

Bromeliaceae



VOLUME XXXIV — No. 1 — JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 2001



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

P.O. BOX 565, FORTITUDE VALLEY
QUEENSLAND, 4006. AUSTRALIA

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the Third Thursday of Each Month Except December at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road,, New Farm, Queensland. Classes for Beginners commence at 7.30 p.m. and the General Meeting at 8 p.m.

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

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Family \$20, Single \$15—payable on January 1.

OFFICE-BEARERS, 2000-2001

PRESIDENT.....	Mr Bob Cross.....	Phone: (07) 3265 4364
VICE-PRESIDENT.....	Mr Doug Upton.....	Phone: (07) 3378 3511
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.....	Mr Bob Paulsen.....	Phone: (07) 5493 3677
SECRETARY.....	Mrs Dorothy Cutcliffe.....	Phone: (07) 3386 0505
TREASURER.....		
BROMELIACEAE: EDITOR.....	Mr Ray Nicholson.....	Phone: (07) 3399 5296
PHOTOGRAPHS.....	Mr Doug Upton.....	Phone: (07) 3378 3511
LIBRARIANS.....	Mrs Mavis Paulsen and Mrs Dawn Hole	
SHOW ORGANISERS.....	Mr Bob Cross and Mrs Olive Trevor	
SOCIAL ORGANISERS.....	Mrs Dorothy Cutcliffe and Mr Doug Upton	
PLANT SALES.....	Mrs Gwenda Andersen and Mrs Nancy Kickbusch	
COMPETITION STEWARDS.....	Mr Mike Symmons and Mr Chester Cutcliffe	
HOSTESS.....	Mrs Joy Upton	
HALL STEWARD.....	Mr Jay Jacobs	
AUDITOR.....	Mrs Anna Harris	
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.....	Mrs N. Poole, Mrs O. Trevor, Mr B. Genn, Mr N. Ryan, Mr D. Wallace	
COMBINED SHOW COMMITTEE.....	Ms B. Rowe, Ms N. Tucker, Mr. B. Cross, Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Nicholson, Mr N. Ryan, Mr D. Upton	
LIFE MEMBERS.....	Mrs Grace Goode, Mr Peter Paroz, Mr Bert Wilson	

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

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

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs and descriptions by MARGARET PATERSON

FRONT: *Tillandsia* 'Cooloola'

Cross: *Tillandsia concolor* X *Tillandsia flabellata*

Description of plants: Rosette about 40 cm diameter; height about 30 cm including inflorescence; leaves 25-30 cm stiff, narrower than *concolor*, some plants have reddish leaves; some inflorescences are simple and others are compound.

This year plants with green leaves have compound inflorescences while the coloured leaf plants have the simple inflorescences. I will have to watch in future years to see if this trend continues.

The seed was planted in 1984 and the first flowers appeared in 1990. They are strong growers.

The *flabellata* used was a green leaved clone but it seems to throw coloured leaves in some plants of hybrids that I have done with this clone.

'Cooloola' is the name of the shire which contains the city of Gympie.

BACK: *Tillandsia* 'Paterson'

Cross: *Tillandsia streptophylla* X *Tillandsia capitata rubra*

Description: Rosette about 30 cm diameter. Leaves are soft, lax, recurved and scurfy about 28 to 35 cm long. Flushes pink at flowering.

Seeds were planted in 1988; first flowers in 1999. The seeds took only one year to mature but had the seed parent been *capitata* the seeds would have taken two years before they were ripe.

Seedlings need to be flowered for at least two years before they show their full potential.

FOOTNOTE: Generally, all my *Tillandsia* hybrids are named after districts near Gympie, including Paterson which is an area near Gunalda Range north of Gympie.

CONTENTS

Society Officials	Page 1
Cover Photographs	Page 2
<i>Aechmea pubescens</i> 'Potts?', ROB SMYTHE	Page 4
Obituary, Treasurer Noel Weir	Page 5
Recycling Egg Shells, PAT COUTTS	Page 6
Brom-a-warra—Are You Going? Lyn Hudson	Page 7
How Good Are Your Plants, Part 8: Nidulariums, B.S.I.	Page 8 & 9
New Skotak Hybrid, <i>Aechmea</i> 'Dennis', CHESTER SKOTAK	Page 10
Notice of Annual General Meeting	Page 11
Bromeliad Collection For Sale	Page 11
SOCIETY DIARY: January Meeting	Page 12
February Meeting, Annual General Meeting	Page 12
Committee Meetings	Page 13
Study Group Meetings	Page 13
Field Day	Page 13
Offsets For Sale at Meetings	Page 13
Combined Show Committee Meetings	Page 14
Members' Wish List	Page 14
EDITOR'S MAILBOX: Removing Mothers' Leaves	Page 15
Wet Feet?	Page 15
Neoregelias: Light and Sun	Page 16
ADVERTISERS: Bromagic Bromeliad Nursery	Page 10
Forest Drive Nursery	Page 11
The Olive Branch	Page 12
M. J. Paterson	Page 13
Pinegrove Bromeliads	Page 14
Raemaur Plant Farm	Page 15
Brisbane Bromeliad Centre	Page 16

PUBLICATION DEADLINES for *Bromeliaceae*

March / April, 2001 Edition February 21, 2001

May / June 2001 Edition April 21, 2001

Please send all contributions to:

The Editor, Ray Nicholson, 11 Malory St, Balmoral, Qld. 4171.

Phone (07) 3399 5296

Aechmea pubescens 'Potts'?

By ROB SMYTHE

SEED WAS RECEIVED from Costa Rica (Central America) by a chap named Potts in Townsville some years ago. I was told he was a renowned collector and has since died (probably Clarence Horich). The seed was germinated by a person with a great love of plants but only a passing interest in bromeliads. I was given six plants of one and one plant of another. Both were compact plants; one a bit prickly and the other a small bottle-shaped plant going bronze in our tropical sun.

I keyed them out using Smith and Downs' key in *Flora Neotropica*. Everything keyed out nicely, one coming up as *Aechmea pubescens* and the other *Aechmea pittieri*. Everyone that sees the *A. pubescens* says "What is that?" Even Derek was wondering if we had a new species or a natural hybrid with *A. tillandsioides* and Olive had to have one and I gave her one of the mothers. A few friends passing through after the Cairns conference collected some very young seedlings. Derek has mentioned this plant in articles some time back. His ears pricked up when I said the key came out as *A. pubescens* but its features were different to any *A. pubescens* I have seen and differed from the drawing in Smith and Downs. Everything looked bigger, better and brighter than any other *A. pubescens*. My first reaction was that it was a polyploid.

I did what every good botanist should do—I measured and numbered details of the six plants in 1999. Before that I had selfed them and grown the seed. In 1999 five of the six plants fitted the botanical description with only No. 3 appearing a bit undersized. Now in 2000 the seedlings are flowering and they are all the same and match the original six and now even No. 3 fits the description! These plants are therefore all *A. pubescens* but I suggest we're now seeing one of the bigger, more attractive extremes coming from its natural distribution.

I think now I am game enough to say the drawing of it on page 1810 of *Neotropica* has an error in it. The scape bracts are drawn as one internode long when really they are two. There is no mention of length in the description so it is possible this could have wide variance but my original six plants do not vary.

If anyone has an *A. pubescens* to compare with, I have last year's seedlings which I don't need. It may help to decide whether the form I am growing is worthy of a cultivar name. Contact me by e-mail at rsmythe@ultra.net.au and I will send you one as long as you live in Australia and don't pronounce it *Austraya*. I like it with the 'l' left in!

OBITUARY — Noel Weir — 1937-2000

MONDAY, 11th DECEMBER, 2000, was a very sad day for the Society when we were informed of the death of our Treasurer, Noel Weir.

One of Noel's greatest loves was growing bromeliads. He joined the Bromeliad Society of Queensland in 1993. Always an active member, Noel was elected Treasurer at the annual general meeting in 1998, and continued in that position until his death. He also served the society on the Management Committee and the Combined Show Committee.

Noel was born on 14th December, 1937. He spent most of his early life in Makay, where he worked with Queensland Rail. He was a renowned and respected sportsman.

After his transfer to Brisbane, Noel's sporting abilities were seen on the greens of the Hendra-Nundah Bowls Club. He also then became a bromeliad addict, preferring billbergias and tillandsias to other genus.

In recent times, Noel and wife Liz developed a love for travel. They visited most parts of Australia and had several trips overseas. They were to have left for Hawaii in mid-December.

About 18 Society members paid their last respects to Noel at his funeral service at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Hendra, on 14th December—his birthday—and later at Pinaroo Lawn Cemetery.

The Society's President, Committee and Members offer their sincere condolences to Liz and the family. He will be sadly missed.

Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc.

BOOKS FOR SALE

<i>Bromeliads - Next Generation</i> by Shane Zaghini	\$33.00
<i>Tillandsia Handbook</i> by Hideo Shimizu and Hirouli Takizawa	\$58.00
<i>Bromeliads for Everyone 2</i> by Bea Hansen	\$11.50
<i>Growing Bromeliads</i> by Bromeliad Society of Australia	\$21.50
<i>Genus Tillandsia</i> by Paul Isley III	\$3.00
<i>International Check List of Bromeliad Hybrids</i> by B.S.I.	\$1.50
<i>A Bromeliad Glossary, 1977 Edition</i> , by B.S.I.	\$3.50
<i>A Bromeliad Glossary, 1998 Edition</i> , by B.S.I.	\$18.50
<i>Bromeliads—A Cultural Manual</i> by B.S.I.	\$4.50
<i>Distributional Checklist of the Genus Tillandsia</i> by Lloyd Kiff	\$20.00
<i>Die Bromelie—The Red Flowered Tillandsia from Brazil</i> by R. Ehlers	\$23.00
<i>A Guide to Beautiful Neoregelias</i> by S. Zaghini	\$20.00
<i>1993 Bromeliads VII Conference</i>	\$18.00

You can order your copy of *The Bromeliad Cultivar Registry* compiled for The Bromeliad Society International by Don Beadle, listing over 5000 cultivars, through our Librarian on payment of a deposit of \$50.

CONTACT LIBRARIAN, Mrs MAVIS PAULSEN, Phone (07) 5493 3677

ALL PRICES PLUS POSTAGE

Recycling Egg Shells

By PAT COUTTS

RECENTLY in the *Gardening Australia* magazine there appeared an article on the benefit to the garden of egg shells but how unsightly they looked lying around the shrubs etc.

This brought to mind my Grandmother's practice using this method of recycling. Times were even tougher during the war years and everything possible was utilised.

The person who wrote the *Gardening Australia* story advocated drying the egg shells out and crushing in an old fashioned hand mincer and was commended by the editor for the ultimate commitment to recycling.

The writer also gave some examples of luxuriant growth of various plants.

"What's all this got to do with bromeliads" I hear you ask! The idea came to me of using the shells, ground-up in an electric blender, on some of my reluctant-to-reproduce broms.

After applying the compound to the mix of *Aechmea* 'Samurai' (variegated *chantinii*), I was rewarded with five pups and this had never occurred before — lucky to get one or two! Maybe it was just beginner's luck and just maybe it's a great find.

I have now commenced applying the compound to other slow growth plants. I'll keep you posted.

Perhaps all the veteran gardeners out there have heard this all before. After all, it's probably only calcium which is an ingredient in most fertilizers.

Pat, you've brought back childhood memories of my Grandfather using egg shells about 50 years ago — something I had completely forgotten! For those who don't use enough eggs to keep their broms happy, as Pat says, there is another way to supply calcium. Horticultural Solutions of Capalaba have a product simply called "Calcium Nitrate". The recommended way to use this is in conjunction with their bromeliad fertilizer, "ABS Special Nutrient", which is water soluble. Spray the "ABS Special Nutrient" on your broms at the rate of 2.5 grams (half a teaspoon) to 5 litres of water every week and every third or fourth week add 0.6 gram (one-eighth teaspoon) of "Calcium Nitrate". Broms say "thank-you" for this easy treatment, but it's not recycling as is using egg shells. — Ed.

Brom-a-warra — 12th to 15th October, 2001

Are YOU going?

By LYN HUDSON, Chief Cook and Bottle Washer, Cairns, 1999

READERS who have attended just one Australian Conference before will not really be concentrating at the moment — their minds have just flashed to great memories which they will own forever and quietly peruse to warm their hearts: faces of old friends, new friends, beautiful bromeliads and lots of other good stuff.

But I want to talk to those who have never been and those who are hesitating . . .

What happens? Do not miss Registration Night — the air is filled with excitement, the anticipation of seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It is noisy and very happy. There are shrieks and cuddles. It is just *magic!* As Bruce Purdie of New Zealand said “Once you get them together you cannot stop them from having a good time”.

There are bromeliads on display and for sale; speakers who usually discuss subjects in language even the novice can understand and usually wrapped in a lot of humour. There are question times during the proceedings and a chance to pick the *gurus'* brains even when not in sessions. There are optional trips, raffles, shows, and an auction (often with a rare plant).

Illawarra Society has secured Eric Gouda, Curator of the University Utrecht Botanic Gardens, Netherlands, as the main speaker (*wow!*) and there will be other speakers. The theme for the conference is “The Expanding World of Bromeliads”, so it will be great.

As the last co-ordinator, I urge you to decide to go. You will not be disappointed; you will learn lots; see and make some very special friends; and take away wonderful memories.

The organising is a huge job and Illawarra members have been working hard.


Do not be one of those who *wishes* after it is over. Commit to go! Complete your Registration Form and post it to Graham and Elizabeth and look forward to a wonderful time. See you there!

If Lyn has now convinced you to go to Brom-a-warra (Bromeliad XI, the Australian Bromeliad Conference) in Wollongong, NSW, please contact any committee member for registration forms and accommodation lists. Full details are also available from the Illawarra Bromeliad Society, c/- Graham Bevan, 25 Tallawong Cres., Dapto, NSW, 2530 (phone 02 4261 1173).

How Good Are Your Plants? PART 8

Edited extracts from the BSI's Handbook for Judges

Criteria for judging the Genus *Nidularium*

 CHARLES LEMAIRE named the genus *Nidularium* in 1854. The name, *nidularium*, means the inflorescence is nest-like. It is a small genus consisting of only 30 species, all endemic to eastern Brazil. They are found at low elevations growing either epiphytically on low hanging branches, or terrestrially on the humid forest floor.

Nidulariums occur in many sizes ranging from the very tiny three inch diameter *N. microps*, to thirty inches in some forms of *N. innocentii*. The leaves in all species have marginal spines. Although the spines are barely visible in *N. regelioides*, other species, such as *N. fulgens*, show prominent spines. The foliage color of this genus varies from palest celery or apple green, to very deep purplish maroon. Some basic foliage colors are further embellished with white or cream longitudinal lines, blackish-green mottling on light green, and beautiful purple spots on shiny olive green.

The inflorescences of nidulariums are all compound or chambered. Although all are arranged on one single stem, the floral bracts divide the flowers into small groups. Bloom stems can either be short, placing the inflorescence only slightly above the central leaves of the plants, or tall, placing the inflorescence well above the central foliage.

The floral bracts which divide the flowers into chambers can be red, yellow, orange, pink, mahogany or bluish purple. The three-petaled flowers are white, red, purple, blue, yellow or rose, depending on the species. Most members of the genus produce offsets or young plants from between the lower leaves; others produce stolons from between the basal leaves at the end of which the new plants develop.

Nidulariums often have fragile, very soft, paper-like foliage that is easily damaged by wind, insects or other bromeliads. When judging nidulariums you should carefully inspect the foliage. Undamaged plants are relatively rare and should be rewarded accordingly.

Many nidulariums possess some degree of variegation. This color variation may be red, white, cream, yellow or pink. Its development is always longitudinal in the leaf. When the variegation is centered in the leaf and comprises 50% of the leaf area, it is termed "medio-picta". The reverse of this, in which the variegation lies along the margins of the leaves, is termed "marginatum". When variegation takes the form of [to Page 9]

multiple stripes or lines it is called "striatum". Variegation in the form of fine, thin lines is referred to as "lineatum". A single, large, median stripe of variegation is termed "paxianum".

The following discussion explains the criteria used in the point scoring method of judging as applied to nidulariums.

Cultural Perfection: Determine if there is a reasonable balance between the plant and its container. The container must be clean, free of flaws, and adequately filled with fresh mix. The plant should be upright and well centered. The foliage should be bright and healthy. Because the leaves of most nidulariums are very fragile, look carefully for split, torn, or damaged foliage. Leaf channeling, where the longitudinal edges of the leaves fold up and inward toward each other, is caused by low humidity and/or lack of water and is a major fault. Check the base of the rosette for excessive leaf removal, deposits of mineral salts and brown leaf margins. Inspect the leaf tanks for spider webs, debris, dead insects and algae.

Conformation of Plant: Inspect the plant from directly above and from all sides to determine the degree of radial and lateral symmetry. Penalize the plant for droopy leaves, leaves that are longer on one side, an uneven distribution of leaves, and short and long leaves denoting two stages of growth. Varieties with a tall bloom spike that rises above the rosette should be penalized if the spike is not vertical.

Color and Marking of Plant: The foliage should be bright, and the colors and markings should be bold and striking. Clonal differences may play a major role especially in the case of variegated varieties. The development of variegation should be distinct and generous, and an attractive pattern should be displayed. All leaves should exhibit similar development of variegation.

Inflorescence—Size, Quantity, Quality, Color: Look for a large, brightly colored inflorescence. The bracts are at their best early in the blooming cycle. Spent blossoms should not be present. The bracts should be clean and undamaged.

Maturity of Plant: Generally, size can be accepted as evidence of maturity and good growing conditions. Rank, droopy foliage is the result of over-feeding, or light levels that are too low, *ie* growing too soft. Overgrown plants should be downgraded severely, but many *innocentii* types have large flaring rosettes, and shouldn't be penalised.

Point Scoring: See page 10 in the January/February, 2000, edition of *Bromeliaceae*.

New Skotak Hybrid — *Aechmea* 'Dennis'

By CHESTER SKOTAK

THIS IS A CROSS of (*Aechmea tessmanii* x *Aechmea chantinii*) x (*Aechmea retusa* x *Aechmea* Sp. Lago Agria, Ecuador). *Aechmea* 'Dennis' is a complicated cross, but truly a special plant.

Aechmea 'Dennis' is named for one of my very best friends, Dennis Cathcart, of Sarasota Florida (USA). Dennis has always been one of the major forces in promoting bromeliads all over the world. He always has a good story to tell. Many of you already read some of these stories as they are published in his Tropiflora Cargo Report.

We do thousands of *Aechmeas* a year in Costa Rica. I have been waiting for a very special plant just to let Dennis know that all his efforts over the years to promote bromeliads can now be immortalised with *Aechmea* 'Dennis'.

Chester forwarded this article to member Peter Tristram (Forest Drive Nursery, Repton). Unfortunately the accompanying photo (on floppy disc), could not be reproduced. The light green leaves are edged with broad cream stripes and thin cream vertical stripes on most. The inflorescence is similar to Aechmea tessmanii. However there is no indication of size, but it seems a very attractive plant.—Ed.

Annual Subscriptions

IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN to renew your membership, please forward same to P.O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley, Qld, 4006, or pay at the January meeting.

BROMAGIC BROMELIAD NURSERY

421 HUNCHY ROAD, PALMWOODS, QLD. 4555

Ph/Fax **(07) 5445 0441**

**SPECIALISTS IN MAIL ORDER. QUALITY OFFSETS OR
ADVANCED PLANTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.**

Always New Varieties Available

SEND \$1 (STAMPS) FOR PRICE LIST

Visitors welcome by appointment

BROMELIAD VIDEO — \$50 inc. P&P

CD ROM WITH 1050 IMAGES NOW AVAILABLE — \$35 inc P&P

e-mail bromagic@ozemail.com.au

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

Notice of Annual General Meeting

MEMBERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED the Annual General Meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland will be held on Thursday, 15th February, 2001, at 8 p.m. in the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm.

The election of office-bearers for 2001 will be held. With the exception of the Combined Show Committee and the Judges' Panel, all positions will become vacant and members are invited to nominate for the positions. Nomination forms are enclosed in this edition—please complete and forward to the Returning Officer, c/- Secretary. If you require more forms, phone Ray Nicholson (3399 5296). Nominations, on the prescribed form, will be available before the meeting.

Bromeliad Collection For Sale

FOLLOWING THE DEATH of Treasurer Noel Weir, his wife Liz and family have decided to dispose of their collection of bromeliads and other plants.

Members are invited to attend the sale at 20 Alicia Street, Toombul, on Saturday, 3rd March, from 9 a.m. until all plants are sold. Please do not arrive before 9 a.m.

The collection comprises mainly tillandsias and billbergias with some neoregelias and other genera. It is intended to have the plants for sale in lots of about three to ten plants (depending on value) for \$40. Many plants to be offered are in clumps which will not be broken-up.

Further information and enquiries can be obtained by ringing Liz (3266 1700) or Ray Nicholson (3399 5296).

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 S.A.E.

Peter Tristram, PO Box 55, Repton, NSW. 2454



January Meeting

THE FIRST meeting for 2001 will be held on January 18, at the Uniting Church Hall, Merthyr Road, New Farm. Speaker: "An Evening with Patricia O'Dea."

A Mini-Show will be held with each class having sections for Advanced, Intermediate and Novice growers. Classes are: 1. Aechmea species and hybrids; 2. Vriesea species and hybrids; 3. Dyckia species and hybrids; 4. Any other fully mature flowering bromeliad that would not be in its prime for the appropriate Mini-Show (please note these new conditions for Class 4).

February Meeting (the A.G.M.)

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE NOTICE for February's Annual General Meeting, on February 15, at which there will be a Monster Rare and Unusual Tillandsia Auction.

Late membership fees for 2001 must be paid before the meeting to enable members to vote.

Competition is Popular Vote, Any Genus, Any Species or Hybrid, in sections for Advanced, Intermediate and Novice.

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

SEND LARGE STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR LIST

Phone (07) 3351 1203

Visitors welcome by appointment - Please Phone First

Committee Meetings

COMMITTEE MEMBERS are notified January's meeting will be held in the Uniting Church Hall's annexe, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, on Wednesday, January 10, at 7.30 p.m. Note new venue and date.

Study Group Meetings

JANUARY'S meeting will be held at Olive and Len Trevor's home, 232 Canvey Road, Upper Kedron, on January 27. The group's February meeting will be on February 24, also at Olive and Len's home. (Phone 3351 1203.)

Field Day

AS LAST YEAR'S EXPERIMENT with Field Days was most popular, it has been decided to continue with these informal outings. The first will be held at Nancy Kickbusch's home, 3 Jirrima Street, The Gap, on Saturday, April 28, commencing at 9.30 a.m. The field day will follow the Study Group's breakfast meeting at Nancy's instead of the usual venue at Len and Olive's home. Members are invited to bring plants for the sales tables. Phone Nancy on 3300 1704 for details.

Offsets Now For Sale at Meetings

BECAUSE OF THE WISHES of members, it is has been decided to allow offsets to be sold at all general meetings and field days for a trial period. The sales label must be securely attached to the offset if not potted.

Offsets are NOT to be offered for sale at any Mount Coot-tha show or where stipulated by the committee as the need arises.

M. J. PATERSON

212 SANDY CREEK ROAD, GYMPIE, Qld. 4570

Large Range of Bromeliads For Sale

Especially our own Hybrid Tillandsias and Neoregellas

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

Phone / Fax (07) 5482 3308

Email: paterson@spiderweb.com.au

Combined Show Committee Meetings

SOCIETY MEMBERS on the Combined Show Committee are notified the next meeting will be held at the home of John and Marie D'Alton, 39 Agnes Street, Torwood, on February 27.

Future meetings at the above address: March 27 and May 22; Mount Coot-tha set-up, June 8; show, June 9 and 10.

Members' Wish List

MEMBERS, especially country members and those who cannot attend meetings or field days, are invited to list their hard-to-find plants. To list your "wish" contact the Editor. This is a free service to all.

If you have any of the listed plants and wish to sell, please phone the member concerned.

NAME	PLANTS WANTED	PHONE
Dorothy Cutcliffe ..	<i>Alacantarea imperialis</i>	3386 0505
Dorothy Cutcliffe ..	<i>Neoregelia carcharodon</i> (reddish)	3386 0505
Norma Poole	<i>Aechmea</i> "Burning Bush"	3261 1617
Norma Poole	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Valencia'	3261 1617
Bob Cross	<i>Tillandsia jalisco-monticola</i> (multibract).	3265 4364
Ray Nicholson	<i>Quesnelia</i> 'Tim Plowman'	3399 5296
Keith Pohlman.....	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Absolutely Fabulous'	4151 5395
Doug Upton.....	<i>Aechmea retusa</i>	3378 3511
Doug Upton.....	<i>Aechmea blanchetiana</i> (not seedling).....	3378 3511

After you have obtained your plant, please notify Editor to remove your request from the list.

PINEGROVE BROMELIADS

Specialising in *Neoregelias*, *Aechmeas*, *Tillandsias*, *Vrieseas*, *Guzmanias*,
Rare Species and Hybrids

VISITORS WELCOME **PHONE (02) 6683 4188** OPEN 7 DAYS

Opportunity to view over 8000 different species and hybrids

SEND LARGE STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR MAIL ORDER LIST

JUNE and JOHN BUCHANAN

P.O. BOX 61—PINE STREET—WARDELL, NSW, 2477



Editor's Mailbox
 Your letters welcomed at
 11 Malory St, Balmoral, Qld. 4171

Removing Mothers' Leaves

AFTER A BROMELIAD HAS FLOWERED, do the pups actually "use" the mother plant's leaves for food or just for shelter and rely solely on the meristem? In other words, if I remove the mother's leaves, will the pups be just as good, better or worse?—LYN.

If you cut off the mother's leaves, chances are you will get no pups. As epiphytes, broms rely on their leaves to absorb nourishment—so no nourishment for the mother and she'll die and there'll be no offspring. If leaves are cut off after small pups have formed, there'll be no nourishment for Mum or the pups as the pup's leaves are too small and underdeveloped to absorb nourishment. By all means, though, cut off the dead or half-dead inflorescence.—ED.

Wet Feet?

WHO SAID bromeliads don't like lots of water, wet feet, soggy mix, etc? About December, 1999, I bought a rather untidy clump of three plants labelled *Aechmea fulgens variegata*. I was told not to split it up until the next Spring as that species didn't like being broken up in Summer. It was in a rather large diameter and deep plastic hanging basket and I had nowhere to hang it. I spied a 10 litre bucket, with a top diameter exactly the same size as the hanging basket, in which to stand

RAEMAUR PLANT FARM

SPECIALIST GROWERS OF TILLANDSIA SEEDLINGS

Hard grown to suit All Australian conditions

Specimen Plants, Seedlings and surplus seed sold when available

Write for a Free Price List to:

RAEMAUR PLANT FARM

P.O. BOX 612, HURSTBRIDGE, 3099

PHONE (03) 9718 2887

FAX: (03) 9718 2760

it. I promptly forgot all about my acquisition until September, as I was told. Imagine my surprise when I lifted it out of the bucket and found it had been standing in the bucketful of water and the mix was very, very soggy—just like very wet mud. To all intents and purposes, the clump was actually growing in water!

I repotted the two larger plants and the small pup and all three are doing very well. In fact both large plants have produced beautiful inflorescences. Do all or some bromeliads like exceptionally wet conditions or was I just plain lucky?—WET FEET.

My experience tells me that you aren't "just plain lucky" — more like a bromming miracle! Most plants' roots will rot and die when the mix is continually wet, so don't make a habit of it! Has anyone else had similar freakish experiences or can anyone give an explanation?—ED.

Neoregelias: Light and Sun

I AM A NEW CONVERT to bromeliads and I am confused by the terms "full sun", "bright light" and so on. At this stage, I am growing neoregelias and have been told they like very bright light. Does this mean best results are obtained growing them in full sun?—NOVICE.

*To my way of thinking, "full sun" means from sunrise to sunset which is far too much sun for most neoregelias and, in fact, most other broms. The best neos I have seen have been grown under 70% sandstone coloured shade cloth. While decreasing the UV rays the same as other colours, the colour temperature under the sandstone colour more closely resembles natural light. *Cruenta* and *Rosatina Striatum* are two neos which prefer full sun all day.—ED.*

BRISBANE BROMELIAD CENTRE

HUGE SELECTION of

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

BARBARA and LORRAINE

342 Becket Road, Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane, Qld. 4035

Phone (07) 3263 2516

VISITORS WELCOME



Bromeliaceae is the journal of the **BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.**
and is published bi-monthly

Printed by **WORDS INTO TYPE**, *R. Nicholson, Prop.*
11 Malory Street, Balmoral, Qld. 4171. Phone (07) 3399 5296

Print Post Number: P.P. 434327/0002