



BROMELETTER

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

Issue: **Volume 53 Number 2 - March - April 2015.**

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After our February AGM meeting, we are pleased to welcome two new Committee Members, Joy Clark & Meryl Thomas.

Thanks go to Joe deGabriel and Gary Lock who, due to other commitments, can no longer continue on the committee.



BROMELETTER is published bi-monthly at Sydney
by
The Bromeliad Society of Australia Incorporated.

Deadlines for articles: 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December, To allow for publishing in the first week of March, May, July, September, November and January.

REMINDER

***Membership renewals are due
1st JANUARY each year, those
who are un-financial after Bromsmatta,
will no longer receive Bromeletter (see p 18)***

<u>COMMITTEE</u>		
President	Ian Hook (ianhook1@bigpond.com)	0408 202 269
Vice President (1)	Robyn Firth	02 4774 2332
Vice President (2)	Ron Farrugia	02 9533 2546
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Member	Eugene Morris	02 9743 6443
Member	Bob Sharpley	0439 672 826
Member	Joy Clark	02 4572 3545
Member	Meryl Thomas	0401 040 762

**BROMELIAD SOCIETIES AFFILIATED WITH THE BROMELIAD
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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/- 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: membsec@bromeliad.org.au

All other correspondence to:

**The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia
Inc.,**

P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.

Please Note

**BROMELIADS 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

March 14th- Show & Tell; Sales; Raffle; Competitions
April 11th- Show & Tell; Sales; Raffle; Competitions.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- ◆ Bromeliad Fair— March 28/29 Wellbank St, Concord
 - ◆ Collector's Plant Fair— Clarendon Race Course April 11/12
- 18th Australasian Bromeliad Conference,**
Parramatta. NSW. April 16-19, 2015.

Life Members:

<p>Grace Goode O.A.M Bill Morris Ruby Ryde Keith Ryde</p>	<p>Ken Woods Ron Farrugia Graham McFarlane Eugene Morris</p>
---	--

BSA Website

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details regarding our :

Operating Account to December 30, 2014:

Brought Forward	\$32,598.84
Plus Income:	15,858.66
Less expenses	2,986.29
Bank Statement as at 30/12/2014	\$45471.21

Operating Account to January 31 2015:

Brought Forward	\$45,471.21
Plus Income:	7,939.56
Less expenses	1,947.36
Bank Statement as at 31/01/2015	\$51,463.41

Please note: these totals include Conference receipts and expenses.

Neoregelia 'Wild in Oz'

by Derek Butcher 12/2014

In recent years there has been an upsurge in Chester Skotak's hybrids of the variegated small *Neoregelia* kind. Many have been registered by Eloise Beach in Florida but some have escaped to Australia. This is a similar scenario to what happened in the early 1990's with variegated *N. carcharodon* hybrids. Some were registered in the USA but many similar ones were registered in Australia.

We are now talking about only one such hybrid circulated by the Olive Branch under formula (carolinae x Hannibal Lector x Tiger Cub x punctatissima). There are immediate problems here because it only takes two to make a hybrid so where do the brackets go? The carolinae would have to be a variegated form because where does the variegation come from. The HL stands for 'Hannibal Lector'. It has been known since the 1970's that *N. punctatissima* is not in cultivation and even Elton Leme has been unable to find it. The plant that is in cultivation is a form of *N. ampullacea* and was given the name of 'Punctate'. It is understood that the punctatissima in the formula has been changed to 'Punctate Red'.

Undoubtedly Chester would have given a grex number to his original crossing but we are unaware of this so we cannot confidently link it to the many registered hybrids. I had thought that I could get a proper name for Margaret's plant by waiting for something similar appearing in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. First I came across 'Whirlwind' registered by Eloise Beach in 6/2012 which had a similar parentage (carolinae variegated x Hannibal Lector) x Tiger Cub as seed parent and Punctate Red as pollen parent but our plant did not quite match. The grex could well have been the same but selecting had been done of this complicated hybrid. Then in 11/2014 'Unraveled' appeared only this time with a different variegation. Whether this was a Sport of 'Whirlwind' we do not know. In any event it still did not look like our plant which has narrower leaves.

The Registrar, Geoff Lawn, has pointed out that there are 10 other registered hybrids by Eloise Beach with the same complicated parentage namely, 'Aftershock', 'Esperanza', 'Hot Embers', 'Hot Flash', 'Mambo', 'Mojo', 'Moondust', 'San Jose', 'Teriyaki', & 'White Hot Embers'. Perhaps a Cultivar group name could be coined to link all these names for similar looking plants with the same pedigree. Little attempt has been made to differentiate the names which have been registered from July 2011 to the current date. The first crossing seems to have been made in 2006 but we do not know how many repeats were done.



Neoregelia Wild in Oz
Photo by Derek Butcher



Neoregelia Teriyaki



Neoregelia Hot Embers



Neoregelia White Hot Embers



Neoregelia Moondust



Neoregelia Mambo

Photos by Eloise Beech, used with permission.

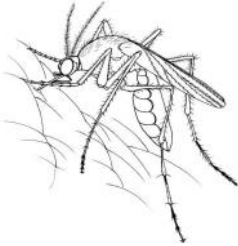
Neoregelia 'Wild in Oz' (cont)

It would appear from the use of 'punctatissima' in the formula that this import to Australia was early in the piece and we hope that nobody else has imported any hybrid with a similar formula so we are only dealing with the same clone. Please advise me if you are aware of any other importation. I have checked the photos on the BCR and OUR plant still seems unique. Any that have been sold under formula in the USA is their problem.

Further investigation has revealed that we are not the only people growing this plant with its complicated formula in Australia and it does need a name, and Ross Little has suggested we use 'Wild in Oz'. So if you are growing a plant with this formula on the label you will save time by using the name 'Wild in Oz'. It is interesting that it seems some growers have become tired of writing the formula and you may encounter this plant just called 'Skotak Hybrid'

Plant is 21 cm wide, 19cm high, leaves 2 cm wide, variegated.

MOSQUITOES & Bromeliads



It is the season, once again, for not only one of the most annoying, but perhaps, becoming a more dangerous insects, to buzz into our tranquil summer lifestyles.

Below are sections of articles written by Rob Smythe of Queensland, followed by anecdotes about this years batch of mosquitoes.

(Last update 9th October 2008)

Photographs of the mosquitoes mentioned below can be found at:
<http://medent.usyd.edu.au/photos/mosquitoesofaustralia.htm>

'Fortunately broms and mosquitos don't come together very often. Over 4 years I have monitored my broms for mosquito infestations. Mosquitos that I have found in broms are:

1. ***Aedes notoscriptus* (*Ochlerotatus notoscriptus*)**---one of the salt marsh plague mosquitos. These blow in from the salt marsh areas after rain and/or king tides. Those coming from our broms are negligible in number but do occur. You need a lens to see the lyre markings on the thorax or the narrow white band near the middle of the proboscis. So rule one is all mosquitos with those football sock markings are not one of the very bad ones. Medically *Aedes notoscriptus* is of some concern as it can transmit Ross River Fever if you have infected kangaroos, possums or other carriers (not humans I believe) in the area. ... cont p 9



The Conference Registration form is now available on the web.

www.bromeliad.org.au then click Bromsmatta Conference 2015. Remember, this **DOES NOT** include accommodation at the Novotel. This should be arranged by you, bookings are now open. (02-9630-4999)

Conference rates have been negotiated and the code is available from the above website

Sales: Sales to **Registrants Only**:- Thursday 6.45-9.00; Friday 3.45-5.00; Saturday 8.00-10.00; as well as during :

Sales to the Public:-
Saturday 10-3.30; Sunday 10.00-1.00

Speakers will present information on the following topics

Dennis Cathcart - 'New Explorations and Discoveries in Brazil' Part 1
'New Explorations and Discoveries in Brazil' Part 2

Nigel Thompson - 'Does Apartheid Work?'

Bruce Dunstan - 'Guzmania and Pitcairnia of the Western Slopes of Cordillera Occidental, Columbia'

Dr. Theresa Bert - "Beating the Odds: Growing Uncommon Bromeliad Genera"

Doug Cross - Hybridizing Cryptanthus.

Laurie Dorfer- 'Local Fungal Diseases in Bromeliads'

Andy Siekkinen - Bromeliads of the Pacific Coastal States of Mexico - Jalisco, Colima, and Michoacan / Hectias: A poorly known Mexican genus

Pamela Hyatt - 'Tillandsia hybrids, Natural and Artificial'

Peter Tristram - 'The WOW Factor ' Nature's Colour Game Becomes Horticulture's Delight'

Day Registration:

There will be some availability of Day Registrations, depending on the number of registrants. Numbers will be known by early March and will be posted on the BSA website.

Day rates are as follows: Friday-\$150, Saturday-\$80, Sunday-\$80. This will include entry to speakers' presentations, morning & afternoon tea, lunch and registrant sales.

Speaker timetable is available on the website.

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Sunday 9 a.m. - 12 midday**

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Garry Flemming – 0265539868 / 0413178884

Peter Tristram – peter@bromeliads.com.au

MOSQUITOES & Bromeliads (cont)

The presence of *Aedes notoscriptus* just in your garden and not a general infestation should be your main indicator that something could be wrong with your bromeliad hygiene. It has been suggested that it is a vector of dog heart worm. *A. notoscriptus* was found 'capable' of carrying Murray Valley encephalitis using laboratory testing. If your neighbour asks if he will get Ross River Fever from your broms, ask him back if he has a possum in his roof. The possum is the bigger risk.

2. *Culex fatigans* or *Culex quinquefasciatus*. This is an urban mosquito. A smallish light brown mossier with faint golden stripes across its lower body parts, hardly discernable to the naked eye. These breed in large numbers in my bird baths and every week they have to be tipped out taking care that they don't finish up in the broms. A research team from Tropical Health, looking for mosquito predators, found these mosquitoes in the side axil ponds in large vrieseas and alcantareas. I have since found them on two occasions in flowering Neoregelias. Health wise they are bad for the dogs as they carry heartworm. Interestingly in the bromeliads in my garden these wrigglers don't usually reach maturity as species #4 (below) usually eats them.

The other mosquitos listed below are low incidence and really the above two are your main concern in Townsville.

3. The Orange(?) Mossie--*Aedes tremulus* ?-[I could have this wrong as I have only had one mossier to key out]- This is a very uncommon mosquito. The odd one is found around broms and also may indicate problems in the darker areas of broms like the wells in billbergias. If you see these, act by checking darkened areas. This name was given to me as a possibility by an expert as my one sample was not in that good a shape but it was collected from well water in a brom. I need to key out more, as *A. tremulus* does not appear orange enough in the photo that I have seen. I have collected, in flight, orange mosquitos hanging around my broms. These key out as *Coquillettida xanthogaster*. Both the above should be considered innocent unless I can prove them guilty.

4. *Toxorhynchites speciosus*---a beautiful mosquito in more ways than one. It also has the football socks and is beautifully marked and is much larger than the others mosquitos mentioned. It stands apart, as it dances on the water in any of the plants with a sizable water pondage. You can bet that if you find a large pondage with wrigglers in it they are often quickly eaten and you finish up with only a very large solitary reddish wriggler. I have kept one of these wrigglers alive for three months before I took pity on it and returned it to the vase. Growth depends on availability of food. I have fed wrigglers to one of them. The most I had available for food was seven at one time and these were all eaten in one night.

Mosquitoes present in Townsville but which I have **NOT** found in Bromeliads.

Aedes aegypti: (The one councils are concerned with.) After 4 years of close watching I have never found one wriggler of this species. I know from

January 2015

Plant of the Month Competition

(photos p11)

Open

1st	Neoregelia Pink Spider	Joy Clark
2nd	Tillandsia tricolor x concolor	Joy Clark
3rd	Aechmea disjuncta	Kerry McNicol

Judge's Choice.

Open

1st	Aechmea disjuncta	Kerry McNicol
2nd	Neoregelia Small Fry	Joy Clark
3rd	Neoregelia Pink Spider	Joy Clark

Members' Choice

Novice

1st	Billbergia Domingos Martins	John Campbell
2nd	Tillandsia Harrisii	Lindsay Munro
3rd	Neoregelia Purple Grape	John Schembri

Judge's Choice

Novice

1st	Billbergia Domingos Martins	John Campbell
=2nd	Tillandsia Harrisii	Lindsay Munro
=2nd	Neoregelia Amazing Grace	Stellio DeVillicourt
3rd	Tillandsia juncea	Meryll Thomas

Members' Choice

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st	The Garden	Joy Clark
2nd	Lost in the Land of the Giants	John Schembri
3rd	Coconut	George Hardy

Show & Tell

Bob Maclay opened our Show & Tell with a plant ID request, as well as enquiry about the elongated pups. It was decided that the plant was probably *Billbergia Domingos Martins* (or hybrid of) that needed more light. The pups would grow normally and the elongated leaves could be cut off or die through natural attrition.

Ron Farrigia requested ID of a tillandsia. Conversation leaned towards *T. capitata* or a hybrid of it.

Terry Davis brought in a *T. flabellate* -Giant form to show. It was compared to a smaller plant from the sales table, both in flower. There re many forms and sizes of this species. Terry also showed a plant of *Neo. Camelot* as an ID comparison for another member. Some thought it might be *Neo. Fancy Pants*, an example of which happened to be on the sales table, a comparison was made between these. *Fancy Pants* has more maroon, but during and after flowering it seems to flush 'green' not pink and so looks similar to *Camelot*. *Fancy Pants* is quite a bit larger that *Camelot*.

(photos of S&T, p 12)

Neoregelia 'Pink Spider'



Competition Winners

Tillandsia tricolor x *concolor*



Neoregelia
'Amazing Grace'



Neoregelia
Small Fry'

Tillandsia juncea

Aechmea disjuncta

Billbergia Domingos Martins'



Neoregelia 'Purple Grape'

Tillandsia harrisii



**Margaret Draddy Artistic
Competition
January**



'The Garden' - Joy Clark
1st Artistic



'Lost in the Land of the Giants'—
John Schembri—2nd Artistic

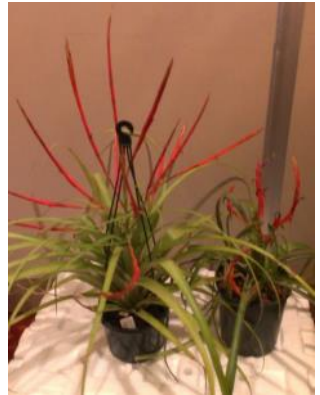


'Coconut' -
George Hardy.
3rd Artistic

Show & Tell - January



Ron Farrugia's
Tillandsia capitata variety



Different varieties / sizes of
Till. flabellata



Neoregelia Camelot

Neo. Fancy Pants
(left) and
Neo. Camelot





Margaret receiving her Life Membership. 2013

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition
February



'Tilly Plate'
1st -Joy Clark



'Bitter & Twisted'
John Schembri

"Be My Valentine"
2nd- Ian Hook

Show & Tell - February



Vriesea (T/V) barclayana



xNeomea
Popcorn



February 2015
Plant of the Month



Tillandsia exerta x brachycaulos



Neoregelia Shelldance



Tillandsia vemecosa

T. capitata 'Marron'

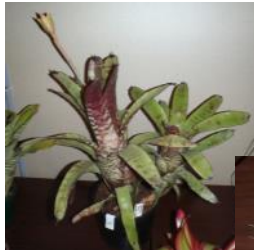


T. tectorum



Vr. correia araujoii

T. lindenii



xCanmea 'Bert'

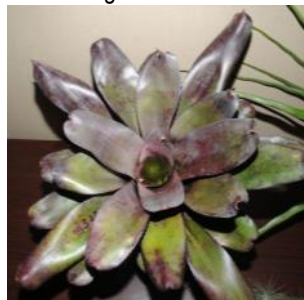


Ae. fasciata variegata

T. pseudobaileyi x streptophylla



Neoregelia 'Silverado'



T. fuschii f gracillis

A note : T. fuschii f gracillis. Though the plants are not 'joined' as is stated in the rules, we like to encourage our Novice growers. It was used as a teaching point, and the grower was not penalised on this occasion.

February 2015

Plant of the Month

Open

1st	<i>T. exerta</i> x <i>brachycaulos</i>	Joy Clark
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> <i>Shelldance</i>	Joy Clark
3rd	<i>T. vernicosa</i>	Joy Clark

Open

Members' Choice

1st	<i>T. capitata</i> Marron	David Scott
=2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> <i>Shelldance</i>	Joy Clark
=2nd	<i>T. exerta</i> x <i>brachycaulos</i>	Joy Clark
=2nd	<i>T. tectorum</i>	Werner Raff
=3rd	<i>Vr. correaia</i> araujoi	Helga Nitschke
=3rd	<i>Ae. fasciata</i> variegata	Robyn Firth
=3rd	<i>T. vernicosa</i>	Joy Clark
=3rd	x <i>Canmea</i> 'Bert'	Kerry McNicol

Novice

Judge's Choice

1st	<i>T. lindenii</i>	Lindsay Munro
2nd	<i>T. pseudobaileyi</i> x <i>streptophylla</i>	Lindsay Munro
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> Silverado	John Schembri

Novice

Members' Choice

1st	<i>T. lindenii</i>	Lindsay Munro
=2nd	<i>T. pseudobaileyi</i> x <i>streptophylla</i>	Lindsay Munro
=2nd	<i>T. fuschii</i> f <i>gracillis</i>	Lindsay Munro
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> Silverado	John Schembri

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st	Tilly Plate	Joy Clark
2nd	Bitter & Twisted	John Schembri
3rd	Be My Valentine	Ian Hook

Show & Tell

Joy Clark: showed us a plant in need of identification. It looked very much like a *Tillandsia*. Both Terry Davis and Michael Ferenczi identified it as *Vriesea barclayana*, one of the 'T/Vs'. The term 'T/V' was coined by Derek Butcher after some discussion about a group of *Vrieseas* from Columbia which looked like *Tillandsias*, not an 'official' term, but one used more as a descriptive title. (photo p13)

Kerry McNicol: brought in an intergeneric plant in flower to show. The plant was x*Neomea Popcorn*, a Hummel cross between *Neoregelia (spectabilis x carolinae)* & *Aechmea miniata v. discolor*. (photo p 13)

Ken Woods: showed us some of his less common tillandsias. *T. vicentina*, *T. olmosana*, *concolor x brachycaulos*, *T. juncea* and one of his seedlings of unknown parentage, yet still a nice looking specimen.

cont. p 20

Vale

Andre Staelens.

18/10/23 - 31/12/14

Andy was a valuable member of the BSA and a long standing Committee member. He is greatly missed by Jacqueline, his family, and his friends in the BSA. He joined the BSA some time before 1988, the Committee not long after, and was our hard working Treasurer for many years. He was unanimously awarded "Life Membership" in 2008.

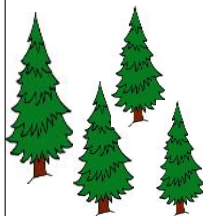
Andy was always smiling, happy, keen to help others, and formed friendships with everyone.

Of his many stories, his favourite was meeting Jacqueline while walking across Europe shortly after the war, to eventually reach Australia. On arrival he waited in the Union building at Circular Quay until someone gave him a job. He based his long and successful career on this chance. He loved Australia but could never get two images from his mind. - A lovely young girl who was kind to him as he passed through Nice, France, and the weird plants with no roots growing in the windows of her village. As soon as he could afford to, Andy returned, found the girl, and married her a week later.

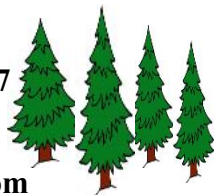
It took him longer to find the plant. Eventually he joined the BSA and found *Tillandsia araujei* and *bergeri*. He planted them on a 1 foot tall, 1/2 meter diameter, suspended wire ring. Eventually he had enough to hang another ring below this, twice the diameter. By the time he had enough to fill a third 1.5m ring it became too heavy to continue bringing to our shows where it had been a centre piece for many years.

As well as admiring this "wedding cake shaped shrine", many will remember Andy's secret file of birthdays. Unexpectedly we would each be called to the front of meetings to receive the 'scratchy' he had bought. Ladies will especially remember the kiss they also received. Was this just kindness and generosity? We'll never know. Farewell Andy

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Plant of the Month	Terence Davis
Show Registrar	Terence Davis
Show Co-ordinator/s	Ian Hook; Terence Davis
Purchasing Officer	Robyn Firth
Show Display	Joy Clark

LITERATURE

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Growing Bromeliads - 3rd. Edition.	Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.	\$10.00
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden.	Andrew Steens	\$35.00 Now \$20.00
Bromeliads, A Cultural Manual. (Rev. Edition 2007)	BSI	\$5.00
Bromeliads- The Connoisseur's Guide, 2007.	Andrew Steens	\$20.00

LITERATURE:- For Mail Order delivery cost, please contact:

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For the full list of Literature for sale, go to

<http://www.bromeliad.org.au/Contacts/BSALibrarian.htm>

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Margaret Draddy

11/02/15

Werner Raff addressed the February meeting

'On Wednesday morning, 11th February, Margaret passed away, peacefully, in her sleep.

About 8 or 9 years ago, I was approached by another member asking if I could pick Margaret up and take her home on our meeting days (due to ill health, he could no longer do this).

'Of course I could!' On our trips here and back, we got to know each other a lot better. It is no surprise when I say 'Margaret loved plants, especially bromeliads.'

She loved the society; she joined in about 1981 or '82, and was absolutely 'tickled-pink', when she was made a Life Member! She talked about it for months, this made Margaret very happy, so, 'thank you', to the committee.

Margaret was very proud of the fact that she had attended all, but the first, Australasian Bromeliad Conferences and had made many lifelong friends there. She was very much looking forward to *Bromsmatta* in April, to spend a few hours meeting up with and talking to old friends, but sadly this was not to be.

Margaret loved her family; one of her sons, Peter, lives in Canada, and even in her late 80s, she travelled there to visit him. Sadly, her other son, Paul, died quite a few years ago, but Margaret and her daughter-in-law and granddaughter stayed close.

In August 2013, Margaret had extreme health problems and was no longer able to live alone in her house. She loved her house and her freedom and was devastated to have to lose both. Her daughter-in-law came to the rescue and found a brand new, five star Nursing Home for her. Eventually she settled in and was happy.

What Margaret loved most, was giving. She would begin buying in February each year, so she would have enough gifts for family, friends and neighbours at Christmas. She donated her collection of plants and books to the Society, but she would still come and buy plants and raffle tickets, so she could give them to the staff, some of whom she loved very much.

Margaret was strong willed;

Margaret was a lady, who called 'a spade, a spade' . . . and I liked that!
 and I will miss her.'

Margaret's last 'project' for the BSA was a large crocheted rug. It was completed only recently (with a little help from Christine , another member) and it was then donated to the BROMSMATTA Conference 'Rare Auction'.

The rug will now hold even more significance to us all and I'm sure she will be watching the auction.

Show & Tell February . . . cont.

Werner Raff: required identification of a tillandsia, but both Ken and Terry stated we would have to wait until it flowered.

Helga Nitschke: wondered if her '*N. carolinae* like' plant could be identified. It was about 35cm across and had a simple rosette of only about a dozen leaves, flushing deep pink in the centre. Identification could not be made.

Tim Oneile: brought in two plant, easily identified as *Aechmea caudata variegata* and the other **Neo 'Rosy Morn'** imported many years ago as *N. morrisoniana*, but now known as the above.

MOSQUITOES & Bromeliads (cont)

experimental work that they can live in the plants once introduced so be careful where you tip your dog's water or where you empty your bird bath.

Aedes vigilax--(Ochlerotatus vigilax) - Another of the salt marsh plague mosquitos A dark mosquito very strongly banded down the body. Another with football socks markings. They arrive by the thousands after high tides if there has been a bit of fresh. If there has been a lot of rain we tend to see the other salt marsh mossie namely *Aedes notoscriptus*. *Vigilax* must need the salt, otherwise with the sheer masses that arrive you would think they would breed opportunistically in broms, but they don't.

Keeping broms mosquito free.

You have the following options.

Spraying with insecticide.

Adding a hormone that stops wrigglers maturing.

Washing out plants regularly

Growing plants dry by piercing lower leaf area.

Using predators to eat the mossie eggs and destroy wrigglers.

Place water crystals to soak up water yet retain moisture

Bacterial control.

Natural control.

Combination of the above.'

If you wish to read Rob's paper in its entirety it can be found at fcb.org then click Bromeliad Information in the menu.

The prompt I had for this article was a thread of posts on *Bromeliads Australia* regarding severe damage done to almost the entire bromeliad collection of one of the members. *Anecdotally*, a member had a visit from a local council team, charged with eradicating the dengue fever carrying mosquito in tropical north Queensland.

Upon seeing a few mosquitoes, the whole collection was 'broadcast' with chemical pellets. The chemical was so strong, that entire plants collapsed, and much of the desirable wildlife in the collection was decimated. It turns out, *if*, mosquitoes are detected, 'one prill' per brom would suffice in killing larvae. (as well as desired wildlife, unfortunately).

The following observations were also made by Paul Turvey of Sydney.

I live down in Sydney in a different insect and disease environment to that up in far north Queensland, but in my experience Rob Smythe's article based on Townsville rings true down here as well.

If I go out at night and check my broms with a head torch so I can see clearly down into the water in the cup and leaf bases, then, in by far the majority of broms I can't see any mozzie wrigglers at all, but I can see a lot of things that might be eating them including various crustaceans (ostracods and copepods) plus an occasional large predatory type of mozzie wriggler that feeds on other wrigglers. Populations of these build up over a period in most of my broms that are not regularly flushed, i.e. most of them in the yard, so if they do prey on the mozzie eggs and/or wrigglers, then that could certainly explain the lack of mozzie wrigglers in most of my broms.

*I haven't been able to observe this predation in action when I've kept samples of brom water plus wrigglers and potential predators in containers, so maybe there is something else going on there. However, during prolonged dry periods I still have a yard chock-a-block full of broms that I keep with water in them but with very few mozzies around, while within several days of rain starting, at the end of a dry spell I have mozzies everywhere. Again, this suggests pretty strongly that the mozzies are not breeding up in the permanent water of the broms, but rather, they are breeding up in temporary bodies of rainwater, and that fits well with the habits of the main biting mozzie I get here (*Aedes notoscriptus*) which is adapted to do this.*

General references for this species of mosquito indicate that rain-water puddles in tree hollows, ground hollows and road gutters probably contribute to the mozzie population, but I suspect that the main culprits here might be myself and any neighbours who do not continually clean the leaves out of our roof gutters. This means that in a heavily-treed area like this, it doesn't take long for the gutters to start holding water for just long enough to turn into deliciously productive, predator-free mozzie nurseries completely surrounding our houses.'

You can add your own experience to the above comments and research, and draw your own conclusions as to how 'culpable' bromeliads are in breeding mosquito populations. Personally, I am not too worried.
(Editor)

Very great thanks go to Rob Smythe of Townsville and Paul Turvey of Sydney in giving their permission to use their comments and research.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We continue to attract new members into the Society and would like to welcome our most recent enthusiasts:

Charlie and Malu Moraza and **Elizabeth Mudriczki**
have recently joined our group. If you would like to become a
Member, see details below.

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.

Members will become 'un-financial' if renewals have not been received by the end of our Autumn Show (Bromsmatta in 2015)

MAIL ORDER PAYMENTS BY MASTERCARD/VISA. (Subject to A\$10.00 minimum.)

Members using Mastercard or Visa mail order facility should provide the following details, printed clearly in block letters, on a separate sheet of paper:-

- Name and address of **MEMBER**.
- **TYPE** of card (e.g. Visa, Mastercard)
- **CARDHOLDER** name details, as shown on card.
- Mastercard/Visa number and expiry date.
- **CARDHOLDER** signature (essential).
- Payment details (membership renewal, book purchase, postage, etc.) with \$A amounts for each item.



SEED BANK

Thanks go to all those who have donated seed.

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 to

Terry Davis

(02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809

Below is the **most recently** added seed to our Seed Bank.

For the full list please go to bromeliad.org.au

<i>Alc. imperialis rubra</i>	10/11/14	Laurie Dorfer
<i>Vr. hieroglyphica</i>	10/11/14	Laurie Dorfer
<i>Vr. racinae</i>	15/11/14	Laurie Dorfer
<i>Guz. sanguinea</i> var. <i>brevipedicellata</i>	17/11/14	Laurie Dorfer
<i>Tillandsia australis</i>	Dec 2014	Gordon Slack
<i>T. polystachia</i>	21/12/14	Sandra Southwell
<i>Vr. racinae</i>	20/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>Dyckia niederleinii</i>	20/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>Neo. kautskyi</i> (or hybrid)	21/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>Till. Dylan</i>	29/12/14	Bob Hudson ex Chris Larson
<i>Till. moronensis</i>	29/12/14	Bob Hudson ex Chris Larson
<i>Till flavobracteata</i>	24/12/14	Bob Hudson ex Chris Larson
<i>T. belloensis</i>	23/12/14	Lydia Hope
<i>Racinaea fraseri</i>	Jan 2015	Gordon Slack
<i>T. schiedeana</i>	02 & 26/01/15	Werner Raff
<i>T. erecta</i>	22/01/15	Lydia Hope

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