

BROMELETTER

***THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.***

Issue: **Volume 50 Number 2- March April, 2012.**

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 May, July, September, November and January.**

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**The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.,
P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.**

Please Note

**BROMELIAD plants will be on sale at the Club
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MEETING VENUE AND TIME
**SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE
BURWOOD R. S. L. CLUB,**
Cnr. Shaftesbury Road and Clifton Avenue, Burwood.
**Meetings commence at 1.00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Rooms/
Auditorium.**

MEETINGS PROGRAM

March 10, 2012	Show and Tell	Members
	Talk:	Frogs & Tadpoles
April 14, 2012	Show and Tell:	Members.

Talk TBA
EVENTS CALENDAR

June 9-10, 2012 BSA Autumn Show, Burwood RSL Club
October 20-21, 2012 BSA Spring Show, Burwood RSL Club
Sept. 24 -Oct..01, 2012 World Bromeliad Conference, Orlando, FL. ,U.S.A.
March 15-18, 2013 'Cool Brooms' NZ Bromeliad Conference, Auckland, N.Z.
Register your interest now at coolbrooms@bsnz.org

Social Co-Ordinator
Sally Larkins.

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- Payment details (membership renewal, book purchase, postage, etc.) with \$A amounts for each item.



Competition Results

**POINT
SCORE**

YEAR — 2011

Plant of the Month
December, 2011.

<u>Open</u>	<u>Judge's Choice.</u>	
First	Robyn Firth	<i>Vriesea olmosana</i>
Second	Ron Farrugia	<i>Tillandsia tectorum</i>
Third	David Scott	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Domingos Martins'
<u>Open</u>	<u>Members' Choice</u>	
First	Robyn Firth	<i>Aechmea mariae-reginae</i> variegated
Second	Ron Farrugia	<i>Tillandsia tectorum</i>
Third	David Scott	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Domingos Martins'
<u>Novice</u>	<u>Judge's Choice</u>	
First	Helga Nitschke	<i>Neoregelia concentric x princeps</i>
Second	Sharon Song	<i>Tillandsia utriculata</i> ssp. <i>pringlei</i>
Third	Warril Evans	<i>Billbergia vittata</i> cv. 'Ralph Graham French'
	<u>Members' Choice</u>	
First	Warril Evans	<i>Billbergia vittata</i> cv. 'Ralph Graham French'.
Second	Sharon Song	<i>Tillandsia utriculata</i> ssp. <i>Pringlei</i> .
Third	Helga Nitschke	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Garnish'.

ARE YOU UNFINANCIAL???

Subscriptions for 2012 were due on
January 1st, 2012.

**If you are unfinancial this will be your
last issue of Bromeleetter.**

Renewals after March incur a re-joining fee of \$5.00.
Single renewal \$15.00, Family \$20.00.

If unsure whether you have already paid please email Robyn at
robdon44@bigpond.net.au



SEED BANK

The Seed Bank provides a service to members of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, supporters of the Seed Bank and other interested enthusiasts, for the collection and distribution of all types of Bromeliad seeds from local and overseas sources.

Seeds cost 50¢ per packet for Members and Seed Bank supporters (plus postage) or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other enquiries.

Enquiries for seeds should be directed, for the time being, to
Terry Davis
(02) 9636 6114
Or
0439 343 809

Thank you, Supporters of the Seed Bank.

A continued supply of fresh seed is constantly required by the Seed Bank to ensure that the Bromeliad needs of tomorrow will be met.

<i>Racinaea belloensis</i> —slightly scurfy	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> 2
<i>foliage</i>	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> 3
<i>Tillandsia tricolor</i> var <i>melanocrater</i>	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> var <i>densispica</i>
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> 1	<i>Tillandsia parvispica</i> - Isley.
	<i>Vriesea gradata</i>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Renewal due January 1st for membership year January to December.

Single Membership: A\$15

Family Membership: A\$20

Overseas Membership: A\$25

AIRMAIL POSTAGE: Asia/Pacific Zone A\$6. Rest of the World A\$9.

New Membership requires a \$5 joining fee, plus Annual Subscription.
(Those joining after October 1st are covered for the following year.)

Note: Un-financial members add \$5 rejoining fee when re-applying for membership.

OFFICE-BEARERS:

Public Officer	Gary Lock
Book Sales	Ian Hook
Librarian	Grahame Macfarlane
Catering	Helga Nitschke, Lydia Hope
Raffle Sales	Helga Nitschke.
Pots, Labels, etc – Sales	Ron Farrugia
Plant of the Month	Terence Davis and Anne Bray
Show Registrar	Debbie Hurst
Show Co-Ordinator	David Scott,
Honorary Auditor	John Buchhorn C.P.A.

Someone out there must be "deadly" at Scrabble.**ASTRONOMER:**

When you rearrange the letters:

MOON STARER**THE MORSE CODE :**

When you rearrange the letters:

HERE COME DOTS**SLOT MACHINES:**

When you rearrange the letters:

CASH LOST IN ME**ELECTION RESULTS :**

When you rearrange the letters:

LIES - LET'S RECOUNT***LITERATURE***

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PUBLICATION COST (\$A)</u>	<u>POST/PACK (\$A)</u>
Growing Bromeliads - 3rd. Edition.	Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.	\$10.00	\$6.00
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden. Completely Revised Edition.	Andrew Steens	\$35.00	\$6.00
Bromeliads, A Cultural Manual.	BSI	\$5.00	\$2.00
Bromeletter Index—Sept/Oct, 1979 -Nov/Dec 1989—Vols. 16 to 27.	Geoff Lawn / Derek Butcher	Contact Book Sales	
Bromeliads— The Connoisseur's Guide, 2007.	Andrew Steens	\$31.00	\$6.00

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.**

We continue to attract new members into the Society and we would like to welcome

. Gary O'Connell, Undercliffe. NSW

Lesley Baylis, Rosebank NSW

as our latest to come to admire, enjoy and learn about the wonderful world of Bromeliads.

SHOW SALES COMMISSION.

The Financial aspects of our Autumn and Spring Shows have disclosed quite an alarming reduction in the revenue collected by the Society as commission on the sale of plants at the Shows.

Our Show income has been less each year and has now become a negative. We cannot let this continue.

As the Shows are the major opportunities we have to provide funds to keep the Society functioning, it is apparent that the 10% commission we receive is not enough to do the job so, at the November meeting, it was decided that the commission rate for Show sales only will be raised to 15%.

Shows for 2012 will be June 9 & 10 and October.20 & 21.



Competition Results

**POINT
SCORE**

YEAR -- 2012

Plant of the Month
January, 2012

<u>Open</u>	<u>Judge's Choice.</u>	
First	Robyn Firth	<i>Vriesea Splendens</i> —hybrid
Second	Dawn Williams	<i>Tillandsia streptophylla x concolor</i>
Third	John Cornale	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata.</i>
<u>Open</u>	<u>Members' Choice</u>	
First	Owen Heaps	<i>Vriesea gigantea</i> var. <i>seideliana.</i>
Second	Robyn Firth	<i>Tillandsia caput-medusa.</i>
Third	Robyn Firth	<i>Tillandsia cacticola.</i>
=Third	John Cornale	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata.</i>
<u>Novice</u>	<u>Judge's Choice</u>	
First	Warril Evans	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Fireball' variegata.
Second	John Ferrier	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Maggie's Pride'.
Third	Eulie Herat	<i>xNeophytum</i> 'Gary Hendrix'.
<u>Novice</u>	<u>Members' Choice</u>	
First	Warril Evans	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Fireball' variegata.
Second	John Ferrier	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Maggie's Pride'.

Quesnelia 'Red Face'

by Derek Butcher 1/2012

We got this plant in the 1990's from Queensland and it had *Quesnelia imbricata* on the label. Has it flowered in the intervening years? I don't know but I thought I had an odd looking *Q. liboniana* until I saw the label. Now you know why I am calling this plant – 'Red Face' as well as the fact that it has red blotches on the leaves. Other differences from *Q. liboniana* are the absence of stolons and red scape bracts. In fact, much closer to *Q. liboniana* than *Q. imbricata*. It is therefore possible that when the person collected seed from a *Q. imbricata* they did not guess that *Q. liboniana* was around, but that is only supposition. It is safer to call the plant a *Q. liboniana* hybrid. So if you have a plant called *Q. imbricata* just remember a 'Red Face' Plant is about 15cm wide and 20cm high, flowering to 35cm high. What intrigues me is that grower of all oddities, Ross Little of Pinegrove Nursery denies all knowledge of this plant and admits that this plant may well be an improvement on the ubiquitous *Q. liboniana*. Some of you may well be growing a plant called *Q. imbricata* but if it flowers like this you too may blush with embarrassment. Interestingly, I have no photo of a *Q. imbricata* growing in Australia and show photos by Wes Schilling in California.

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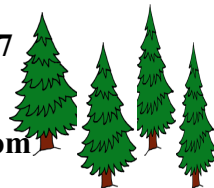
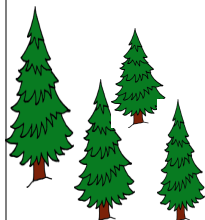
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(Continued from Page 19)

Show and Tell—continued

Kerry McNicol presented a green plant which had narrow leaves and which she purchased some years ago from Marjory McNamara. It has had lots of different names and she has just found another one on the Internet, *Nidularium angustibracteatum*. It is not 'legri' and it is not 'scheremetiewii', Ian thinks it is 'nonangustibracteatum' which is a much higher and much brighter red and tighter. The flowers are a pretty corn-flower blue. There is a good possibility that Ruby Ryde is familiar with it.

Before Afternoon Tea we had a very interesting talk on 'Neutrog' fertilisers and the meeting concluded with the Plant of the Month judging and the raffle.

*xQuesmea 'Marj' versus
Aechmea fraseri*

by Butcher 2/2012

In 2001 Mick Romanowski of Victoria flowered a seedling obtained from Marj McNamara in NSW as *Quesnelia liboniana*. While the flower was reminiscent of this species the sepals had strong mucrons suggesting the involvement of an *Aechmea*. After discussions when I was Cultivar Registrar, it was registered as *xQuesmea 'Marj'*.

Meanwhile, it seems that Marj either decided the original plant was *Aechmea fraseri* without telling Mick Romanowski or grew both *Quesnelia liboniana* and *Aechmea fraseri* and could not remember which plant had supplied the seed! In fact *Aechmea fraseri* was offered by Marj at a rare plant auction in Sydney at a BSA meeting and Ross Little was successful with the highest bid. Ruby Ryde was keen to get an offset and 18 months later she got her wish. Seed was sown by Ross Little and the resultant plants grew true to the parent, and most of which were snapped up by keen growers. The petals varied from very pale blue to blue.

The 'bigeneric' plant still lives and has self-set seed which Mick intends to grow on, but Mick has checked his plant and agrees with it being called *Aechmea fraseri* from now on. The only reason for this article is so that some reference can be made in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. AND thanks to Ross 'Hawkeye' Little, this anomaly could have been with us forever.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 206

Includes Life Members and Complimentary

Unfinancial as at February 11, 2012 - 47

New Members - 31 (Up 18)

Last Year Unfinancial deleted - 29

Deceased - 1

Memberships growth is negative'

We will probably lose some of the unfinancial members

Which would leave us with further negative growth.

Also, some family memberships have been reduced

To single membership, so members are not actually leaving.

(This was Robyn Firth's report to our Annual General

Meeting in February.)

Auckland, New Zealand

Friday March 15 – Monday March 18, 2013

• **World class presenters** already confirmed: Elton Leme, Brazil; Jose Manzanares, Ecuador; Michael Kiehl, USA; Harry Luther, USA; Nigel Thomson, Australia; Andrew Maloy, NZ and Hawi Winter, NZ.

• **Garden tours** on both the conference Saturday and Sunday afternoons...see our 'cool broms' at their very best.

• **Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre.** 4 star accommodation in a relaxing garden setting just 15 minutes from Auckland International Airport and the same distance from Auckland CBD. To enquire or book special conference accommodation rates go to www.waipunahotel.co.nz and click on 'Enquiries'.

• **Conference rates and 'Early Bird' offer.** Registration includes conference breakfast on Saturday, conference banquet on Sunday night, morning teas and lunches and garden tours.

• **'Early Bird' – before March 31, 2012 NZ\$260pp**

• **April 1– December 31, 2012 NZ\$280pp**

• **After December 31, 2012 NZ\$300pp**

• **Do it online!** It's easy, go to www.bsnz.org and click on 'CoolBroms Earlybird' or email us: coolbroms@bsnz.org

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away!

TILLANDSIA 'CHALKY WHITE' IN AUSTRALIA

by D Butcher 1/2012

This all started when Chris Butler and Anna Stewart posted a photo of *Tillandsia calcicola* on 'Tillnuts' and I said "Whoa, it does not seem to agree with Lyman Smith's description!" And so the investigation began. The Butler/Stewart's had got their plant from Bruce Dunstan who had got his plant from Peter Tristram. Peter Tristram thought it might have come from the Dominican Republic and that it might have been identified by Harry Luther, so he consulted his source who indicated he had imported it, via a European third party, from Germany in the 1980's. But, from what we can find out, the only prominent person growing a plant by this name was Blass, so again the lead was somewhat tenuous.

The problem here is that *T. calcicola* is said to be endemic to Jamaica. Ross Little also had a plant from Bruce and his was flowering too AND he was prepared to let his plant be poked and prodded by Don Beard in the cause of science. Luckily we had Juan Pinzón to refer to. Juan is a Mexican taxonomic student currently doing a thesis on the *T. utriculata* group and he was able to give an insight into the problems and misconceptions within this group. First he was having problems with *T. calcicola* because nobody in Jamaica seemed willing to help him. This did not surprise me because I had had similar experience with the Jamaican Botanical Garden previously where they seemed happy to take photos of herbarium specimens but appeared to have no concern for living material or its conservation. I did have some herbarium material from Renate Ehlers that Rutschmann had collected in Cockpit County in Jamaica which helped us a bit.

Anyway, the Latin diagnosis for *T. calcicola* by L B Smith & Proctor, emphasised the fact that the sepals had trichomes and Juan pointed out that these trichomes were on the inside of the sepals in line with all other members of the group, so it was not a distinguishing factor. Don has found them in 'our' plant! He also found some intriguing white 'pimples' on the outer face and we have yet to find out what they are.

The leaf sheaths on the inside are said to be dark chestnut brown in dried material whereas our plant could only be called grey green with some darkish patches. The next discussion point was that the leaves are said to be 'attenuate to a blunt succulent apex' which can be explained by referral to the type specimen. The tip could easily have been broken off but the use of the word succulent suggests a certain rigidity compared to the more floppy leaves of *T. utriculata*. Our plant does have leaves that can be called stiff.

(Continued on Page 9)

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Werner Raff's entry was a *Tillandsia schiediana* which he obtained from four different suppliers, one from Cairns, Q, and two from Sydney. Three of them are king-size and he has also received some plants from Cliff Norden. Cliff has six or eight different varieties. One of Werner's exhibits today was only small and was wanting to flower and his query was whether it was an aberration or really just a small variety. Comparing it with others of his plants, this one is only half-size. In Cliff's case, a lot of his plants are grown from seed and are mounted on lengths of frangipani branches and this seems to give them some advantage. President Ian commented that these could be plants which once grew wild around Burwood.

Werner's next plant was one which was slightly bigger and had yellow flowers; it could be a hybrid. Terry Davis added a comment that the strange weather we have been having over the last few years could be responsible for the somewhat crazy things our plants have been doing.

Terry also took the opportunity to mention that he had obtained a limited number of small forceps which are ideal for removing small leaves and debris from parts of plants where larger tools will not reach. Cost is \$8.00

Anne Bray referred to Uncle Derek's article on "*Aechmea gamosepala*" in the January/February issue of Bromelletter and asked if anyone else had A. 'Mardi Gras' or 'Lucky Strike'. Anne also took exception to the way Uncle Derek went about them because there's no confusing the two. He is saying that there is only a difference in the markings on the leaves but they are completely different, as anyone can see and she thought that he has slipped up. It is not an obvious thing, the albomarginata, or something having the stripes happening. Anne puts all of her Mardi Gras plants in the garden. They originally came from John Buchanan and Ross Little, who came up with the names and that is something else that Anne was curious about, naming rights. President Ian said that almost anyone can come up with a cultivar name for a hybrid just so that, if you like it, it is a reference point and you don't have a lot of different plants that end up with the same name, which may be what has happened here with Mardi Gras.

If you look around old collections, it is only those few *gamosepala*s that have separate names that started out as nursery names, so it is not surprising that they have been cheated on over the years. It is worth setting up the registry for exactly that reason, so that these things can be fixed in time. Nowadays, the entry is accompanied by a photograph. The naming of a species is something quite different. If a horticulturalist has written a scientific paper about a new species and if that same person has come across an albomarginata or an otherwise variegated form, the original way of naming the species was to ignore the variegation, and this then becomes something which is a branch in the public domain and might want to be named for special nursery reasons or be separated because of personal preference, which is how Lucky Strike came to be named. But as far as the original person trying to describe what a *gamosepala* is like, a broad description has been given and the fact that Lucky Strike is variegated has been ignored and that is why you will often see something like Lucky Strike still described as a species. If it is a species, it just happens to have gone funny for a couple of generations with the variegations. But the two are different naming and are totally different plants.

Derek may have two completely different Lucky Strikes, because you will have one completely yellow one with no green, sometimes you will get it with only one green stripe straight down the centre or with two yellow and green stripes straight down the centre, whereas those which we have in Sydney seem to have lots of finer yellows which pop up amongst the greens. It is up to us as a community as to whether we want to give them all separate names or just group them all together. There is a continuing argument among Bromeliad people as to whether they would like to lump them all together, so there is no definite answer.

SHOW AND TELL

JANUARY 2012

Ron Farrugia began the year's first Show and Tell outing with *Tillandsia lajensis*, which used to be called 'ampla'. It is a large plant which just keeps on growing and in sunlight, the leaves are red. The inflorescence is on a long stem and when the flower goes off after about eight months, just cut it off and the plant will produce lots of pups. Ron just removes them, puts the plant in an out-of-the-way corner and in a little while up will come another lot.

In answer to a question about flowering, Ron mentioned that his plant was a small pup in January, 2009 and is now three years old. It is one of the big Tills. and grows in a pot but is not in his hot-house.

Alan Mathew's plant was not named when he bought it and was identified now as a smooth-edged *Aechmea fasciata* hybrid.

Dawn Williams has had a very good amount of growth from her *Tillandsia secunda* plants, so she brought in a basketful of cuttings for anyone who wants one.

Robyn Firth had several items on her list for Show and Tell:

- 1 Tweezers; There are two types available now and for next meeting she will have some small brushes, all intended for use in clearing out debris from the centres of plants. They cost \$10 each.
- 2 Seedlings. In 2007, Robyn gave a talk on how to raise seedlings and, at the time, she gave away a number of small *Vriesea fostriana* plants; there are several pages about this plant on our web site. It is now apparent that the name was wrong and one new possibility is *V. gigantea* var. *Seideliana*. If anyone still has this plant growing, the name should be changed to this one.
- 3 Robyn's third item was a plant which she bought originally as *Guzmania berteroniana* but which is now *G. osyana*. If anyone wants to know anything more about it look it up on our web site, there is plenty of information there.
- 4 *Pitcairnia* seeds. In November, President Ian brought in some *Pitcairnia heterophylla* seeds to give away to members and would like to know if anyone planted them. If so, have they yet had any success? Several members said that they were pleased with their results.
- 5 Lastly, Robyn referred to some *V. gigantea* seeds which were sent in by one-time member Noel Pearce, now living down on the South Coast. She planted a lot of them and, quite unexpectedly, most of them have germinated, much to her surprise., so she has lots of them to give away.

Frank Thomas referred to a plant which he obtained some time ago as a *Bromelia balansae* but he now knows that the name is incorrect. The plant is only about a quarter of the size of *balansae*; a *balansae* inflorescence is usually about a half to three-quarters of a metre in length. It peaked around Christmastime and has died off very quickly since the inflorescence is as prickly as can be and, when it was at its peak, it looked like a little cauliflower. You could not see any petals, all that was visible were the white sepals which had closed over and they had a beautiful sort of smooth white head, about the size of a tennis ball. Now, as it is dying down, you can see some petals showing. The other interesting thing about it is the stolon is quite small, considering the size of the plant and it also has a very big base out of which the plant grows, if you cut through an older bulb with a saw, it is like cutting through an onion and the solid base out of which the stolon goes along the ground, on the surface means that, again, it is not *balansae*, because *balansae* stolons are subterranean and this solid base seems to point to the development of an onion-type plant.

(Continued on Page 19)

(Continued from Page 8)

We also see 'covered with trichomes on both sides'. The leaves on our plant looked glabrous on the upper face but Don was able to prove that trichomes were on both sides, but only up to about one half on the adaxial face (upper), whereas in the top half, the trichomes were very scattered.

The description says that the inflorescence is tripinnate (twice branched) and axis straight, sometimes drying geniculate whereas the branch rachis is geniculate. Don reports that the inflorescence is bipinnate (once branched) and the rachis is slightly geniculate or more precisely slightly sinuous.

Now we come to the pedicel which is the stalk between the flower and the branch. Smith says these are 5mm long but Don failed to find them. Here Juan came to the rescue because as far as he is concerned none on the group have a pedicel but rather a hypanthium which narrows to look like a pedicel in a herbarium specimen!

The description says petals zygomorphic but more correctly should have referred to the corolla. This agrees with our plant. Interestingly this trait is not shown in the drawing of *T. calcicola* in Smith & Downs. The length of petals is said to be 4cm long whereas our plant has 5-6 cm.

So what started out to be what I considered significant differences between 'our' plant and *T. calcicola* have been whittled down somewhat. Juan has even suggested that morphologically speaking our plant could be closely linked to his new, yet to be published, *Tillandsia elusiva* from Chiapas in Mexico. With the origin of our plant in doubt, there is, of course, a slight possibility that it came from the Mexican mainland. But we are left with an unknown collection area, an inflorescence with bipinnate not tripinnate branching (once divided not twice divided), and a leaf sheath that is not particularly dark.

Some may wish to keep the name as *T. aff. calcicola* but I think our plant is unique enough to have a cultivar name of its own as 'Chalky White', a sort of anglicised version of *calcicola*. We know that *T. calcicola* was named because it was found on chalky cliffs in Jamaica. AND a person who used to be linked to chalk was the schoolteacher whose nickname was invariably 'Chalky White'. So you will have to excuse my quirky sense of humour.

ORTHOPHYTUM LYMANIANUM

Detective series, DD0212
Ian Hook February 2012

Several years ago, Robyn Firth bought this plant from Dick Jamieson. He could have got it from any of the older Australian collections he sourced plants from. It caught my eye and I recently bought one from Robyn. It was labelled *Orthophytum lymanianum*.

It pays to never trust the label on a new plant and so I tried to find it on the internet. Unfortunately there are almost no references to this plant in the vast World-wide-web ???

I did find one (commercial) sellers' photograph – it didn't match AT ALL, and I found a botanical description, which didn't match AT ALL.

O. lymanianum also seems to have only been described and cultivated quite recently, which didn't quite match the age of this plant being in Australia.

But the plant DOES look somewhat like the *xNeophytums* that grow in Sydney. So just "on-spec" I wandered through the pictures on fcbs.

And stumbled upon..

xNeophytum Lymanii

It looked a very close match and the similarity in name was too great to be coincidence. (Note: It is common practice for the BCR Registrar to attach a new cultivar name to a previously wrongly named but unique plant, like a place-marker in a book, so it can be referenced again in future instead of forever being "lost". In the registrar's great wisdom, a name is often chosen that has some similarity to the previous wrong name.)

Derek has now provided me with the formal description of *xNeophytum Lymanii* (below). It seems to agree with what we have and will be further checked when our plant next flowers.

It seems this plant may have still carried the correct, or best possible, label considering the difficulty of staying up-to-date we had in Australia until the recent advent of the www.

But I was still curious why the cultivar name was latinised? (and both capitalised AND in italics!)

Derek to the rescue again,

"*xNeophytum lymanii* is one of the few hybrids that qualifies under the ICBN because it is described in Latin and covers both nothogenus and nothospecies. For ease of reference we show it in the BCR as *xNeophytum 'Lymanii'*"

We know that there are some *Orthophytums* that have inflorescences down low in the centre of the plant but all are difficult to grow in Sydney. Who grows *Orthophytum navioides*? This is why you see mainly *xNeophytums* in collections south of Brisbane because of hybrid vigour!

(Continued on Page 11)

SHOW AND TELL DECEMBER 2011

SHOW AND TELL was begun by Terry Davis with a sort of apology for presenting a *Dyckia* instead of his regular *Tillandsias*.

He has been buying some *Dyckia* seed on E-Bay and the plants he was showing were some which he bought two years ago. He planted them in December, 2009, so they are now two years old. The seeds which he bought last year are growing well in potting mix and some extra white sand; they are *Dyckia* Silver Sheen. As well as the Show and Tell plants, Terry brought in some for the Raffle, including a Species, *D hebdingii* plus a number of small plants which were in a batch of more than 250 seeds in the mail. He did them up in small numbers in envelopes and made them available for anyone who wanted to begin experimenting with growing broms from seed. All you have to do is put them in a small take-away container containing some seed-raising mix,, sprinkle the seed on top, mist them, replace the lid so that they will not be washed out and sit back and wait; they will be up in no time at all. They are fairly slow to start, but once the warm weather arrives they will just take off.

Herlga Nitschke showed an unnamed plant which had red and green leaves, but trying to give it a name in the absence of a flower proved to be too difficult.

Ken Woods referred to the Seed Bank and to the fact that seeds are only coming in very spasmodically at the present time but he is receiving some. A little while ago when he opened his letter-box he found a parcel from a former member of the Society, Noel Pearce, who now lives down on the South Coast and the parcel contained almost the world's supply of *Vriesea gigantea* seeds. So if anyone wants to try growing them they can just help themselves to as many seeds as they want.

President Ian mentioned that Ken has maintained the Seed Bank for the Society over many years but recently, since the supply has diminished so much he would like to hand it over to someone else. Ian is trying to talk Werner Raff into taking it on, on the basis that it will not be as active as it was in the past. Also he asked Werner if he would keep track of the seeds offered today, just so that someone will know where they are and what progress they are making.

Ian had another question of Show and Tell but from a person unknown. He has had a problem with damage being done to his plants in his backyard and has laid the blame on an animal of some sort, probably a possum. Every morning when he goes out into his back yard he will find that ten or more plants have been ripped out of their pots, the roots shredded and the labels taken away, never to be seen again. His original feeling was that a possum was to blame but has now switched his thinking to a currawong which is nesting nearby. If you look up 'currawong' on the internet you will come across a comment that says that part of their diet is 'curl grubs' and these can quite often be found in brom pots. He has found a label which he related to one plant but now thinks it is incorrect. The plant is one he bought from Joyce Thomas of Rydalmere and, after some juggling with the name, it was finally settled as *Vriesea pulmonata*.

Ian has also had another plant, *Aechmea organensis*. Lots of you have the *Aechmea organensis* which has a purple base to the leaves; there is a large form, a medium form and a small form. They have been around for ages and will be in many collections, they are fairly common. Last month Helga brought in some small *organensis* plants and the flowers are significantly different from the usual run.

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(Continued from Page 10)

Orthophytum lymanianum

:

By M B Foster in Brom Soc Bull. 8(5): 73. 1958

xNEOPHYTUM, genus hybr. nov. [*Neoregelia* x *Orthophytum*]

Typus et species unica: - *Neophytum Lymanii*

xNEOPHYTUM *Lymanii* spec. hybr. nov. [*Neoregelia bahiana* (Ule) L. B. Smith var. *viridis* L. B. Smith X *Orthophytum navioides* (L. B. Smith) L. B. Smith]

TYPE: Cultivated at Orlando, Florida, M. B. Foster 3022 (U.S. Nat'l Herb.)

In this new bigeneric cross between species of *Orthophytum* and *Neoregelia*, the predominating features appear to come from the seed parent, *Orthophytum navioides*. In fact, in many ways it has the appearance of being a giant form of that species when it reaches the flowering period. The narrow flat leaves of the seed parent are more numerous, more delicate and arching in a graceful manner and when in flower practically all of the leaves turn red while the *Neophytum* leaves are glossy, stiff, formal and nearly upright until shortly before the flowering period when they spread almost longitudinally. Then the inner leaves surrounding the inflorescence turn a beautiful crimson red as many of the *Neoregelia* species do at this period. The flower petals are white as they are in *Orthophytum* and not blue as they are in the pollen parent, *Neoregelia bahiana* var. *viridis*, which is a tubular plant of very few leaves quite in contrast to most of the *Neoregelia* species. The leaves are thick and glossy and do not change color at the flowering period. The beautiful blue flowers, three inches in length, low in the tubular plant, are pleasantly discovered only when one peers down into the tube. The flower pedicels are nearly an inch long but the flowers of both the *Neophytum* and the *Orthophytum* are without pedicels. There are nectar scales on the petals of the *Orthophytum* but the petals of both the *Neoregelia* parent and the new x*Neophytum Lymanii* are without nectar scales.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Dawn Williams gave the following details regarding our

Operating Account to January 31st, 2012:

Brought Forward	\$16,759.53
Plus Income:	1,428.19
Less expenses	(1,713.38)
Bank Statement as at 31/01/2012:	\$16,474.34



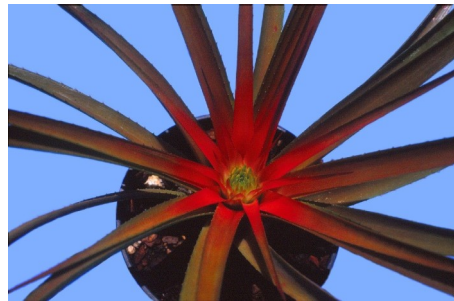
Tillandsia 'Chalky White'
See Pages 8 & 9



Vriesea olmosana 1st Open
Robyn Firth—December 2011



xNeophytum lymanii—Ian Hook ^
See Pages 10 & 11
xNeophytum lymanii—Derek Butcher v



Tillandsia tectorum 2nd Open
Ron Farrugia December, 2011

(Continued from page 14)

The Pineapple.

The pineapple was used to produce wine by the Incas and Brazilian natives. When Columbus discovered the Western hemisphere, the local inhabitants were advanced in civilization by several hundred years over their discoverers. They knew the earth was round, their calendars were more accurate, their craftsmanship far excelled all civilizations of the time except that of the Chinese. Like the Vandals, Visigoths, Mongols and other barbarian hordes, the Spaniards destroyed the physical and moral structures, keeping only three great discoveries for themselves: tobacco, corn and the pineapple.

By 1500 the pineapple, corn and tobacco were introduced to Spain. The first mention in print of the pineapple was in 1516. The first pineapple to fruit in England was given to Charles II, in 1680 and was of such import that a painting was made that still hangs in London's Victoria and Albert Museum. So taken with the pineapple were the Europeans that imported fruits in the late 17th and early 18th centuries were used for decoration, often rented for an occasion before they were finally used as food. In this respect decorative reproductions of the pineapple were used as symbols of hospitality, both in Europe and the conquered Americas. One might wonder why the pineapple, once introduced to the Greek and Roman Empires before the time of Christ, was not carried on into areas of North Africa and Mesopotamia. A simple explanation is that it is not grown in those areas even today, except as an oddity in greenhouses, botanical gardens, etc.

This article will be concluded in the next issue.



THE PINEAPPLE

By Barry Lawrence.

This article was reproduced from the newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago with permission. It appeared originally in the December, 1973 issue of the Houston Newsletter.

We do know that when Columbus "discovered" America, the hybridization of what is now the commercial pineapple was completed, and the possible parents of the hybrid - ization no longer were "wild". To do this, the Americans

had to do their hybridization before the time of Christ or at least by 500 A.D. We also know that the ancient Egyptians were aware of the pineapple, as a stylized version of the pineapple has been identified on column decorations -- these columns completed well before the time of Christ. It is also possible that the Assyrians were also "aware" of the pineapple's existence---possibly introduced by the "Gods" of antiquity? We also know that the pineapple was an item of trade in other areas where the plant cannot be grown (e.g.Moundville, Alabama) prior to the exploration of De-Soto.

The "Indians" of Central and South America used the pineapple for fibre and as a medicine long before Bromelain and Ananase. *Ananas erectifolius* produces fibres approximately six feet long, that can be used for fabrics or for rope. The pineapple fruit is a good cure for worms; it aids in digestion and can be found in some formulas for meat tenderizers.

(Continued on page 15)



Neoregelia concentric x princeps 1st Novice
Helga Nitschke - December 2011



Till. utriculate ssp pringlei
2nd Novice Sharon Song 11-12-11



Billbergia vittata cv. 'Ralph Graham French'
3rd. Novice, December, 2011. Warril Evans



Vriesea gigantean var *seideliana*
1st Members Open January 2012
Owen Heaps



Neophytum 'Gary Hendrix'; 3rd Novice
January 2012 Eulie Herat

Vriesea splendens hybrid; Jan 2012
1st Judges: Robyn Firth Open

