

# Bromeliad Newsletter

## Mini Show Results for October

### MINI SHOW RESULTS FOR OCTOBER

#### ADVANCED

CLASS 1: 1<sup>ST</sup>. LEN & OLIVE TREVOR NEO. HANIBAL LECTER HYBRID

2<sup>ND</sup>. A.MC.BURNIE & P BEARD. NEO.SPECTRUM X CAROLINE X PINK LADY.

CLASS 2: 1<sup>ST</sup>. LEN AND OLIVE TREVOR TILL. FASICULATA FLORIDA

2<sup>ND</sup>. LEN AND OLIVE TREVOR TILL. JANICULATA.

CLASS 3: 1<sup>ST</sup>. A. MC. BURNIE & P. BEARD . PUYA. UNNAMED.

2<sup>ND</sup>.-----

CLASS 4: 1<sup>ST</sup>. LEN AND OLIVE TREVOR NIDMEA PENUMBRA.

2<sup>ND</sup>. A. MC BURNIE & P BEARD. VRIESEA BUNTIA

#### INTERMEDIATE

CLASS 1: 1<sup>ST</sup>. MAL. & MICHELLE CAMERON NEO. BLAST FURNACE

2<sup>ND</sup>. MAL. & MICHELLE CAMERON NEO. DOWNS AUTUMN.

CLASS 2: 1<sup>ST</sup>. PAM BUTLER TILL. TECTORUM

2<sup>ND</sup>. PAM BUTLER GARDNERII VAR. RUPICOLA

CLASS 3: 1<sup>ST</sup>. BARRY AND ANN KABLE FOSTERELLA ELATA.

2<sup>ND</sup>. BARRY AND ANN KABLE HECHTIA TILLANSIODES.

CLASS 4: 1<sup>ST</sup>. BARRY AND ANN KABLE AECHMEA CUCULLATA RED X MANZANARESIANA.

2<sup>ND</sup>. BARRY AND ANN KABLE VRIESEA MIRANDA.

#### NOVICE.

CLASS 1: 1<sup>ST</sup>. LESLEY GIBBS NEO. NARELLE X CURENTA BROADLEAF.

2<sup>ND</sup>. EMILY THOMSON NEO. CHUNKY.

NO ENTRIES FOR CLASS 2 AND 3

CLASS 4: 1<sup>ST</sup>. PAT BARLOW GUZMANIA PENNILLII.

2<sup>ND</sup>. FRED THOMSON ANANUS NANUS.

November 2010

The beginner's class was given by NIGEL THOMPSON and as always a large thank you to NORMA POOLE for taking notes for us .Nigel spoke on the different ways of multiplying plants, growing from seed. He grows his in plastic container's with seed raising mix . He dissolves  $\frac{1}{2}$  a MILTON TABLET in a spray bottle and spray's for fungus then places them in a warm area, out of the sun. Vrieseas, Guzmanias, Alcantareas slow. If cross of two primaries,plants are usually fairly similar. SKOTAK is one of the best growing from seed. He specialises in variegates,he works out from the genes which will be the most likely to produce variegation. Nigel wanted to produce a spinless NEOREGELIA. He crossed NEO. MEDUSA with Neo. Peaches and Cream and got 3 with variegations.

FROM PUPS: To get more pups, he fertilisers with a couple of teaspoons of OSMOCOTE around the base, he then takes off the pups, fertilises the Mother again and sometimes he does this up to 5 times. With Guzmanias, one way is to cut off flower before it opens, the plant then goes into panic mode and produces pups e.g:perhaps 7 instead of 2.TISSUE CULTURE = In theory all plants should be identical to parent.Nigel uses only 3 tissue culture people- from Belgium and Holland. Sometimes he has some variations---he had a lovely variegated Guzmania.The thing he loves about Bromeliads is that they don't always abide by the rules. SPORTS: These don't always stay true ,they can revert to the original form. NEO. "ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS" is one which sometimes starts green and only gets it's variegation as it grows bigger. This seldom happens in reverse. ODDITIES: Nigel bought in a couple of Guzmanias which had mutated. One had sent up a spike but had a pup develop instead of the flower. Another had started to form a flower spike and then formed a pup at the tip.He found broad leafed plants were more likely to mutate than the narrow leafed plants.

On the night we had visitor's from Cairns, Darwin and Adelaide. John Olsen spoke re. the upcoming BROMELIAD BONANZA SHOW ON SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>. AND 14<sup>TH</sup>. OF NOVEMBER and asked members to take flyers to hand out to their various clubs.

Well! Our Guest Speaker for the night was LEN COLGAN from ADELAIDE to speak and show slides of his trips to ECUADOR in 2009 and 2010. Lots of laughter over the stories. My apologies first off as I was not able to keep up with Len and write down all the correct names of the bromeliads he saw. Len was telling us he lost quite a lot of his collection of TILLANDIAS during SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S hot weather which was up in the 30's to over 40 odd degrees, this was the same time as the 2009 Victoria fires. So Len was going to go to Ecuador and as always had forms to fill out and then more forms to complete, 8 pages each 280. Special bromeliads to see if they were on the list of plants that he could bring into Australia from Ecuador. He fell down a mountain while there. He lost 60% of his plants being gassed for quarantine, so of course he had to return in 2010, then the volcano erupted and naturally no planes were allowed to fly in, Eventually they let them in on a 16 day trip,. Plants which were collected on day one had to stay with you as the collector until the end of the trip, these were mainly kept in suitcases. He brought back plants suitable for the dry climate in South Australia. Tillandsia complanata had so many different types of species and Guzmania monostachia. Slides shown of the dry area high up on the west of the Andes Mountains. Vriesea cylindrica (Santiago) growing on large rocks everywhere. Some beautiful slides of Till. stenoura? So many different flowering Tillandsias. On day two after another landslide onwards they went—more different species of Tillandsia complanata, Racineae and Guzmanias. So many broms. Thickly filled one on top of another, acres and acres of fields full of various broms. Some growing on the side of the road. Stanhope and Oncidium orchids with Heliconias all growing in and around the bromeliads. The 2<sup>nd</sup>. best location was where all the villages had been moved out of the area near the erupting volcano at approx. 2,000 meters. The fantastic slide views of their highway, dirt tracks, water filled potholes. After climbing up more mountains the view looking down on the AMAZON RIVER meandering through the jungle. Only a few Aechmeas to be seen. Final slide photos of the amazingly beautiful Tillandsia fendleri x complanata



## A Note from the Tillandsia Workshop

One of the several benefits of attending the recent Tillandsia Workshop is meeting up with old acquaintances and seeing-buying-rare species and hybrids. In my case, the first find was the identification of a large plant I had at home that was coming into flower.

This plant was of unknown origin and had been neglected for some years;growing in a staghorn fern in a large melaluca tree. When the tree had to go,I recovered the plant,potted it up and included it in my regular fertilizer program.The plant is large,to 1.6 metre in diameter with numerous long narrowly tapered leaves. These are green in colour with a very light trichome covering. The flower spike is impressive to 1.5 metre,pale pink in colour and with 25 open compound branches;with no flowers visible as I write. Thanks to Bruce Dunstan,the likely name is *Tillandsia exserta* .I will have to wait until the flowers emerge and I have access to the reference books in the library to confirm the identify(and the spelling). The next event was not so auspicious. In support of my presentation on tillandsia culture and nutrition, I showed a group of the miniature *T.bryoides* seedlings which I had grown from seed to flowering in three years."It's *tricolepis*"said a boomy voice from a back seat!!??

Subsequently,another voice-the original source of the seed plant-announced that it was *bryoides*!!When I got home,I looked carefully at the species in question.The 20+seedlings were definitely a species,identical in every respect;no sign of the differentiation that you would expect from an F1 hybrid.Again,I will have to wait for flowers and the reference books for positive ID but the smart money would be with the boomy voice,*T.tricolepis*. Full marks John Olsen for his efforts in organizing the day; and to Len and Olive Trevor for hosting the event.

***Peter Paroz***

# B.S.O XMAS PARTY

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010

6:30pm for 7:00pm

Arana Hills Leagues CLUB

Dawson Parade Keperra

\$25 Head

Pay Glenn Bernoth by November meeting

**HUGE RAFFLE**



Type of Seed	Quantity	Date Prepared	Provided
<b>Vriesea</b>			
<b>Billbergia</b>			
Bill rosea	1	Mar-10	G.C.Brom Soc
<b>Guzmania</b>			
sanguinea	3	Aug-10	
<b>Tillandsia</b>			
variabilis	5	Aug-10	G.C.Brom Soc
tricolor var.melanocrater	1	June-10	Peter Paroz
bryoides	3	Aug-10	
butzii	3	Aug-10	
tricolor	3	Aug-10	
butzii var Roseiflora	2	Aug-10	
juncea	2	Aug-10	
fasciculata(Hydes Green)	1	Aug-10	
grandis	8	June-10	Bruce Dunstan
streptocarpa	1	May-10	
<b>Alcantarea</b>			
geniculta	2	May-10	G.C.Brom Soc
imperialis(Green Form)	5	May-10	M&M Cameron
<b>Aechmea</b>			
recurvata	4		Olive Branch
castelnavii	1	May-10	M&M Cameron
callichroma	1	Mar-10	Rick(B S Q)
blanchetiana(RED FORM)	1	May-10	Peter Ball
blanchetiana(Orange Form)	3	May-10	Peter Ball
Mulfordii Hybrid	3	May-10	M&M Cameron
aquilegia	3	June-10	M Kraa
<b>Neoregelia</b>			
kautskyii	4	May-10	M&M Cameron

What a beautiful Queensland day we had on the 17<sup>th</sup>. OCTOBER for the Bromeliad Society's Field day at PAM and ROBB BUTLER'S home, sun shining, ,bromeliads, ,orchids, ,hippies and various cuttings for sale. If you were there you would already know about the special appearance of a KOALA who apparently was very interested in the talk JOHN OLSEN was giving on TILLANDSIAS. PAM AND ROBB have lived there for 22 years and had never before seen a KOALA. Thank you Pam and Robb for allowing us to enjoy your garden.



**LUCKY DOOR** NEO.BLUSHING TIGER.

HELEN MORIARTY, DELL BOTTRELL.

**RAFFLE WINNERS**

RIC CAIRNS ( 2) ARNOLD JAMES - SELGA BOOTHY - JAN CALOON - NARELLE AIZLEWOOD - RUTH KIMBER - FRED THOMSON - LESLEY GIBBS - BARBARA MURRAY - DELL BOTTRELL -SHARON BORN.

*If ants are so busy, how come they find the time to turn up at picnics and BBQ'S*



## Tillandsia Workshop 2010

Elsewhere Peter Paroz has provided a participant's view of what he got out of the workshop in his member's view of the workshop. I have given coverage here to the full program.

31 attendees arrived early and pored over the sales table and renewed old friendships. The keynote talk was Len Colgan's "A-Z of Bolivian Tillandsia". In the same enthusiastic and interesting way as Len talked at the Thursday meeting, he covered



all Bolivian tillandsia and at the same time talked about his collecting trips there. Bolivian tillandsias represent a group surviving in tough conditions and so in large part are relatively easy to grow.

Then was the turn of our members to contribute. Other talks were:

- Peter Paroz on DIY techniques for creating Calcium and Magnesium supplements to off the shelf fertilisers;
- Bruce Dunstan – now known as “the fertiliser King” amazed us with development rates a year on showing the very same plants he'd brought in as tiny examples in 2009;
- The fertiliser discussion then moved to practical questions on feeding tillandsia and in particular discussed Pam Butler's conundrum with lack of colour in a *T. deppeana*- need for extra fertiliser at key growth stages was the consensus outcome;
- Bob Hudson on variation among *T. ionantha*. Bob had nearly 20 forms - small, spiralling, huge, red, orange, white petals etc;
- Bob Reilly on forms of *T. latifolia* which again range from large elongated caulescent forms to small plants;
- George Stamatis had an amazing array of *T. fasciculata* supplemented by Olive Trevor's collection. George also had a *T. imperialis* coming into spike;
- Becky Trevor on some creative and artistic mounting arrangements;
- Neville Ryan on some interesting *T. duratii* hybrids with black inflorescences which sprang up in his collection;
- Barry Genn displayed various forms of *T. scheidiana* with red, yellow petals large and small and mostly in large clumps;

- John Olsen had an assortment of rarer tillandsia imported from Germany in bloom;
- Cheryl Basic discussed the family of tiny tillandsia;
- Nigel Thomson showed how impressive large clumps of tillandsia can be;
- Barry Kable discussed more ways of mounting and presenting tillandsia;
- Peter Ball our seedbank coordinator naturally discussed seed raising;
- In keeping with wildlife intrusions for the month Len Trevor and his performing butcher bird provided an interesting diversion;

We then had ID sessions trying and mostly succeeding in giving a name to other members' plants.



Plants sales were run a little differently. The silent auction table had around 10 rarer plants giving everyone a chance to express how much they'd like to take one home (as opposed to the sales table where the competition was a little less orderly). The keen bidding saw one reach \$150. There was also a "first dibs" raffle where 5 lucky individuals won the first 5 picks from the sales table. *T. hildae* at \$100 was the first to go.

Then a scramble as we rang Len's big brass bell to open sales. The variety of tillandsias was the best I've seen assembled on a sales table anywhere. Prices varied but the rate at which plants were bought showed the great opportunity provided to add new plants to collections.

From a society viewpoint, I think we can count this as a success. We easily covered the cost of Len Colgan's visit and in return we got two interesting and well received presentations on Thursday and Saturday. Feedback from attendees has been positive. Thanks to those who chipped in on the day helping set up, run sales etc. Thanks also to Len and Olive Trevor who provided the excellent venue, seating and tables aplenty and morning/afternoon teas. And in the end we had a tidy addition to the society funds.

John Olsen

