Frieda Billiet would have shown the serrated bracts better.

I hope this article can go in *Bromeliaceae* as an errata to paragraph one, article

on *Ae. Serrata*. As paragraph one doesn't read as I think Derek may have intended it to read, as there has never been any confusion as to the identity of these 2 plants by Ross Little, nor do we try & sell plants as *Ae. Serrata*, we do exactly the opposite we only sell *Ae. Smithiorum*. However we check every plant that flowers here in hope we find the elusive *Ae. Serrata* & if we do you most certainly will hear about it.

Many Thanks to Smith & Downs & of course mostly to Peter Franklin (PAF) for all of his knowledge he passes on to members of The Hunter District Bromeliad Society (invaluable).

P.S The same situation also occurs with *Vr.* "Red Chestnut", NO sorry they are all *Vriesea Fosteriana*, this is another one of my pet hates, it is extremely doubtful that the real *Vr.* "Red Chestnut" ever made it to Australia. Thats another story.

Ed. - Ross, sorry if our article caused you any grief, we can only apologise. I know from the accompanying email to this article, you understand that no slight was intended.

What you have highlighted is in the same vein as Derek and that is the difficulties with plant identification and the importance of getting things correct.

I feel that its particularly important with species as in the future the only place that some of these plants may be growing is in enthusiast's collections.

As an aside, I am afraid that with prominence in the bromeliad world, you get mentioned in dispatches. Its unfortunate if the mention is not strictly correct, still as a famous actress once said "only one thing worse than being recognised is not being recognised".

Hopefully this article will give the PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery some favourable publicity and indirectly you benefit from the article in last edition of this journal.

Bromeliads

Anonymous

Hi, my name is Leisa & I'm a bromeliad addict.

It started in the typical way - a lovely flowering plant bought innocently enough. Then a few more were added to brighten the lower level of my garden - I was still in control. Then I tapped into the shows, where whole rooms of colour, shape & texture seduced me.

Sometimes I wanted to stop, usually after being scratched, but long sleeves & a good pair of gloves overcame the qualms. The drought saw me going hardcore, as the rest of my garden shrivelled away.

Now I can't stop. I'm always thinking about getting the next one. I beg, borrow & steal them from family, friends, colleagues & neighbours. I'm hanging out for the next show. I need help - a bigger garden.

Why I like Neoregelias.

In my suburban garden, I've found it a challenge to get smaller plants to grow in between established palms, camelias and gardenias. The biggest problem is the matted roots, but also highly varying amounts of light and in the past few years the drought has taken it's toll. So colourful neoregelias have been my garden's saviour. I plant them into thick layers of pine bark mulch in between the established plants and they've done really well.

During the drought, when I didn't have water tanks, they even survived being watered with grey water! Now with the rains & my almost always full tanks, I can give the attention they deserve, and they're repaying me with even more colour and lots of offsets.

Beginners Must Have Lists

With the huge variety of bromeliads, sometimes it hard to decide what to acquire

next as there's simply too much choice! So I found an article by Peter Paroz in May/June 2005 Bromeliaceae suggesting a suitable initial collection great for re-assessing where my little collection was headed. I'd love to see similar "starter" or "must have" collections from other experienced growers, particularly that effectively illustrates either the wide variety or unusual aspects of bromeliads.

Bromeliaceae is Great

Being new to bromeliads, I'd like to say I've found the back issues of Bromeliaceae especially helpful. Having a slim volume with a variety of articles that you can pick up and put down easily is so handy. I keep mine on the patio for a quick read with a cup of tea! The tips and ideas from experienced local people are especially helpful.

I've been using the issues in an incremental way, initially skipping the highly technical articles, when I'm out of my depth. But I've re-visited many as my knowledge and interest in various aspects increases. So keep up the good work with such a useful resource!

Getting Rid of Mozzies

In Jul/Aug 2005 issue of Bromeliaceae, there's an article on getting rid of mozzies, and thought it might be good to publish the recipe given that mozzies are a problem this time of year, especially with the threat of dengue fever up north.

Len Trotman's Recipe:

500ml of Sunlight (dish washing)

Liquid

200ml Household Cloudy Ammonia

100ml Citronella or Pine-O-Cleen

disinfectant

Pour the contents into 51 litres of cold water. As this mixture is very concentrated, use only at 2 to 4 tablespoons per litre of water in your watering can. It can also be mixed with your liquid fertiliser, and can be used weekly if desired. It is not detrimental



A couple of photos from Leisa's garden



Bromeliaceae

to your bromeliads even at the seedling stage. You will notice when spraying, that foam is generated, but this is not a problem as each of the stages in the life cycle of the mosquito is dependent upon the surface tension of the water. The adults rest on the surface to lay eggs and the other forms hang below the surface. If the surface tension is broken, then the life cycle is interrupted.

Ed - I would like to thank Leisa for her contribution, I must confess I work with

Leisa at Sparq Solutions and like me she is a senior analyst.

We have many interesting conversations at my desk many about this stunted Vriesea carinata that I have growing as an experiment. Its great to have another Bromeliad addict in the building (although I suspect there are at least three more!)

Well done on your first article Leisa, I hope you write a few more, they are good.

Calendar of Events

18th April - Bromeliad Symposium - A series of 1 hour presentations by Dr James Grant. The presentations will include information about collecting in Equador, a non-technical perspective on the genus Alcantarea/Werauhia and a presentation on the life and times of Lyman B. Smith and Morren - two bromeliad pioneers. The venue is at Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens Cafe in the same room as we had our christmas party starts 12 noon. Come Saturday and go to both the Symposium and the Show and Plant Sale.

18/19th April - Society's Autumn Show and Sale of Bromeliads at Mt Cootha Botanic Gardens., Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday 9am-3pm Over 500 species/varieties/hybrids will be on sale. . Admission \$3.00 adults, children under 14 free if accompanied by adult. If you wish to sell plants, please let Pam Butler know (Telephone 3289 1866) so she can make some space for you.

2nd & 3rd May - Australian Open Garden Scheme at Anne McBurnie & Philip Beard's garden, 5 Timbertop Court, Capalaba. Entry \$5.

Vibrant, diverse, all seasons garden. Beautiful bromeliads in landscaped gardens. Over 60 varieties of crotons, colourful cordylines and interesting ground covers, cactus and succulent gardens. Bring a friend, stroll through the gardens, chat over a Devonshire tea, or sit and enjoy the magnificent music and song of "Raven" as she plays the heavenly harp, dressed in Mediaeval dress, in a leafy setting.

Heavenly Harp times - Saturday 11.30 - 1.00 Sunday 12.00 - 2.00

Cute Kids performing Poetry & Storytelling Saturday only 11-11.30

Prize winning bromeliads, crotons, cordylines and ground covers for sale.

7/8 Nov - Society's Spring Sale of Bromeliads at Mt Cootha Botanic Gardens

3rd Dec - Society's Christmas Party

GENERAL MEETINGS of the Society are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month except for December, at the Uniting Hall, 52 Merthyr Rd., New Farm, Brisbane, commencing 7.30 pm. Classes for beginners commence at 7.00 pm.

Plant of the Month Programme for 2009

FEBRUARY:	Ananus, Intergeneric Plants, Tillandsias and Full-sun Neoregelias.
MARCH:	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias, Full-sun Aechmeas and Canistrums
APRIL:	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias
MAY:	Spotted Neoregelias, Orthophytums, Tillandsias and Variegated Bromeliads
JUNE:	Alcantareas, Foliage Vrieseas, Dyckias, Hechtias
JULY:	Billbergias, Pitcairnia, Nidulariums
AUGUST:	Billbergias, Foliage Vrieseas, Catopsis and Miniature Neoregelias.
SEPTEMBER:	Billbergias and Guzmanias.
OCTOBER:	Vrieseas, Neoregelias, Nidulariums, Guzmanias
NOVEMBER:	Not often seen Bromeliads and Succulents

Competition Schedule for 2009

Novice, Intermediate and Advanced in each Class of the Mini-Shows and in the Popular Vote.

January: MINI-SHOW

Class 1: Aechmea - species and hybrids

Class 2: Vriesea - species and hybrids

Class 3: Dyckia - species and hybrids

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

February : **POPULAR VOTE:** Any Genus – species or hybrid, Novelty Bromeliad Display

March: **POPULAR VOTE:** Any Genus – species or hybrid, Novelty Bromeliad Display

April: MINI-SHOW

Class 1: Bromelioideae not listed elsewhere in the schedule – species and hybrids.

Class 2: Guzmania - species and hybrids

Class 3: Pitcairnia and Peperomia - species and hybrids

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

May: **POPULAR VOTE:** Any Genus – species or hybrid, Novelty Bromeliad Display

June: POPULAR VOTE: Any Genus – species or hybrid, Novelty Bromeliad Display

July: MINI-SHOW

Class 1: Billbergia - species and hybrids

Class 2: Tillandsioideae not listed elsewhere in the schedule – species and hybrids.

Class 3: Neoregelia - species and hybrids – up to 200mm diameter when mature.

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

August: **POPULAR VOTE:** Any Genus – species or hybrid, Novelty Bromeliad Display

September: **POPULAR VOTE:** Any Genus – species or hybrid, Novelty Bromeliad Display

October: MINI-SHOW

Class 1: Neoregelia - species and hybrids – over 200mm diameter when mature.

Class 2: Tillandsia - species and hybrids.

Class 3: Pitcairnioideae not listed elsewhere in the schedule – species and hybrids.

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

November: **POPULAR VOTE:** Any Genus – species or hybrid, Novelty Bromeliad Display

Note 1: Class 4 in each Mini Show schedule provides for any flowering bromeliad that would not be in its prime for the appropriate Mini Show.

Note 2: Class 1 (April), Class 2 (July) and Class 3 (October) provide for plants from these subfamilies not elsewhere included in the Mini Show schedule.



Bromeliaceae

28

Jan/Feb 2009