



BROMELETTER

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

Issue: **Volume 53 Number 5 - September / October 2015.**

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Emailing BROMELETTER

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

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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 CLUB,**
Cnr. Shaftesbury Road and Clifton Avenue, Burwood.
Meetings commence at 1.00 p.m.
in the First Floor Conference Rooms/Auditorium.

MEETINGS PROGRAM

Sept 12th- Show & Tell; Sales; Raffle; Competitions
Interesting websites for the Bromeliad Grower
October 10th- Show & Tell; Sales; Raffle; Competitions.

EVENTS CALENDAR

September 26/27 SPRING SHOW Burwood Club.
10a.m. — 5p.m. Saturday 10a.m.—3.00pm Sunday
October 16/17 Bromeliad Fair, Concord (see ad, p 7)

Life Members:

Grace Goode O.A.M **Eugene Morris**
Bill Morris **Ron Farrugia**
Ruby Ryde **Graham McFarlane**

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 June 30, 2015:

Brought Forward	\$ 34,443.24
Plus Income:	1,883.34
Less expenses	3,438.99
Bank Statement as at 30/04/2015	\$ 32,887.59

Operating Account to July 31, 2015:

Brought Forward	\$ 32,887.59
Plus Income:	1,218.24
Less expenses	2,870.33
Bank Statement as at 31/03/2015	\$ 31,235.50

July 2015

Plant of the Month Competition

Open

Judge's Choice.

1st	Tillandsia 'Ruschmann's Orange'	Caroline Bunnell
2nd	Neoregelia pendula x eleutheropetala	Ron Farrugia
3rd	Tillandsia straminea	Michael Ferenczi

Open

Members' Choice

1st	Tillandsia straminea (giant form)	Michael Ferenczi
2nd	Tillandsia 'Ruschmann's Orange'	Caroline Bunnell
3rd	Neoregelia pendula x eleutheropetala	Ron Farrugia
=3rd	Tillandsia tectorum	Ron Farrugia

Novice

Judge's Choice

1st	Neoregelia Heart Music	Elizabeth Mudriczk
2nd	Neoregelia Quoll	John Schembri

Novice

Members' Choice

1st	Neoregelia Heart Music	Elizabeth Mudriczk
2nd	Billbergia unknown	Warril Evans
3rd	Neoregelia Quoll	John Schembri

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st	Froggy	Caroline Bunnell
2nd	High Tide	John Schembri

Club News - Show & Tell -- July

Due to many costs increasing over recent times, it has been decided that:

Membership fees will need to be increased to \$25.00 p.a.

Beginning January 2016, hopefully, all members will understand this position.

Ian Hook: There has been some confusion about a plant which is found in both Queensland & NSW but under different names, *Portea alatisepala* & *Aechmea rubrolilacina*. There is some discussion on our website under 'Photo Index' for both plants. Which one do you have? See more on our website.

Kath Fitzgerald: A recently acquisition needed identifying. Ian identified it as *Billbergia pyramidalis var pyramidalis*, this plant has some banding on the backs of the leaves, which are slightly thinner and a little more 'scrappy' than . *B. pyramidalis var concolor*, has colouring on the backs of the leaves with a much richer fuller flower.

Ron Farrugia: showed us a variegated pineapple in fruit. *Ananas tricolor*, which is reasonably easy to grow herein 'full sun', but grows larger further north. It can be affected by cold so needs a 'protected' position over winter, if you experience frost.

Plant of the Month



Tillandsia
'Ruschmann's Orange'



Neoregelia
pendula x eleutheropetala



Tillandsia
straminea
(giant form)



Tillandsia tectorum



Neoregelia Heart Music



Billbergia unknown



Neoregelia Quoll



'Froggy'



'High Tide'

Show & Tell



Portea alatsepala

photo by Vern Sawyer
JBB 2000 p440



Aechmea rubroliacina



RUST on BROMELIADS in AUSTRALIA

There has been enquiry made to our President regarding the problem of RUST on bromeliads. Though many of us had never experienced this problem, thankfully, apparently it is /was in some collections. The following has been reprinted in order to stay ahead of any outbreaks, now that Spring is almost upon us, and we will be examining our plant for signs of scale and other problems.

TILLANDSIA RUST

(Reprinted from *BROMELETTER*, the official Journal of The Bromeliad Society of Australia, March/April 1987, Volume 25 No. 2)

Tillandsia rust (*Puccinea tillandsiae*) was first reported in *Bromeletter* Nov/Dec 1982. Since then it has slipped through quarantine and is now showing up in Australian collections.

Rust is a fungi that grows on the underside of the leaf. The pustules, when fully grown, release spore and are carried by the wind. They can carry for hundreds of kilometres to affect other tillandsias. The underside of an infected leaf will look similar to the underside of an elkhorn leaf (*Platyserium bifurcatum*) when it is setting spore, a brownish, furry mass.

Unfortunately, the spores from this rust may lay dormant for years undetected. Plants must be watched closely and I recommend all plants coming into your collection to be dipped to prevent rust. If rust is found, remove infected leaves and dip or saturate spray ALL plants. This should be repeated at seven day intervals, using either Dithane M45 or Tilt.

Information about this rust is still patchy. We don't know if it confines itself to tillandsias or can spread to other genera of bromeliads.

(Name withheld at the writer's request.)

RUSTS ON BROMELIADS

A member, concerned over the rust *Puccinia tillandsiae* being discovered on imported tillandsias, wrote to the Editor of the U.S. Bromeliad Society Inc. journal, Mr. Tom Lineham, asking for information on what was being done for the problem in the U.S. Mr Lineham was very prompt in collecting information on the following questions asked of him:

- Is tillandsia rust common in North American collections?
- Is the rust confined to tillandsias, or what other bromeliads are susceptible?
- Is the rust common in green or grey tillandsias?
- Which tillandsias are most susceptible to rust?

cont p 8

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For more information please contact:

Garry Flemming – 0265539868 / 0413178884
Peter Tristram – peter@bromeliads.com.au

- What chemicals are most suitable to control rust?

Mr Harry Luther sent Mr Lineham information from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This described nematode species recovered from soil about the roots of bromeliads shipped from Guatemala to California. Mr Lineham contacted the author of the paper, Dr. Paul S. Lehman, for information about tillandsia rust. He generously supplied details summarized as follows:

1. Four rusts have been reported in bromeliads:

- * *Puccinia tillandsiae* (1960), on *Tillandsia punctulata*, Costa Rica
- * *Puccinia pitcairniae* (1890), on *Pitcairnia pungens*, Ecuador
- * *Puccinia pitcairniae* spp. *chapalensis* (1899) on *Pitcairnia palmeri*, Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico
- * *Uredo nidularii* (1898), on *Nidularium longiflorum*, Ule, Serrados Orgaos, Brazil

2. *Puccinia tillandsiae* has been found on tillandsia species from Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. This disease was found on native Florida *T. fasciculata* at seven locations between November 1980 and July 1981. These are the only records available from the Florida Department of Agriculture as this is written. A large volume tillandsia importer in California said he is only aware of two cases of unspecified rust infestation in the past four years, and that *T. tricolor* and *T. seleriana* were affected.

3. The symptoms vary of course. *Puccinia tillandsiae*, for example, often forms non-erumpent (blister-like) spots on the tillandsia leaves. These are readily observed against a bright background such as a bright day.

4. The final question about what chemicals are the most suitable to control rust does not have an easy answer, as chemical controls are strictly regulated, and assistance from agricultural authorities should be obtained

Mr. Lineham also contacted Dr. Arthur W. Engelhard, who described an experiment with rust-infected geraniums, which came about because a grower had his crop infected by a shipment of diseased cuttings. They were not permitted to move the plants to the research centre so they began to experiment with various chemical sprays in the owner's greenhouse with infected and healthy plants ranged on the benches. After they ran out of space in the big glasshouse, they moved to a small glasshouse where they installed more diseased and healthy plants. The

humidity in that house was relatively low and the heat exceeded 95°F. They soon observed that the disease did not spread to the healthy plants, and neither did the disease progress in the infected plants. They concluded that the heat destroyed the airborne spores of the disease. (Successful treatment of geranium rust, which has its origins in temperate regions, is not proof that heat treatment could be effective with rust affecting plant from tropical areas, but if chemicals are not permitted, the grower may be faced with the choice of destroying infected plants or of experimenting with heat treatment.) Dr. Engelhard suggested that growers with small collections might have more success with heat treatment because they can better control the temperature and humidity in small greenhouses. He said they might also use polyethylene bags as miniature greenhouses but to use great care to avoid cooking the plants.

References

Nematology Circular No. 129, May 1986. Division of Plant Industry

Mycologia 66:533-536, 1974

McRiche, J.J., Burnett, H.D.C. *A Rust on Tillandsia New to the United States.*

Plant Pathology Circular No. 244, May 1981 (2p). Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry.

Dr. Paul S. Lehman, Plant Pathologist, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Apopka, an agency of the University of Florida.

Dr. Arthur W. Engelhard, Plant Pathologist, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Bradenton, FL, also an agency of the University of Florida.

We would all be grateful to learn more from readers about their experiences with these diseases and effective controls. It would also be of benefit to know which tillandsias have proved susceptible to tillandsia rust in our collections.

O.F. (Olwen Ferris), Editor'



P Tristram 1989



Puccinea tillandsiae Rust found on *T. polystachia* NSW Quarantine Oct 1982

Preparing your Bromeliads for Competition

Our spring show is fast approaching; so it's (almost past) time to prepare your plants for completion, a bit of fun, and a chance to show off your favourite plants.

When choosing your plant, look for a plant which has had the right amount of water & fertilizer, has consistent markings and growth habit for the particular plant variety. It is best to choose 'mature' plants but not those that are 'past it'. Cultural Perfection is what we are aiming for.

Your plant pot should be immaculately clean, undamaged and in correct proportion to the competition plant (something which only 'the eye' can determine)

Choose a plant that has had consistent growth and has good conformation (shape).

Make sure the plant is centred in the pot. If re-potting, do not to over or under fill with potting mix



Your plant should be perfectly clean (no debris in leaf axils) and free of insects & disease. Remove any weeds or 'rubbish'. 'Top up' with fresh potting mix if required.

A specimen plant should be centred in the pot & have any pups removed if they are big enough.

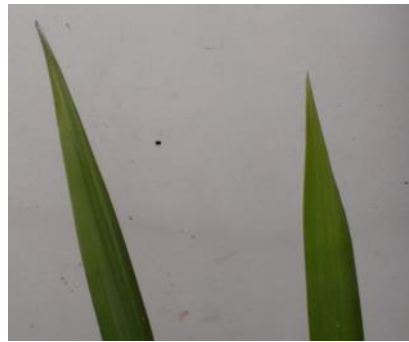


Inspect your plant for any 'other genera' which may be present e.g. usneiodes or seedlings which may have attached themselves to your plant. Remove them, no matter how 'nice' they might be.



Leaves should be unmarked. If removing lower leaves, don't leave any 'bits of leaf' behind. Don't over-do this, it may be better to lose a point for a marked leaf, than ruin the conformity of the plant.

It is acceptable to 'trim' damaged leaves, but this should be kept to a minimum, and NOT be obvious. Trimming should be done as close to competition judging as possible



The inflorescence should be fresh and undamaged, remove any spent blooms or bracts

One last look, and if all is well, your plant is now ready for competition.

Vale

Ellen Hartley Sloss

20th February 1932 - 13th July 2015

Ellen was perhaps best known for her love of gardening and in particular her fondness for Bromeliads as well as Cacti and succulents.



She was a member of both the Bromeliad Society of Australia and the Cactus and Succulent Society of NSW until the day she died. She had also been a member of the NSW Bromeliad Society, Western Suburbs Cactus and Succulent Society, the Western Suburbs Bonsai Society, the Concord Garden Club, the Concord Historical Society and many others.

Ellen was instrumental in the Bromeliad Society of Australia joining the Broadway Credit Union which resulted in a windfall of over \$19,000 for the Society when the credit union was bought out in 2008 by Gateway.

Ellen attended many Australian conventions as well as travelling to 18 conventions internationally. She made many life-long friends through her love plants and gardening, contributed to articles and books as well as participating in many events.

Ellen travelled to many countries in search of bromeliads, succulents and cacti and was at one stage the largest personal importer of plants into NSW and was, we believe, the only individual guest at the opening of the Quarantine Centre at Eastern Creek. The other invitees were nursery and commercial importers.

She won many prizes at the Royal Easter Show receiving the Bronze Medal (runner up to the Banksia Medal) for the second highest aggregate points, a major achievement for someone who didn't compete in roses and dahlias. She submitted entries in Bromeliads, Cactus and Succulents, Bonsai, Floral Art among other categories. The Royal Horticultural Society presented her with a 'Certificate of Appreciation' on 19 June 1991.

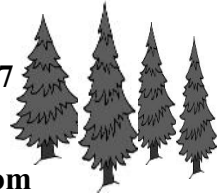
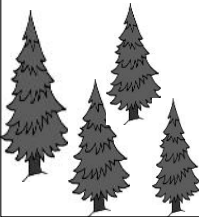
Ellen lost her drive in the garden when she lost her dear husband Joe in 2000. It was Joe who persuaded her to join the many plant and garden societies. She is survived by her two children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

'I would number among so many who must thank Ellen for feeding my addiction with many species plants in my early collecting days - Editor.'

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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:

librarian@bromeliad.org.au

Or write to:

P.O. Box 340, Ryde. 2112

For the full list of Literature for sale, go to

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

To Feed or Not to Feed

Reprinted from FNCBSG -5 -2015

When this writer first started to grow bromeliads about twenty years ago, fertilizing these plants was not considered necessary. It was believed that because bromeliads were epiphytes, they did not need feeding as did regular plants that had their roots in the ground. Little by little, however, the fallacy of this way of thinking became apparent, until today about ninety percent of those who grow bromeliads feed them at regular intervals. In their need for minerals vital to their existence, bromeliads are no different from other plants. Marston Bates in his fascinating book *The Forest and the Sea* brings out this point and makes some interesting comments on the air plants which grow in the tropical rain forests of South America. As these plants have no direct access to the ground, they are faced with the great problem of obtaining enough food and water to keep them alive. Bromeliads, Mr. Bates tells us, are fortunate in having solved this problem by the formation of their leaves into water-tight tanks, which make first-rate containers for water and rotting organic matter. In fact, bromeliads can hold so much water that they have been referred to as "marshes in the treetops."

It is the common belief that the roots of epiphytes serve only as a means of supporting the plant to the host tree. According to Mr. Bates, the roots of bromeliads and other air plants are also a means of absorbing food. This food may be obtained from the humus or debris that may collect in cracks in the bark of the tree or from the fungi which are found living in close relationship with the roots of many plants. As many plant explorers well know, the roots of epiphytes also serve as the nesting sites for ants, which Mr. Bates says benefit the plant in two ways. First, the material which the ants collect to build their nests acts as food for the plant, and second, the ants provide a means of defence for the plant against those avid human beings who desire to bring the plant home to their greenhouse.

If our bromeliads need food in their native habitat, it would most certainly seem that they need fertilizing when brought under cultivation. For those who grow their bromeliads outdoors on trees or in the ground, feeding is probably not necessary; but for those who must raise their plants in pots under artificial conditions, fertilizing must be resorted to if the plant is to reach its optimum beauty. Practically all the members who feed their bromeliads use a liquid form, weakly diluted. What kinds of fertilizers are used? The answers most frequently submitted were as follows: "Anything I have around the house," "the same as I feed my orchids," fish emulsion, Orthogro, Rapid-grow, and Hyponex. It would seem from the wide diversity of answers that "anything goes" so far as feeding is concerned, as long as the fertilizer is a well-balanced one and is applied at regular intervals.

Taken from: BSI Journal — 1962, Vol.12 (2)

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Plant of the Month - August



T. recurvifolia x tenuifolia



T. Dimmit'ss Talent



T kautskyi



T. umbellata



T. kautskyi x geminiflora



T bulbosa



T recurvifolia x meridionalis



Neo Cheers



T fuschii



Hot Stuff



Winter Harvest



Garden of Stones



Unknown
Vriesea

Show & Tell

Unknown
Billbergia



Vriesea sanderiana hyb

August 2015

Plant of the Month Competition

Open

1st	Till. recurvifolia x tenuifolia	Caroline Bunnell
2nd	Till. Dimmit's Talent	Kerry McNicol
3rd	Till. kautskyi	Ron Farrugia

Open

Members' Choice.

1st	Till. kautskyi	Ron Farrugia
2nd	Till. umbellata	Sandra Southwell
3rd	Till. kautskyi x geminiflora	Joy Clark

Novice

Judge's Choice

1st	Tillandsia bulbosa	Lindsay Munro
2nd	T recurvifolia x meridionalis	Lindsay Munro
3rd	Neoregelia Cheers	John Schembri

Novice

Members' Choice

1st	T recurvifolia x meridionalis	Lindsay Munro
2nd	Tillandsia bulbosa	Lindsay Munro
3rd	Tillandsia fuschii	Elizabeth

Mudriczki

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st	Hot Stuff	Warril Evans
2nd	Winter Harvest	Joy Clark
3rd	Garden of Stones	John Schembri

Club News - Show & Tell

Our **SPRING SHOW** is on 26th & 27th of September. We will have access on Friday evening from about 4p.m. *Many hands make light work*, if you can offer any assistance, please come along and join the workers.

Peter Fitzgerald: wanted identification of a flowering (yellow?) *Vriesea* (pictured opposite) and a *billbergia*. It was unknown what the *Vriesea* was. It is thought that the other plant was probably *Billbergia* but grown in too much shade, as the leaves were very strappy.

Mark Paul: Organised by Mark Belot, (thankyou) came along to speak about "Green Walls". The talk & slideshow was both informative and spectacular with lots of photo of beautiful plants and completed walls to spur us all on to try it , on a much smaller scale, of course.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

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

Nancy Allen, Carol Dudgeon & Gordon & Pauline Blanch

have recently joined our group. If you would like to become a Member, please 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.

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- **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 list of **most recently** added seed to our Seed Bank.

<i>Araeococcus flagellifolius</i>	19/10/14	Chris Larson
<i>Alc. imperialis (not rubra)</i>	Oct '14	Jorgen Jakobsen
<i>Alc. imperialis rubra</i>	10/11/14	Laurie Dorfer
<i>Dy. niederleinii</i>	20/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>N. kautskyi</i>	21/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>T. australis</i>	24/12/14	Gordon Slack
<i>T. myosura</i>	02/07/15	Terry Davis

Our stocks are getting low and seed should be ripening on many broms, so if you have excess, please think about donating them to our seed bank.

Terry does a great job in ensuring stocks are fresh and getting the seed to those who are young and adventurous enough to try seed raising.

For tips on seed raising see our website Bromeliads in Australia

bromeliad.org.au

Also recently updated on our website:

In PHOTO INDEX: Genera: What's new

T. capitata Jamaican Yellow— *More in the never ending saga on capitates, if you love them like many do, this might make your head spin!*

Another name change to note is that *T. Rio Hondo*; now known as *T. rihondoensis*

Also an article by Derek Butcher entitled 'A Beginners Guide to Names'

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