

BROMELIACEAE

PLANT OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER - GUZMANIA.



Guzmania teuscheri

SEPT - OCT 1994

VOLUME XXVII NO. 5

ON THE INSIDE.

FEATURES:

- PLANT OF THE MONTH - June - Tillandsia stricta
by Neville Ryan.3
- OUR TRIP TO BUNDABERG - Doug Upton.4
- "THE CITY FOLKS VISIT" - Poem by Rhonda Symonds.6
- BEGINNERS FOR JULY - Problems with starting a
collection by Bob Cross and
Noel Weir.8
- R.N.A. 1994.9
- IPSWICH BROMELIAD SOCIETY DISPLAY - Vince Heffernan.9

CULTURAL NOTES:

- NEOREGELIA - by Phyllis Hobbs.10
- A SPECIAL BROMELIAD Doug Upton.11

COMING EVENTS:

- Royal Horticultural Show.17

REGULAR ITEMS:

- New Members.17
- Programme for the next two meetings.18
- Note from the Editor.18
- Seed Raising Group - News snippets.19
- Popular Vote Results.20
- Problem Corner.20
- Advertisements.22,23,24

— THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC. —

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

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box
Fortitude Valley
QLD. 4006
AUSTRALIA

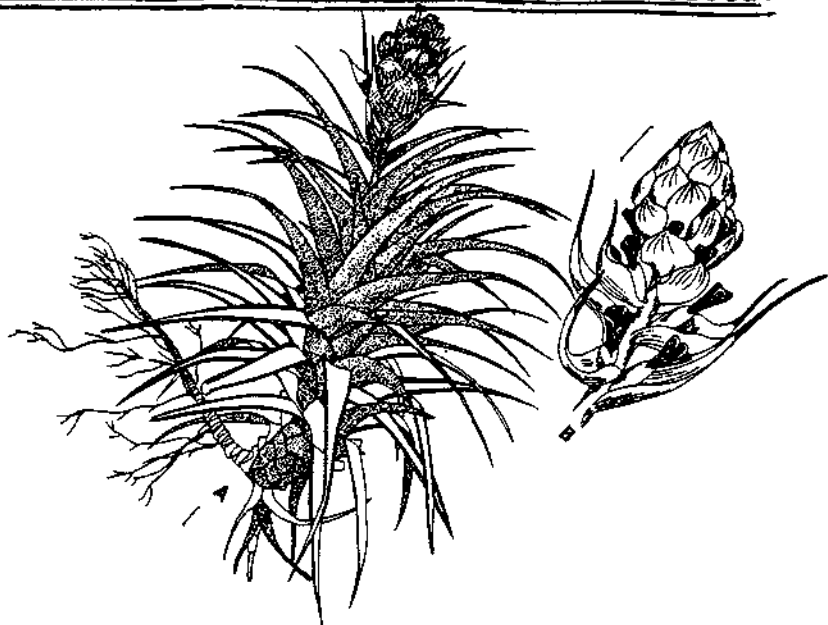


- PATRON; Mr. Harold Caulfield
- PRESIDENT; Mr. Len Trevor Ph. 351-1203
- VICE PRESIDENT; Mr. Len Butt Ph. 848-3515
- SECRETARY; Mrs. Val Urquhart Ph. 824-0627
- TREASURER; Mr. Greg Aizlewood Ph. 800-1751
- EDITOR; Ms. Narelle Rowe Ph. 800-1751
- ASSISTANT EDITOR; Mr. Len Butt Ph. 848-3515
- SHOW ORGANIZER; Mr. Bob Cross Ph. 265-4364
- IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT; Mr. John Higgins
- COMMITTEE; Mrs. Phyllis Hobbs, Mr. Don Hobbs,
Mr. Laurie Muller, Mrs. Thelma -
Muller, Mr. Doug Upton,
Mr Neville Ryan, Mrs Olive Trevor,
Mr Noel Weir.
- LIFE MEMBERS; P. Paroz, L. Butt, G.Goode
and B. & R. Wilson.

DISCLAIMER:

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

Plant of the Month (June) Tillandsia stricta.



Tillandsia stricta is a very popular species, as it flowers reliably and is reasonably easy to grow. It's habitat range from Venezuela to northern Argentina up to 1700 meters in altitude. There are many different forms, from fine leafed varieties to large grey forms.

The colour of the inflorescence range from pale pink to a dark rose pink and can be quite large in some of the large grey forms.

Tillandsia stricta will make a beautiful specimen if allowed to grow into a clump. Be sure to keep the dead leaves removed as they can cause rot if we get a lot of wet weather. If you collect some of the different varieties, you can get flowers at various times of the year.

Tillandsia stricta has been used to hybridize with T. tenuifolia, T. gardneri, T. recurvifolia, T. albertiana and others.

Article by Neville Ryan.

GYPPIE, BUNDABERG BUS TRIP

How can one put into words the sheer pleasure and excitement of our recent bus trip to Gympie and Bundaberg. Because of the number of beautiful gardens we visited, it will be impossible to describe each one in detail. I shall endeavour to recollect some of the delightful, informative and social aspects of the week-end.

after leaving Brisbane at about 8.35 a.m. we arrived at the Big Pineapple (Nambour) for refreshments. Suitably refreshed, we boarded the bus for our invasion of Gympie, and to the home of Graham and Linda Percival. Naturally we found they had Broms everywhere their best display is at the rear of the house. This area has a huge circular shade cover, and beneath is a wealth of colourful Neoregelias.

Our next stop was Paterson's Nursery, where we had lunch with not one of us wasting too much time over eating. Like ants, (I forgot to mention, there were twenty-two of us) we made our way through thousands of Broms. Each of us wanting to purchase this plant or that off shoot. Two hours have passed, we have afternoon tea and cakes, load our purchases into the bus trailer and continue our journey to Bundaberg.

Our motel for the night was great. We arrived at about 5.30 p.m., time enough to sit on the spacious verandah, have a cup of coffee and talk over the days activities.

The evening meal was at a restaurant within walking distance of the motel. Our invited guests were our Bundaberg hosts, Mal and Rhonda Symonds. After an enjoyable dinner, a few of us went to a country dance outside of Bundaberg. I mention the dance because some of our group were spectacular in the chicken dance.

Breakfast on the verandah was a banquet, and after thanking motel staff for their quality service, we again boarded the bus for the Bundaberg invasion. John and Helen Clare are Begonia collectors. They have plants of great beauty and diversity. John has cultivated his own hybrids over the years and out of hundreds of seedlings, he may choose only a dozen or so for colour, leaf design and potential size.

One could not leave without purchasing some of his plants.

Our next stop was at the home of John and Iris Gamlin. Their collection of Bromeliads is outstanding. Colour and conformation of their Neoregelias is almost perfection. The layout of their garden with Broms massed under trees is quite beautiful. John and Iris also grow orchids and again, this collection was outstanding. Morning tea was a generous spread of sandwiches and cream cakes. After stuffing more plants into the bus trailer we made our way to the home of Mal and Rhonda Symonds. Once again another fine collection, with plants in open style gardens and shade-cloth houses. One of these houses had been covered with a 75% beige coloured cloth and under this condition the Tillandsias have developed a deeper, richer colour. Most of the tillandsias are clustered and mounted on wood. The wood is shaped and formed in nature, collected by Mal and Rhonda and put to decorative use in their Brom house.

Our next visit was to Charlie and Anne Bauer. This happy couple collect a range of plants, but are best known for their Maiden Hair and Tassel Ferns. Charlie has over a hundred varieties of Tassel Fern collected from countries around the world. The shape and configuration of these ferns is beyond description. Annes' Maiden Hair Ferns are equally outstanding. Their delicate leaves cascade from their containers like a network of fine filigree. Anne and Charlie won our hearts. It was a privilege to see their wonderful collection of plants. Charlie is just 80 years young.

Once again we boarded the bus and within a few minutes we arrived at the home of Keith and Betty Pohlman. Their beautiful garden is a showpiece of Palms and Bromeliads. A lot of planning and hard work has created a garden of distinction. Keith and Betty provided the B.B.Q lunch for our group and also for the people we had visited that morning. After lunch we thanked the Bundaberg people for their hospitality. After many goodbyes, handshakes, and see you again, we boarded the bus for our journey back to Brisbane. A wonderful week-end.



THE CITY FOLK'S VISIT

There was movement in the gardens
for the word had got around -
That the city folk were coming to visit Bundy town.
Yes, we had been asked and the date had been set down
For the very first country visit of the city folk
from town.
They'd arrive here in the evening and stay out late
at night
Then shake their sleepy heads awake before the sun
was bright.

There was so much to do - no time to act the clown
Loads of wood shavings and bark mulch - all had to
be put down.
Cut off the pups and pot them up, then put them in
the mound
Make sure you get it settled before the City Slickers
come to town.

Reds, greens, lavender and black - there's no such
thing as "getting the sack".
We were so excited as we madly raced around - just
had to get the colours right when we put them down
Show off the nice, clean new plants, and send the old
ones 'underground'.
We can't have them on show when the city folk come
to town.

The day has arrived and we proudly show them around,
Thank goodness plants can't talk - or they'd tell
the new friends we had just found
All the things we'd done to get it ready for when the
city folk came to town.

To get the B.B.Q lunch in time - all morning we'd ha
to hound.
And with tummies all full - there won't be a sound.
We enjoyed your com pany and one day we'll all come
down
And it will be the turn of the Country folk to visit
Brisbane town.

"Safe Travelling" as back to Brisbane you go-
We're really pleased you came - and we'd like you to
know
As in the bus you leave us and the corner you will go
around
We'll wave and say "Gee, that was great -
having the city folk come to town".



BEGINNERS FOR JULY:

The Problems of starting a collection.

Bob Cross and Noel Weir.

Noel related how at Coffs Harbour about three years ago he came across a beautiful flowering bromeliad in the foyer of the R.S.L. He and his wife Liz hunted down a grower in Coffs Harbour - a Mr. Ray Pierce and because of the space in the car, were only able to bring back three plants. Noel explained that in the beginning they purchased every plant they could get their hands on, but because of his main problem "SPACE" in the garden, he has now become a little more selective.

A major problem for Noel was trying to find the right mixture - everyone's mixes vary - I guess it's matter of trial and error to find the mix to suit your needs.

To gain knowledge Noel suggested attending trips, outings, seed meetings and taking plants along to the meetings for discussion and identification.

Bob Cross had similar problems.

1. Deciding what plants to collect.
2. Having the right sort of shadehouse and being encouraged to move house to acquire more "SPACE".
3. Bob also felt that there was some confusing advice given in certain publications.

He concluded with this advice.

- Look around and hunt out good clones of plants.
- Attend bus trips and field days to get different ideas on growing.
- Ask questions of the other growers.
- Check out different greenhouses before you build and build as big as you can.

R.N.A - 1994

Well the R.N.A. is over for yet another year and again we were able to provide another beautiful display for the Show Society and the patrons who visit the Horticultural Pavilion. We saw some of the old favourites i.e. a large clump of Neoregelia compacta and some of the not so common bromeliads i.e. Androlepis skinneri. Many worthwhile comments were forthcoming from interested show goers who viewed the display with great enthusiasm and interest. I spoke to a couple from Switzerland, a gent from Germany and quite a few interstate visitors including the President of the Newcastle and Central Coast Bromeliad Society.

The majority of plants for the display were supplied by Laurie and Thelma Muller and Len and Olive Trevor with only a couple of other society members contributing plants for display and also helping with the setting up of the display. Thanks go to Bob Cross our Show Organizer for a job well done. Perhaps a little more help from other members (regarding plants for the display) would be a requirement for the R.N.A. next year.

IPSWICH BROMELIAD SOCIETY DISPLAY.

At the Ipswich Show this year the Ipswich Bromeliad Society was prominent in the Horticultural Pavilion. The beautiful display of bromeliads drew very favourable comment from the Show Society as well as the many visitors to the pavilion.

All members supplied plants and were involved in setting up the display.

For the first time this year a "Wishing Well" was incorporated in the display. Through the generosity of the patrons \$100.00 was collected in small coin. This was donated to the Cancer Society who were very appreciative of our effort.

Article by Mr. Vince Heffernan
Hon. Secretary
Ipswich Bromeliad Society.

NEOREGELIA

When cultivating Neoregelias there are many things to be taken into consideration. The three most important are potting medium, watering and light. The type of potting medium depends on your watering program. If you water every day on a regular basis the mixture needs to be porous to allow instant drainage. Most people use fine pine bark with peat moss to retain moisture and styrene granules. We also use fine charcoal which also helps in aeration and keeps the mix sweet. Light is very important in growing beautiful Neoregelias. There are plants suitable for shade right through to full sun. To get the best result provide maximum light short of bleaching or burning the foliage. For low light any of the carolineas, through to full sun for Cruenta. Fertilizing is a matter of choice depending on how large you want the plants to grow. Over-feeding is one reason for lack of colour. I prefer a small amount of Nutricote when potting and a program of foliar feeding. Through the summer months every week, Never at full strength. We never use about half strength. It's a matter of judgment and how you prefer to grow your plants. Over feeding produces strappy plants with poor colour and will burn easily in our fierce summers. If you want to grow in open garden situation it is wise to cut down on feeding and allow the plant to acclimatise to harder conditions.

Phyllis Hobbs

A SPECIAL BROMELIAD

The day seemed to have passed quickly. Just another couple of hours, then I shall close and make my way home. People had been friendly today, most of them had enjoyed this year's display.

"Good-day mate," came a voice from behind me.

"Hello," I replied as I turned to greet this broad Aussie accent.

I first noticed his size. He was a big man, even though his frame was a little bent. His face was sun damaged and wrinkled, yet he was not old, about fifty something I thought. It was not difficult to assume this man worked on the land. His clothes were definitely country, his broad brimmed hat was sweat marked, but still held it's shape....it suited him. He offered me his hand.

"Me name's Henry," he said, "what's yours?"

I took his friendly hand, introduced myself, and forced a smile.

"Hey mate," he asked, "are these the new Brom-lands, me misses saw here at last years show....when I couldn't come down, 'cause me prize bull was crook?" The old lady said to be sure and see 'em. I have to find out all about 'em, 'cause this year she can't come down, 'cause she's crook."

I forced another smile, and was about to speak, but he turned, and began walking along the Bromeliad display.

I followed and identified each plant he asked about : Vriesea, Guzmania, Tillandsia, Aechmea.

"They are pronounced brom-eel-ee-ads," I told him, "not Brom-lands, and they are certainly not new."

Henry looked curious, so I continued. "In 1753, Carolus Linnalus, a Swedish botanist, recognised fourteen species of Bromeliads in his publication "Species Plantarum". He put them into two genera, Bromelia and Tillandsia. It was not until 1805 that a French botanist Jaume Saint Hilaire, renamed the group.

Most of the genera recognised at that time were known as Bromelia. By adding the Latin ending, aceae, the group became: the Bromeliaceae. Later the group was divided into three subfamilies, they are..."

"I don't think I need to know all that stuff," interrupted Henry.

"Now wait a moment," I said quickly, "didn't you say your wife wanted you to find out all or most things about them?"

"Yeah....I guess so, but look, don't get so flamin' technical,OK."

"Alright," I assured him, "what would you like to know?"

"Well those up there, those stuck up on the tree branches. What do you call 'em?"

"Tillandsias, they are epiphytic, they grow without soil. As you can see Henry, they are mounted on tree fern, cork bark and dried wood. All their needs are supplied by moisture and temperature, light and air circulation."

I reached up and took a Tillandsia Tectorum from a branch.

"If you look closely, you will see it is a fuzzy leafed plant."

"Yeah," Henry whispered as he gently touched the leaves with his dry rough fingers. "Yeah," he whispered again, "it's got a soft silvery look about it, are they hairs?"

"Not quite," I answered, "they are called foliar trichomes. When it rains, these trichomes capture water and transfere it to the living cells of the plant. Trichomes are also responsible for capturing any available nutrients, and also act as shields. These shields protect the leaves from excessive sunlight. Bromeliad enthusiasts sometimes refer to them as peltate scales. A peltate scale is attached from it's lower surface, and can...."

"Hey....hold it, fair go mate, you're at it again with that technical stuff. You're getting a bit heavy." I must have reacted to his outburst by dropping my bottom lip. He reached out and put his arm around my shoulder.

"Now listen mate," Henry spoke quietly, "I know you academic blokes like to show off every now and then with all that technical gab, and I don't want to hurt your feelings." He took his arm from my shoulder. "Just keep to the basics, will you please?"

WELL....I thought to myself as I pushed out my chest, and raised my body up and down from my toes....I LIKE THIS GUY. Me, an academic, full of technical gab. NOBODY but NOBODY, has ever see that quality in me before.

After regaining myself, I apologised to Henry, and explained that sometimes we academic types do run off at the mouth a bit.

"Well now," I said with a voice more suited to my new found academic eloquence. "These beauties are Vrieseas. They grow in an open potting mix, and these are all hybrids."

"Hybrids?" said Henry.

"Yes, something like your prize bull, a lot of cross breeding to get better results."

Henry nodded his head in agreement.

"Plantmen in Belgium and France worked at hybridising. Results were slow and disappointing. However, after years of dedicated work, good quality plants began to evolve. Most of these first hybrids have long since disappeared. Billbergia and Vriesea were the two genera extensively used. Vriesea 'Morreniana' was the first recorded hybrid, a cross between V. psittacian and V. carinata. It was made by Edouard Morrin in 1879.

Towards the last decade of the nineteenth century, horticulturists in Germany, Holland, France and Belgium competed in producing some unusual crosses. In that era the most successful hybrids were produced by Leon Duval of France, with some fifty outstanding crosses."

"Gosh 1879," said Henry. "Here I am just learning about 'em in 1994."

"Yes Henry, and I can go further back than that, if you are interested?"

"Yeah, OK, I'm interested."

"Well this may surprise you, within the Bromeliad family, we have the pineapple."

I was aware of the quizzical look on Henry's face, but before he spoke I continued.

"In 1493, Christopher Columbus found the pineapple on the island of Guadeloupe. The local natives cultivated it from plants obtained from the mainland of South America. Columbus was so impressed with it's sweet flavour, he brought it back to Spain. After several years the fruit was growing throughout the world.

"European horticulturists soon became aware of the exotic plants that could be found in the West Indies and South America. They sent collectors to bring back specimens."

"Nicolaus Jacquin was the earliest known collector of Bromeliads. He left Holland in 1755 to search for plants in the West Indies. Some of the early species are still grown today."

It was then I saw the quizzical look on Henry's face change to that of noticeable excitement. His face beamed as if he had found the greatest of treasures.

"What is it Henry ? I asked.

"Those early Broms, the ones the collectors brought back from the Indies, you said some of 'em are still grown today."

"Yes Henry, that's right."

"What about here," he looked towards the display, "are there any of 'em here now?"

"Yes, there is one over there." His eyes followed the direction of my pointing finger.

"Which one," he asked excitedly. "Can you get it from the display.... can I hold it for a closer look?"

"Sure," I answered, "I'll get it for you."

A moment later I placed the potted plant into Henry's outstretched hands. I watched him as he moved his head from one side to the other, looking in and around, over and under. He was totally captivated.

"This is as it was collected, all them years ago?" he asked.

"Yes," I answered, "there are hybrid crosses of that plant, but yes, that is an original species."

Henry's hands were shaking as he looked over the well constructed vase like form of the plant. The apple green leaves, heavily marked with silvery cross bars. The leaves three inches wide, and about fourteen inches long. The inflorescence, the brightest of pinks, dotted with red and lavender blue flowers. He handed me the plant, and I returned it to the display.

"You are quite sure, it is an original species?" his voice almost begging.

"Yes Henry, I am quite sure, but....why?"

"Well answered Henry. "I want to take a Brom home for the misses. At first I wanted a plant of good breeding, you know just like me prize bull, but when you told me

about them plantsmen with all their hybridising, it started me thinking. Me misses wouldn't like that type of plant, she likes things natural, she doesn't like messing with nature."

Henry took a deep breath. "Then you told me about those early collectors and some of their plants still growing today. Well that's why I got excited. Me misses would just love one of those natural species." Once again his eyes betrayed his excitement. "When you told me you had one of those plants here.... here on this display....I don't know it's name....you haven't given me it's name."

"Aechmea fasciata," I answered.

"aki me fass er," he spluttered.

"NO, no, Aechmea fasciata. Pronounce it this way, eek-me-'a fass-ee-a't"

eef, me, fass, a,t....Oh, to hell with it. I will just tell me misses it's a Brom."

"No Henry, don't do that. There has been so much confusion with naming. When a plant has a proven name, it should be used, please let me tell you about this plant."

"Alright, if you want to, me misses would probably want to know anyway."

"We know it was under cultivation in 1826. It was first called Billbergia fasciata in 1828. In 1830, it was called Billbergia rhodocyanea. Many years later, around 1856-57, it was Hoplophytum fasciatum and then ten years or more it became known as Quesnelia rhodocyanea. In 1979, a botanist by the name of J. G. Baker renamed it Aechmea fasciata. To date, this is the accepted name."

"That's an awful lot of renaming," said Henry. "How can you be sure it now has the correct identity?"

"A good question Henry, because today there is still confusion over the earlier naming procedure, mainly because of poor communication between collectors, botanists and horticultrurists.

Now remember, it was first named by the botanist Lindly in 1828 Then there was the progression of different names. To avoid confusion for listing in horticultural and other publications, it was necessary to revise the name. This was done by the botanist Baker in 1879. The correct name tag is therefore, Aechmea fasciata (Lindley) Baker 1879."

"Listen mate, after all of that, I also reckon this plant deserves to be called by the correct name, and after I tell me misses the history of this achi fassi, I'll make sure she uses the correct pronunciation as well. Anyway, how do you know all this stuff?"

Books, Henry, there are many books written on Bromeliads, and I suppose I have read most of them." Neither of us spoke for some time. I looked at the crowds of people wandering around the other displays. The soft murmur of voices was broken by a mother, calling to her child not to touch the flowers. People were laughing, it was a happy day.

I turned back to look at Henry. He was staring at me, he looked uncomfortable. He took a step away from me, lowered his head and looked towards the floor. His hands fidgeting, he reached to adjust his hat, cleared his throat and then looked back at me.

I could not believe it, it was uncanny, but the moment our eyes made contact I knew.... I knew what Henry was about to ask. I thought to myself, don't ask me Henry, don't ask. I quickly searched for something to say.

"Aechmea fasciata, the pink flower is not really a flower it's an inflorescence, a bract. The flowers are those red and blue coloured dots, in and around the pink that lasts for months." I had said that badly, but there was no time for correction. Henry spoke.

"Can I buy that Brom. from you?"

"No," I answered sharply, "I cannot sell anything from the display. Plants are always available from growers, you could pick one up before you go home. Where.... where do you come from Henry?"

"A thousand miles away," he said. He looked at his watch and then towards the crowds of people, he didn't look back at me. "In about an hour, my son will have our bull loaded in the trailer, and then, we'll be ready to leave."

"Henry there are rules...and...if I sold plants to everyone who asked, the display would soon be ruined. Henry, please understand, I can't, anyway...it's not my plant to sell."

Yeah, it's OK. I sort of guessed you couldn't... never mind." He cleared his throat again. "I can tell me misses I saw the Brom. display. I should be able to

tell her all about'em...you know...all that technical stuff, and the history we talked about. Perhaps she won't be crook next year, and then we can both...well ...thanks anyway."

Once again Henry offered me his hand, it felt warm. "I enjoyed talking with you Henry. Have a safe journey home."

He turned and made his way towards the exit. I knew it...I knew Henry was going to ask me for that Bromeliad, what was I supposed to do. I was truthful, we certainly do have rules, but then I lied...it is my plant. Hey...come on now, what am I doing to myself. I only just met this man. You know, people never stop to think. It's his own fault really. He should have come to the display earlier, there would have been more time to get him a plant... for his wife...no, Henry calls her his misses...I hope she's alright. God forgive me. I lied to Henry, it is my plant. I looked towards the exit, he was about to go through the door. Even at this distance I knew it was Henry, I could recognise that sweat marked hat anywhere. I reached into the display, took hold of that very special Bromeliad and made my way swiftly after Henry.

Doug Upton

COMING EVENTS

Royal Horticultural Show held at the Auditorium at Mt Coot-tha on October 15th & 16th.

NEW MEMBERS

Jill Brown	-	TORWOOD
Doug Pos	-	ALGESTER
David & Jan Parr	-	ALDERLEY
Marg Mc Namara	-	TERRIGAL
Ilma Mc Kenzie	-	DAYBORO
Steve Duncan	-	HOLMEVIEW
Audrey Woodward	-	REDCLIFFE
Joanne Butterworth	-	WOODRIDGE
Nancy Betts	-	SHERWOOD
Margery Pierce	-	SHERWOOD

PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER:

Beginners - Plant of month - Guzmania

Commentary - Shane Zaghini

Slide presentation by Shane from the American Conference.

Item- Different varieties of *Tillandsia disticha* -
- Peter Paroz

OCTOBER

Beginners - Plant of Month - Aechmea

Commentary - Laurie Muller

Item - Slides of Mary Grasselli

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

The news of our Secretary Val's illness was a shock to us all but now we are pleased to hear that she is on the improve and our very best wishes go to her for a speedy and healthy recovery. It wasn't until we got the boxes of Secretarial paraphernalia that we realized how complex Val's job was and how organized she has been.

The last issue of the Bromeliaceae was not without it's problems and I'd personally like to thank Maria Owen, our typist, Len Trevor for collecting the Newsletters and the mailing lists, and Greg Aizlewood, Neville Ryan and Olive and Len Trevor for their help in packaging up the Bromeliaceae for posting and dispatch. This is a big job with a lot of hidden extras of which some members would be unaware.

At the time of compilation of the Bromeliaceae, we were sadly notified that our Patron, Mr. Harold Caulfield passed away on the 30th of August. Our deepest sympathy go to his wife and family at this time.

VALE: Nora Kemp - Wife of Nick (deceased) who passed away in June.

SEED RAISING GROUP - News snippets.

Eight members attended the Seed Raising Meeting held on the 25th June at Len and Olive's home.

A demonstration and explanation of P.H. testing was given by Len Trevor who explained the level of 7 being acid/alkaline balance as the ideal to be achieved. He tested tank and bore waters plus water from the cup of a plant with varying results. Len also tested soluble fertilizer, dolomite, peat moss, and a potting medium and we noted the differences. He explained the need to experiment to bring the P.H. to the level required.

We tested the potting medium of two plants growing side by side with different mixes and noted how different the P.H. of the mixes were and the difference in the appearance of the plants. We had a general discussion on different mixes used in potting and all agreed the longer the medium is able to be left to be cleansed by the weather, the better it was as a balanced level. Our August Seed Raising Group was held on the 6th and thirteen members attended - apology was received from Greg Aizlewood. We spoke briefly on hybridizing and that when a hybrid was crossed with a species there was a greater variety in the seedlings. When a hybrid is crossed with another hybrid you make a new hybrid and the term F2 meant the seed from the hybrid had been selfed. We discussed toxic chemicals and their effect on Bromeliads and spoke particularly of Copper, Boron - which is a trace element in fertilizer - and Manganese. We talked of bromeliads growing in a micro climate and that care was needed to modify the micro climate to suit your plants for good growth results.

There was the suggestion that the root system of plants growing in white pots are superior to those in other colour pots. Bromeliads grow better with good air movement and the consensus was that plants probably grow better with good air movement than on the ground. Good quality mixes were needed to grow quality plants and we discussed the pros and cons of sterilization of potting medium, and we spoke of fungus and bacteria in potting mixes.

It was felt that as we discuss more than seed raising at our gatherings, that we would change the classification of Seed Raising Meeting to BROM WORKSHOP.

All society members are more than welcome to attend and the date of the next BROM WORKSHOP will be announced by Len Trevor at the general meeting in September.

POPULAR VOTE RESULTS

July 21st

ADVANCED - Tillandsia straminea - Neville Ryan

NOVICE - Neoregelia Harmony - Bob Paulsen

August 18th

ADVANCED - Tillandsia sprengeliana - Neville Ryan

NOVICE - Tillandsia bulbosa - Doug Upton

PROBLEM CORNER

QUESTION: I have a fully shadecloth enclosed green house 5 m x 5 m x 2.4 m high, black plastic on the floor, average humidity 30%. How do I increase and maintain the humidity within the green house I would like to achieve 60% humidity.

ANSWER: When water is present in the air as a vapour it is referred to as humidity.

The things that contribute to higher humidity in the climatic sense include

1. High levels of free moisture from rain etc.
2. Higher temperatures which increase the rate of moisture evaporation.

In microclimatic environments such as our gardens and plant houses these two elements (moisture and temperature) provide a broad background which will be a major influence in residual humidity levels.

Some artificial enhancement of humidity can be achieved by controlling certain factors -

1. Increase free water provided by hosing, sprinkling etc.

2. Use fine mist sprays to reduce water droplet size and to encourage more rapid formation of vapour.

3. Reduce water runoff and reduce losses of free water by covering the floor (sand, bark, ash, sawdust etc.) on a plastic underlay. This also provides a steady supply of moisture vapour back into the surrounding air.

4. Cover benches with absorptive material such as sand or place wide flat trays filled with absorptive material (sand etc) on the benches. This will also provide a steady supply of moisture vapour.

If the budget can provide for it, covering the plant house roof and walls with plastic film and/or using artificial heating inside will provide a significant boost to humidity.

The final humidity achieved by these methods is hard to predict and some trial and error may be necessary to achieve the desired result.

It should be noted that the hygiene of the plant house may be affected by some of these techniques and that fungal and bacterial growth may be increased. Generally speaking the less the interference with the fresh air flow the better.

Question asked by Greg Aizlewood and very ably answered by Mr. John Higgins.

CULTURAL HINT

To force a billbergia to flower without the aid of chemicals, etc., let a fairly well developed plant dry out, even to the point of leaf curl to the center from dehydration. The plant can even be taken out of the pot for this period. Then soak the plant well, re-pot and water in the normal way and watch the results. This may help the beginners to flower a stubborn plant and the grower who doesn't want to experiment with chemicals.

Text copied from the B.S.I. Journal
Volume XXI MAY-JUNE 1981 NO.3

— BOOKS FOR SALE —

"Colourful Bromeliads"	
by Victoria Padilla.....	\$15.00
"The Beauty of Bromeliads"	
by Tony Lea.....	\$ 4.50
"Bromeliads"	
by Bill Seaborn.....	\$ 4.50
"Bromeliads"	
by Walter Richter.....	\$ 3.50
"Bromeliads For Everyone"	
by Bea Hansen.....	\$ 2.50
"Bromeliads For Everyone 2"	
by Bea Hansen.....	\$11.50
"Bromeliads In Australia"	
by Brom. Soc of N.S.W.....	\$ 2.00
"Growing Bromeliads"	
by Brom. Soc of Aust.....	\$11.00
"Genus Tillandsia"	
by Paul Isley 3rd.....	\$ 3.00
"International checklist of Brom Hybrids"	
by B.S.I.....	\$ 3.50
"A Bromeliad Glossary"	
by B.S.I.....	\$ 3.50
"Bromeliads- A Cultural Manual"	
by B.S.I.....	\$ 4.00

— FOREST DRIVE NURSERY —

Located at Repton, south of Coff's Harbour,
specialising in species and variegates from mostly
imported stock.

Tillandsias to titillate even the most discerning
fanciers. Beautiful Vrieseas including silver
species, Guzmanias, Aechmeas, Neoregelias, etc.

Visitors Welcome - PLEASE PHONE FIRST on (066) 554 130

Mail Order List - Send S.A.E. c/- Repton,
NSW 2454

Proprietor: Peter Tristram

(New book on Bromeliads)

—————"A GUIDE TO THE BEAUTIFUL NEOREGELIA"—————

\$19.95 + \$2.55 p & p

210 colour plates of Neoregelias

Cultivation Notes

Send Money Order or cheque to:-

S. Zaghini,

9 Walkers Road,

Everton Hills,

QLD. 4053.

Name (print).....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

—————THE OLIVE BRANCH—————

Len and Olive Trevor...232 Canvey Rd,

FERNY GROVE

QLD. 4053.

Specialising in hybrid Vrieseas, Aechmeas, and other
quality Bromeliads.

Now selling Aechmea Fredricka \$15

Spineless Aechmea Fascinii

Australian hybrid Vriesea -

GRAFTON SUNSET \$6

Send large S.A.E. for list...Visitors welcome by appt.

Please phone first on (07) 3511203

———— BRISBANE BROMELIAD CENTRE ————

Thelma and Laurie Muller
342 Becket Road,
Bridgeman Downs,
BRISBANE 4035
Ph: (07) 263 2516

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

Visitors Welcome...

———— "BROMAGIC" BROMELIAD NURSERY ————

One of Queensland's largest collections of Bromeliads,
including Tillandsias.

IMPORTING TILLANDSIAS REGULARLY

We specialise in mail order - send \$2.00 (stamps)
for complete list (refunded with first order) to:

"BROMAGIC" M.S. 956
HUNCHY ROAD
PALMWOODS
QLD 4555 Ph: (074) 450 441

———— PINEGROVE BROMELIADS ————

Specialising: NEOREGELIAS, AECHMEAS,
TILLANDSIAS, VRIESEAS,
GUZMANIAS, RARE SPECIES
HYBRIDS.

Visitors Welcome - opportunity to view over 8000
different species and hybrids - OPEN 7 DAYS

Send large S.A.E. for mail order list

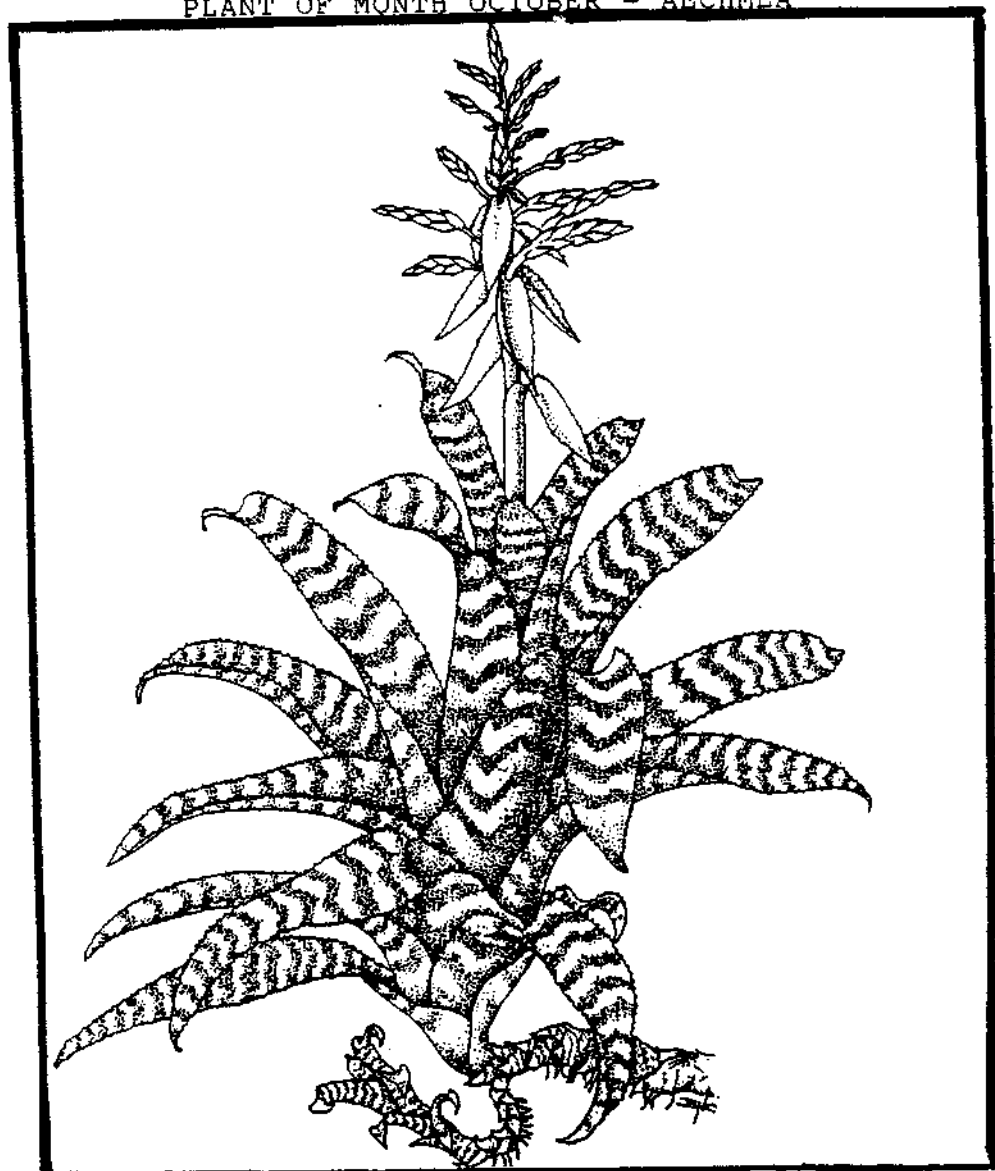
June & John Buchanan P.O Box 61

Pine Street

WARDELL

NSW 2477 Ph: (066) 834188

PLANT OF MONTH OCTOBER - AECHMEA



Aechmea chantinii var. *chantinii*

COPYRIGHT: Permission granted provided the proper acknowledgements accompany each letter or article when reprinted.

Print Post No. P.P 434327/0002