



BROMELETTER

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

Issue: **Volume 52 Number 1- Jan-Feb 2014.**

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B.S.A. Website
www.bromeliad.org.au
president@bromeliad.org.au
 President Ian's Mobile:
 0408 202 269



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COMMITTEE

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| President | Ian Hook | 0408 202 269 |
| | (e-mail <ianhook1@bigpond.com>) | |
| Vice President (1) | Robyn Firth | (02) 4774 2332 |
| Secretary | Marilyn Heaps | (02) 9502 3231 |
| Treasurer | Alan Mathew | (02) 9516 5976 |
| Editor | Eugene Morris | (02) 9743 6443 |
| Assistant Editor | Gary O'Connell | (02) 9558 8980 |
| Member | Helga Nitschke | (02) 9624 1528 |
| Member | Gary Lock | (02) 9836 2801 |
| Member | Ron Farrugia | (02) 9533 2546 |
| Member | Owen Heaps | (02) 9502 3231 |
| Member | John Cornale | (02) 9823 0987 |
| Member | Joe de Gabriel | (02) 4976 1409 |
| Membership Secretary | Kerry McNicol | 0439 998 049 |
| | (e-mail: membsec@bromeliad.org.au) | |

**BROMELIAD SOCIETIES AFFILIATED WITH THE BROMELIAD
SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

**Bromeliad Society of Victoria. The Secretary, P.O. Box 101, Darling.
Vic. 3145**

**Caboolture & Districts Brom. Society Inc.,
The Secretary, P.O. Box 748, Caboolture Qld. 4510.**

**Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc . The Secretary,
P.O. Box 28, Cairns. Qld. 4870**

**Gold Coast Succulent & Brom. Society The Secretary, P.O. Box 94,
Southport B. C., Southport Qld. 4215.**

The Hunter Bromeliad Society Inc., C/o 59 Barton St, Mayfield. NSW 2304.

**Townsville Bromeliad Study Group, c/- Mrs K Greenway, 10 Holstein
Place, BLACK RIVER. Qld 4814.**

Material for Bromeletter – address to:

e-mail: almorieu@optusnet.com.au

All other correspondence to:

**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
from 12.30 p.m. before the monthly meeting.**

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

**January 11,, 2014 Ordinary Meeting & Show and Tell.
Talk. Guest Speaker.**

**February 08, 2014 Annual General Meeting.
Ordinary Meeting & Show and Tell.
Talk. Guest Speaker.**

EVENTS CALENDAR

May 3/4, 2014 BSA Autumn Show, Burwood RSL Club, Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood, NSW
June 7/8, 2014 'Bloomin' Broms'. Cominos House, Cnr Little & Greenslopes St, Edge Hill Q
Sept. 8-14, 2014 "Bromeliads in Paradise" Honolulu. Hawaii, USA.
October 18/19, 2014 BSA Spring Show, Burwood RSL Club
April 16 to 19, 2015. 18th Australasian Bromeliad Conference, Parramatta. NSW.

**Margaret Draddy
Ron Farrugia
Grahame Macfarlane
Eugene Morris**

**Editor:
Eugene Morris,
20 Boronia Street,
Concord West. NSW.
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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

REMINDER!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

FEBRUARY 08, 2014.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Annual General Meeting of

The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.

will be held on Saturday, February 08, 2014 at the Burwood RSL Club
at 1.00 p.m.

At each Annual General Meeting "all elected office bearers..... shall retire and the meeting shall elect members to fill the positions (Rule 25) as set out in Rule 17". (Rule 17 states that the Management Committee of the Society shall be not less than seven (7) and not more than twelve (12) members (called Office Bearers). The President, Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.)

Candidates for each position on the Committee must be nominated and seconded, such nominations to be signed by each nominator and nominee and to be in the hands of the Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting. The last date for the receipt of nominations by mail will be

Friday, January 17th, 2014.

Only members whose subscriptions are paid up for 2014 will be eligible to vote. (Rule 32).

Members wishing to stand for positions on the Executive Committee and other Offices within the Society should obtain the relevant form from the Secretary. They should ensure that the form is completed appropriately and in the hands of the Secretary not later than Friday, January 17th, 2014, if delivered by post or Saturday, January 18th, 2014 if delivered by hand.

AGENDA:

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
President's Annual Report.
Treasurer's Annual Financial Report.
Election of Officers.
Matters arising from the above.

General Business will be discussed at the Open Meeting held on the same day, following the A.G.M.

WHERE MY HEALTHIEST TILLANDSIAS GROW.

This is an article by Len Butt of Queensland which was printed in the July/August, 1996 issue of Bromeleetter.

Some species of *Tillandsias* in habitat grow on the bodies of certain cacti (probably the *Cerei* cactus forms). Several months ago, just for space and better light, we hung and semi attached certain *Tillandsias* onto a large *Euphorbia lactea* that faced west and had a 50% light situation. For those who know this plant, the similarity to a desert cactus is there, although it has small leaf foliage. Our plant has four column stems and is about three metres in height.

I was hospitalised for a few months so was out of garden contact. In that time, many of my *Tillandsias* that faced north had developed a dried-out, windswept look, as we had been experiencing a drought of about three months' duration and my usual misting program was gone. However, the *Euphorbia* is growing close to a side fence, a place regularly hose watered by my wife.

A few days ago, while convalescing, I noticed the vivid, fresh, healthy appearance of the *Tillandsias* growing on the *Euphorbia*. Most noticeable was a thick rope of robust *Till. usneoides* which is the larger form and a bright silver grey. Not at all like the dull grey of smaller varieties growing on other trees. Further to this, a trailing thick cluster of *Till. bergeri* matted between the *Euphorbia*'s stems and a lovely cluster of silvery white *Tillandsia albida*. On the western sun side of the *Euphorbia* are two very happy-looking clusters of *Tillandsia ionantha*, the very large form, probably *scaposa*, which is about to flower. We have just had fourteen days of good rain and most *Tillandsias* have picked up from their windswept look.

By these results, I will now proceed to place more of these plants on what remains of a once quite large cactus (*cereus*) collection.

My seed-raising efforts with the genus *Tillandsia* to date have not created a very impressive record. But it is amazing just where nature-sown seed will emerge, as several *Tillandsia* plantlets, so far unnamed, have also formed on the apex branches of the same *Euphorbia*. They are twisted in formation and could be *T. Butzii*. **BUT TIME WILL TELL!**

Len Butt.

Plant of the Month Competition

November 2013

Open

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| First | John Cornale | <i>Tillandsia streptophylla.</i> |
| Second | Ken Woods | <i>Tillandsia flabellata.</i> |
| Third | Werner Raff | <i>Tillandsia schiedeana.</i> |

Open

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| First | John Cornale | <i>Tillandsia streptophylla.</i> |
| Second | Werner Raff | <i>Tillandsia schiedeana.</i> |
| Third. | Ken Woods | <i>Tillandsia flabellata.</i> |

Novice

| | | |
|--------|---------------|--|
| First. | Joy Clark | <i>Neoregelia 'Purple Princess'.</i> |
| Second | Warril Evans | <i>Tillandsia bolterii.</i> |
| Third | Kerry McNicol | <i>Neoregelia wilsoniana x pauciflora.</i> |

Novice

| | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| First | J. Evans | <i>Tillandsia seleriana.</i> |
| Second | Joy Clark | <i>Neoregelia 'Purple Princess'.</i> |
| Third | Warril Evans | <i>Tillandsia bolterii .</i> |

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

| | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------|
| First | Joy Clark | Happy Bromistmas. |
|-------|-----------|-------------------|

Seen on a Tombstone

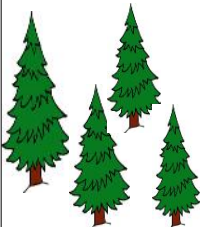
In a cemetery in England:

Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so shall you be,
Remember this and follow me.

To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

To follow you I'll not consent,
Until I know which way you went.

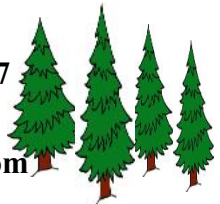
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DD1008 TILLANDSIA NATURAL HYBRIDS.

by Derek Butcher 12/07

Talk presented at TPE at Cairns International Bromeliad Conference.

To find out in my own mind what a hybrid was I felt I had to know what a species was. The BSI Glossary says "a species is a group of organisms that have in common one or more characteristics which definitely separate it from any other group". The trouble here is that this can also define a hybrid! I thought that the ICBN would have a definition but they stay clear of such a controversial subject. Another definition is: 'A group of organisms capable of interbreeding and producing fertile offspring'. This applies to animals but is close to what could apply to plants if we note that F1 hybrids are less fertile than a species even though they show hybrid vigour.

A new species is generally described from several specimens that share similar attributes and grow in a similar habitat. If a new species is only described from one specimen, the chances of its being a natural hybrid increase. Different species can grow side by side in the same habitat because there are barriers to prevent cross pollination. These include different pollinators, different flowering times of the day as well as seasons. Change the ecology of the area by chopping down trees etc and some of the barriers can be broken. Natural hybridising can now occur if species A grows near species B and they flower at the same time. They produce a vigorous hybrid C which is less fecund and the chances are that it will be pollinated by either species A or species B rather than with any other hybrid C. The chances of the hybrid C evolving into a species in its own right are remote unless its vigour wins the day and species A & B die out.

Because everyone's definition of what is a species and the fact that evolution never stops, you have plants described as species but which are really hybrids like *T. pfeufferi* or *T. xfloridana*.

Let us look at these :

T. pfeufferi was found in a batch of plants called *T. didisticha* received from Bolivia by a Mr. Pfeuffer in Germany. It was described from this one collection. It has never been found in the wild again. As Walter Till says, it is very rare and seems to be a hybrid between *T. lorentziana* and *T. vernicosa* and yet was found in a batch of so-called *T. didisticha*! There is local twist to this, because in 1996 I found an unnamed plant from Knize at David Sheumack's place and felt sure it was *T. pfeufferi*. When it flowered I sent details to Walter Till who dashed my identification prowess. It now goes under the cultivar name of 'Pfantom'.

TILLANDSIA 'MINIATA'

by Butcher
09/2013.

In 2006 Rainforest Flora sent a quantity of *T. aeranthes* "Miniata" to Garden World, in Melbourne. Chris Larson questioned Paul on this plant. Paul said that these smaller *T. aeranthes* (5-6 cm diam) just appeared in his nursery as seedlings. He stated that no chemicals such as Bonzi were used and that this was not a possible cause of this mutation. He was not aware of another parent, in the proximity, which is likely to have caused this new cultivar through hybridization - but could not rule this out as they did not flower. If this is the case, how could they have given this name, because 'miniata' is a colour like scarlet and nothing to do with miniature! Or is it American spelling? Be that as it may, the name is here to stay, whatever its meaning.

Further selection is being made from this seedling batch with names of 'Minime' (< 4cm diam) and 'MiniMiniMe' (ca 2.5 cm diam) because these have even smaller rosettes of leaves. While this may take several years, we expect that one offset will become a 'normal' size and flower.

Most of these small plants have formed clumps but not flowered, but flowers are not a prerequisite for sales where plant form can also have an appeal to the general public. In 1995 I got a plant called *T. aeranthes* miniata from Keith Bradtberg, who said the plant originally came from Paul Isley. I still have a clump or two and, when giving away bits, I invariably ask the recipient to tell me about it when it flowers. Alas, I have had no answer in the last 15 years.

So when Bruce Dunstan showed his photo of a flowering 'Miniata', my first thoughts were that the only similarity to *T. aeranthes* was the floral bract. Bruce is known for his "feeding" so I was not surprised to see one plant in the clump larger than the others AND flowering.

If anyone has grown *T. xiphioides* or *T. pringlei* from seedlings, they will know they get a clump of small plants and suddenly you get one plant growing faster than the rest and it will be the first to flower. I have a special interest in *T. xiphioides* because, in the 1990's, Keith Golinski sold me a clump of *T. aizoides* which stayed like *T. aizoides* for about 5 years and then one or two plants decided to grow bigger than the rest and became a *T. xiphioides*!

Back to the flowering 'Miniata' which I intend to register.

Remember that these are mutations and their offsets could revert to normalcy at any time but then the 'weakness' could mean a return from normal offset to dwarf.

We wait to see what the future will bring.

[See photos on Page 13.](#)

AECHMEA LALINDA

By Derek Butcher. DD09/05

In 1994 Len Colgan brought in to a South Australian Society meeting a flowering *Aechmea ornata* var. *nationalis*. It was the first time we had seen an *Aechmea ornata* in flower in South Australia so it was quite an event. The fact that the plant was variegated led us to accept the fact that the flower head was not up to the usual size and standard we expect from Len.

So it was a bit of a surprise when Ivy Kirby telephoned and said she had *Aechmea ornata* in flower. We do have a plant called *A. ornata* var. *hoehneana* which had been around in Australia for the previous 20 years or so and origin was unknown but which is clearly within that *A. gamosepala/cylindrata* group. So I had this in mind while nodding my head and agreeing with everything Ivy said. But then she mentioned vivid red, upright, spiky leaves underneath the blue flower head and I realised perhaps I should not have been so patronising. Subsequent phone calls were received mainly for my wife Margaret but mention was still made of the said plant doing its thing.

Finally on December 15th Ivy got fed up with the lack of action of the Secretary and dumped a complete inflorescence on his desk in his DEN just when he was translating the description of *Tillandsia tephrophylla* from Latin to English. A cockroach jumped out of the inflorescence so papers flew for a short while. Mind you, the inflorescence was post floral, with black bits hanging where the beautiful blue flowers would have been. The long red spiky scape bracts up to 30cm long were still red so it was an impressive 47cm long piece of plant with an 8cm mace on the top!

Ivy had a band-aid on her hand and it was said that her secateurs AND husband Norm were still in the clump of vegetation when she left home. If you have seen Ivy's backyard you'll know what I mean. So the TRUE *Aechmea ornata* var. *hoehneana* is in South Australia, and I assume Australia, for anyone with the space and inclination to grow it. Oh! I forgot to tell you. The leaves can be over 1 metre long and are stiff with a point on the end.

If you have a smallish plant with floppy leaves about 30cm long, a shortish scape with red floppy bracts 5-6cm long, a cone shaped flower head admittedly with blue flowers but with long red floral bracts with a little whisker at the top (mucro) instead of chunky short green bracts with a really long whisker THEN you ain't got the true *Aechmea ornata* var. *Hoehneana*! Your plant is clearly in the *Ortgiesia* group.

(Continued on Page 11)

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AECHMEA LALINDA

(Continued from Page 9)

Meanwhile in 1992 Peter Franklin of Raymond Terrace, had obtained a certain *Aechmea lalindei*, now growing under his number PAF1259, from Joe Rigby who in turn had got it from Keith Golinski in Queensland. Peter even sent me photos. Here was my bogus *Aechmea ornata* var. *hoehniana* !! Peter and I were in agreement that the plant just had to be an *Orgiesia* close to *A. cylindrata*. We knew that *Aechmea lalindei* was the old name for a male *Aechmea mariae-reginae* so whoever had identified it as this was from the 'old' school. How the same plant got two names, admittedly both having cone-shaped inflorescences and bluish petals, beggars the imagination. However, we must remember that there was little Bromeliad literature to refer to in those days. Anyway, we convinced Keith Golinski that his plant was one of THOSE *Aechmea cylindrata*. *Aechmea lalindei* did not appear in the promotional CD for Bromagic in 1997. It was somewhat in limbo because it was an *A. cylindrata* with a distinctive shape and our experience has shown that there are more hybrids in this *Aechmea* sub-genus *Orgiesia* than we had at first realised. We feel that the name 'Lalinda' should be preserved as a Cultivar name.

Derek Butcher.

Treasurer's Report – (1):

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details regarding our
Operating Account to Septe3mber 30, 2013:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Brought Forward | \$7,881.17 |
| Plus Income: | 975.03 |
| Less expenses | 1,819.70 |
| Bank Statement as at 30/09/2013: | \$7,036.50 |

SPRING SHOW TROPHY PRESENTATIONS



Terry Davis, Grand Champion and President Ian



Robyn Firth, Species Award.



Kerry McNicol, Reserve and Novice Champion



Neoregelia Wilsonia x pauciflora 3rd Novice & Judges Kerry McNicol.



Aechmea Burle-marxii.
Robyn Firth



Tillandsia bolterii 2nd Novice, 3rd Judges
Warril Evans



Tillandsia leiboldiana
Joy Clark



Tillandsia flabellata 2nd Open Judges & =3rd
Members Nov 13 K Woods .



Left: *Tillandsia Schiedeana* 3rd
Open Judges.
W Raff.

Right: *Neoregelia* 'Purple Princess' Novice:
1st Judges, 2nd
Members,
Joy Clark



aeranthos 'Miniata' 'Minime' 'Miniminime'

Photo from Derek Butcher's article on Page 8.

DEAR DOROTHY DYCKIA.

Those of us who have been in the Society for a long time will remember the days when Barry Williams was Editor and his wife Joan, among other things, organised a Question and Answer segment under the title "Dear Dorothy Dyckia". Joan, of course was Dorothy and, with her knowledge of Bromeliads, was able to provide the most of the answers. Looking for something to complete this current issue of Bromeletter, I came across this answer to a question which is just as relevant today as it was in July/August, 1995. Joan and Barry are, of course, no longer with us. They were a lovely couple.

Dear Dorothy Dyckia:

I have recently started to grow Bromeliads and have bought some very beautiful, colorful plants over the last several months. As winter has approached I find that a lot of the color has started to fade and I wonder if I have done something wrong in the caring for these plants. I have stopped fertilising and lessened the watering as it says in the books. Most of them grow under 70% shadecloth.

Answer:

Unfortunately, the lack of strength and warmth of the winter sun makes the plants fade a little in color. It is most noticeable in *Neoregelia* and *Cryptanthus*, but the color will return in the Spring. You could perhaps raise the plants to a higher shelf and into a warm protected area. The damage you could do to the plants could be far worse than a little fading in color. *Cryptanthus* are very prone to cold so only water the medium, not the leaves or they will suffer cold burn. Try and find a warm, sheltered, wind-free place for them over winter, even if you have to take them inside your house.

Winter has the reverse effect on some Aechmeas, like *Aech. recurvata* var. *recurvata* and var. *ortegiesii*, *Aech. triangularis* and the hybrid 'Mary Brett'. Maybe it's because you usually grow these plants in full sun all the year round and the summer sun (with our high temperatures) blanches them. When winter comes, they take on a rosy glow, even if they are not going to flower in the Spring.. Bromeliads are certainly very interesting and complex plants to grow and you can always learn something new about them, even if you have been growing them for years.

Treasurer's Report – (2):

**Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details regarding our
Operating Account to October 31, 2013:**

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Brought Forward | \$7,036.50 |
| Plus Income: | 5,570.12 |
| Less expenses | 2,149.42 |
| Bank Statement as at 31/10/2013 | \$10,457.20 |

FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY LANGUAGE

(or Severe Distortions thereof):

- a.. A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- b.. Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
- c.. Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
- d.. Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
- e.. Those who jump off a bridge in Paris must be in Seine.
- f.. A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
- g.. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- h.. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- i.. Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.
- j.. Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- k.. When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- l.. A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- m.. Definition of a will: A dead give away.
- n.. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- o.. She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.
- p.. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- q.. If you don't pay your exorcist, you'll get repossessed.
- r.. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- s.. When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.
- t.. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- u.. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
- v.. Every calendar's days are numbered.
- w.. A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.
- x.. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- y.. A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.
- z.. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- aa.. Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.
- ab.. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
- ac.. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- ad.. Acupuncture is a jab well done.

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SHOW & TELL

NOVEMBER, 2013.

Peter Fitzgerald opened this segment with an unknown neoregelia and, after an introduction by President Ian, newly returned from a longish sojourn in Europe, it was agreed that the plant was probably a *Neoregelia carolinea* hybrid.

Robyn Firth followed Peter with two plants.

First was a *Pitcairnia burle-marxii*, a small plant which is grown in a warm environment and receives all-day sun. Its leaves are dark green and a long red inflorescence was growing out of the centre of the plant. It is not very well known, so Robyn brought it in to display the rather unusual flower spike. The plant usually sits in a small saucer of water. A lot of *Pitcairnia*s are deciduous. When they lose their leaves you think that they are dead and then, when you least expect it, they will come up again with new growth. Robyn's plants are all under shade-cloth and some are under plastic during winter. Another plant, *Pitcairnia* 'Rhubarb', is also in flower. In an added comment, President Ian mentioned that this plant is not registered.

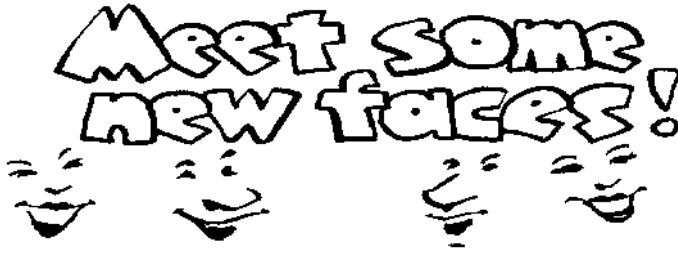
Her second plant was an x*Neomea* Peter Kearney, again a small plant with reddish-green leaves.

Kerry McNicoll brought in a *Tillandsia violacea*, a really tiny plant with a similarly tiny flower. This was followed by a *Canistropsis fabulata*, also a first time flowerer and a small green-leaved plant.

Joy Clark's contribution was a cultivar of *Aechmea gamosepala*, the leaves of which are green in front and red in the back.

Terry Davis began his report by mentioning that he has three different forms of *Vriesea guttata*. They all have semi-pendulous pink bracts with yellow flowers. but their leaves are very tender. Bringing them up to an acceptable show condition is very difficult because, if any of the leaves are touched, an obvious blemish appears which detracts from its appearance.

Of the three plants, first was one with very sparsely spotted leaves. The leaves on the second plant were reasonably spotted but the third was very highly spotted, so much so that many of the spots had joined together to look like a band. If the plants are kept in shade, they will have very few spots, but in a sunny position the spots will really develop.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

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

Julie Rigby and Carl Silvestro

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

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DDO708. TIMES ARE A-CHANGING.

by Derek Butcher 06/08

Document 8/2007, amended 5/2008.

Do you want the good news or the bad news? We now have 8821 names on the International Bromeliad Cultivar Register of which 4366 are *Neoregelia*. If you wanted to buy one of these plants how lucky would you be? Many of the older ones would be very difficult to find. With many of the newer ones you could try contacting the hybridist but even then you could have problems. Let me explain.

In the good-old-days, Nurseries printed Catalogues and advertised their wares in various Newsletters and Journals. However, as Herb Plever from New York already pointed out, these Catalogues are becoming few and far between and yet plants, especially hybrids, are still sold and purchased around the world.

Ever since I became Registrar in 2000 I have tried to point out the advantages of registering hybrids, if only to give some way of identification compared to the names that just occur in Catalogues, which, for want of a term, I have always called Nurserymen's Names or "NN" for short. If mentioned in a Bromeliad Journal, I ask that "*unregistered*" be put next to the name if this applies.

Another reason for having a Cultivar Register is that anybody wanting such a plant could at least contact the hybridist and in the good-old-days this was a reasonable assumption. Catalogues were invaluable in this exercise because the Nurseryman had to have sufficient stock before going to the expense of printing such a Catalogue.

Therefore, he worked with propagating offsets. Having available stock is all the more important to the large wholesalers in Europe and some larger US concerns. Here, it can be said, that the plants are truly being cultivated widely and need to be recorded in the Register. If I find out they are using a different name for this same plant, this is also recorded in the Register whether the company concerned likes it or not. The same name for different plants is also recorded. So the Register is more than just a Register, because it gives extra information in any search for identity.

We have the rule for registering hybrids that the plant should be grown through successions of asexual reproduction to ensure that:-

- 1. There is a chance to look at stability and;
- 2. There is a likelihood that there are sufficient numbers for circulation for it to be considered a plant in general cultivation.

This is decided by the registrant/hybridist not the Registrar and if we return to the good-old-days there was no incentive to ignore this rule!

These days of Ebay and Websites it costs no more to have just one cultivar for sale, calling it unique and claiming a high price for it. The purchaser is not fully aware that the onus is on him/her to propagate such cultivar and, in reality, it is unnecessary to be in the Register because nobody else has a chance of obtaining it or needing to know its identity. (Continued on Page 20)

This uniqueness is a decision by the seller. This is where we have problems with Bromeliaceae because of their promiscuity and fecundity where every seed raised has the potential to be “different” in someone’s eyes.

Culling is always urged but rarely put into practice because its meaning differs amongst individuals.

We have problems especially with *Guzmania*, *Cryptanthus* and even more so with *Neoregelia* because of the amount of crossbreeding that has occurred with a small number of species. We know that, in the wild, plants evolve to species but there are always natural hybrids being produced which may or may not evolve into new species. Generally speaking, gardeners accept the broad description of a species and only rarely is an aberrant form given a cultivar name. This is usually linked to variegations appearing in a species and not being described under the ICBN Rules.

Plants in cultivation hybridise much more readily and this is sometimes assisted by hybridists! To my mind a hybridist is one who seeks to produce a plant that is outstanding from what can be found in the wild. We know that crossing a species with a species will give a plant with hybrid vigour but the seedlings from the same seed batch will show certain similarities. If you obtain seedlings in the next generation – F2, you will get many variations and it should be easy to select the best. F3 will get less variations, F4 even less and so on. Many of the *Neoregelia* hybrids being made these days are at higher levels than even F4. To my mind many *Neoregelia* hybridists do not check the lineage of the parents they use to see what the possible outcome might be and, as such, they may be better served by taking seed from a hybrid that has been fertilised “naturally”. In other words, they are good growers of seed rather than intentional hybridists.

We now come to the next problem where the seedlings are mostly similar, not only in that seed batch but with other seed batches with different hybrids as parents. In many cases, the seedlings are good plants, the only problem is their similarity! But these, “*hybridists*” still look for differences however minute and these are registered. A true hybridist would only be registering the most outstanding and destroying the rest, but, in reality, we have a plethora of look-alike hybrids where if any lose the label there is little hope of finding its proper name.

The Registrar treads a narrow path between the thousands of named plants out there not registered and the few thousand that have been. How many growers keep labels near their plants? I have had one Nurseryman boast that over the years he had named and sold some 60,000 plants without registering one.

TIMES ARE A-CHANGING.

Continued from Page 20):

What I find interesting is, NOT one has been referred back to me with an identity crisis. This means to me that the plants could not have been that outstanding in the first place for purchasers to want to propagate them further.

This also shows that you do not need to register every seedling you obtain and a very true saying is "*Quality before Quantity*".

The relevant articles in the ICNCP rules are:

- 2.2 A cultivar is an assemblage of plants that has been selected for a particular attribute or combination of attributes and that is clearly distinct, uniform and stable in these characteristics and that, when propagated by appropriate means, retains those characteristics.

- 2.4 Cultivars differ in their mode of origin and reproduction, for example as described in Art. 2.5. Whatever the means of propagation, only those plants which maintain the characteristics that define a particular cultivar may be included within that cultivar.

- 2.5 Plants of the same clone (which are asexually propagated from any part of a plant) may form a cultivar.

- 2.8 Plants of a clone which are derived from aberrant growth may form a cultivar.

- 2.11 An assemblage of individual plants grown from seed derived from uncontrolled pollination may form a cultivar when it meets the criteria laid down in the Art. 2.2 and when it can be distinguished consistently by one or more characters, even though the individual plants of the assemblage may not necessarily be genetically uniform.

Bromeliad Societies around the world play a vital role in this selection process when they conduct Shows and issue Newsletters and check the Cultivar Register to see if the plant name has been registered. How many registered plants turn up on Show benches? How many are unregistered or just have a formula?

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. |
| Show Registrar | Robyn Firth |
| Show Co-Ordinator | David Scott. |

Treasurer's Report – (3):

**Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details regarding our
Operating Account for the Spring Show::**

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Income: | \$4,785.00 |
| Less expenses | 2,133.13 |
| Net Profit | \$2,651.87 |

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 |



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

The following Seeds *are now available*:

Aechmea bromeliifolia var *albobracteata*, *Aechmea rubens*, *Aechmea warassii*, *Alcantarea geniculata*, *glaziouana*, *odorata* and *vinicolor*, *Guzmania sanguine* (Costa Rica form), *Puya mirabilis*, *Till. balbisiana*, *Till xfloridana*, *Till pohliana*, *Vriesea guttata*, *Vriesea saundersii*.

Thanks to Bob Hudson, Qld., Laurie Mountford, NSW., Chris Larson, Vic., Werner Raff, Laurie Dorfor and Terry Davis, NSW., for their valuable contributions to the Seed Bank.

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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

Membership: Australia A\$20

Overseas Membership: Asia/Pacific Zone A\$30. Rest of the World A\$35.

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 must add \$5 rejoining fee when re-applying for membership.

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