

BROMELETTER

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

bromeliad.org.au

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Merry Christmas

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Time to RENEW your MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal is due <u>JANUARY 1st</u> each year. Please consider whether or not you wish to receive your Bromeletter by email (as a PDF) <u>Please return the enclosed (attached) renewal form</u> to renew and update any details which have changed (or email the form found on our website).



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.

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<u>Material for Bromeletter – address to:</u> editor@bromeliad.org.au All other correspondence to: The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc., P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.



We've been BUMPED. For <u>NOVEMBER</u> only Our meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday <u>18TH NOVEMBER</u> Back to normal in DECEMBER (2nd Sat)

OFFICE BEARERS

Book Sales & Librarian Member Secretary & Purchasing Officer Catering Raffle Sales Pots,Labels etc Sales Plant of the Month / Show Registrar Show Co-ordinator/s Show Display Publicity Officer Ian Hook Kerry McNicol Helga Nitschke; Lydia Hope Peter Fitzgerald Ron Farrugia Terence Davis Ian Hook / Terence Davis Joy Clark Di Tulloch

Life Members:

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

Treasurer's Report		
Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details		
Operating Account to August 31, 2017:		
Opening cash at bank	\$ 25 573.53	
Income:	781.40	
Expenses	85.45	
Bank Statement as at <u>August 31,2017</u>	<u>\$ 26 269.48</u>	
Operating Account to September 30. 2017:		
Opening cash at bank	\$ 26 269.48	
Income:	10 574.73	
Expenses	7 480.80	
Closing cash at bank <u>September 30, 2017</u>	<u>\$ 29 363.21</u>	

WEBSITES

Bromeliads in Australia http://bromeliad.org.au Encyc of Bromeliads http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/ BSI Cultivar Register http://registry.bsi.org/ Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies http://fcbs.org/ Bromeliario Imperialis http://imperialia.com.br/ Facebook users: search for the group 'Planet Bromeliad' & associated 'Planets & Moons' sub-groups for Bromeliad Enthusiasts.

Plant of the Month Competition September 2017

<u>Open</u>

Judge's Choice.

1st Tillandsia rothii x concolor 2nd Tillandsia bulbosa 3rd Aechmea recurvata

Open <u>Members' Choice</u>

1st 2nd 3rd =3rd Tillandsia caerulea Aechmea recurvata Tillandsia rothii × concolor Tillandsia recurvifolia var subsecundefolia Ron Farrugia Ron Farrugia Helga Nitschke

Carolyn Bunnell Helga Nitschke Ron Farrugia Ron Farrugia





Tillandsia rothii x concolor

T. recurvifolia var subsecundefolia



Aechmea recurvata



Tillandsia streptophylla





Tillandsia bulbosa

4

Novice

Novice 1st

1st 2nd 3rd

2nd

=2nd

3rd

Judge's Choice

Neoregelia 'Tiger Head' Tillandsia straminea Guzmania 'Matilda'

Members' Choice

Tillandsia straminea Guzmania 'Matilda' Aechmea nudicaulis variety Tillandsia streptophylla Liz Mudriczki Bruce Munro Lyn Ivanov

Bruce Munro Lyn Ivanov Peter Blackburn Audrey Williams

1st 2nd 3rd Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition. 'Caudata' Ca 'Spring has Awoken' Pa 'Red Rock' Pa

Carolyn Bunnell Pauline Blanche Peter Blackburn



'Spring has Awoken'

Red Rock

Bob Maclay brought in a sad looking Dyckia and wondered whether or not it could be saved. It had been a bit neglected but they are tough and once it was cleaned up and repotted into a suitable mix –cactus mix is suitable and easy to find if you only have one or two Dyckias. Dyckia plant are definitely terrestrial plants only and must be grown as such. They will not survive if tried to be grown as an epiphyte. This was grown in orchid bark and was languishing.



<u>**Ian Hook**</u> introduced us to an article written by <u>**Kerry Tate**</u>, showing how she grows her plants much further north in NSW than Sydney. The text is very informative and the photos are spectacular. This is an article well worth reading through.

This article can be found on our website <u>www.bromeliad.org.au</u> click on "<u>Club</u> <u>News</u>" then click "<u>Australia</u>" then scroll down our page to table of past articles for 2017. Look for '**Growing Bromeliads Epiphytically**' The direct link is <u>http://www.bromeliad.org.au/news/BSA1708.pdf</u>

Aechmea 'Pie in the Sky'

by Peter Franklin in Bromeletter 37(5):10. 1999

It may seem repetitious since Derek Butcher wrote a similar article to this in January/February 1996 but it seems there is still sufficient confusion in Australian growing circles to warrant another 'Pie in the Sky' article.

Aechmea 'Pie in the Sky' is a name that has been coined to identify a variegated plant that is commonly grown as Aechmea pimenti-velosoi variegata. The name Ae. pimenti-velosoi variegata is in widespread use around Australasia. I suspect this name is used world-wide. The reason that a new name was needed was that the plant has very little in common with any description or botanical drawing of the real Ae. pimenti-velosoi.

Aechmea pimenti-velosoi was first described by Raulino Reitz in 1952 from a plant collected in 1951 in the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil. This type plant was supported by another three collections later in 1951 and then by a further two. They were eventually named *Ae. pimenti--velosoi var. glabra*. The plants were placed in subgenus *Ortgiesia* in Smith's 1979 monograph. This is the subgenus that includes *Ae. recurvata, Ae. gamosepala, Ae. caudata* etc.

I have been able to find only three illustration of *Ae. pimenti-velosoi* in the literature. A colour drawing is in Reitz (1983). Another is a line drawing in Smith and Downs (1979) which seems to have been a copy of the painting in Reitz. Descriptions appear in both these publications. Baensch (1994) has a photograph of an *Ae. pimenti-velosoi var . glabra* (but in reality this seems to be a non -variegated 'Pie in the Sky'. There have been mentions of *Ae. pimenti-velosoi* from time to time in the BSI Journal but no description or illustration has ever been included.

The distinguishing feature of *Ae. pimenti-velosoi*, as compared with 'Pie in the Sky' is the scape that is 'wholly covered by the leaf sheaths'. This is the characteristic that is used in Smith's key to Ortgiesia and is evident in the illustrations of Reitz and Smith. Therefore, the real *Ae. pimenti-velosoi* looks rather like a slightly larger *Ae. recurvata var. benrathii* in terms of overall plant shape and conformance: with the flowering part pushed down in the throat of the plant. The leaves are relatively narrow. The petals are pale yellow with a reddishviolet tip.

On the other hand, *Ae.* 'Pie in the Sky' in cultivation has a scape that greatly exceeds not only the leaf sheaths but also the leaf blades. The leaves are relatively broad. The petals are yellow with no extra colour at the tip. There is a strong similarity between *Ae.* 'Pie in the Sky' and *Ae comata* except that 'Pie in the Sky' is about half the size of even the smallest cultivated *Ae. comata*.

I believe that there are plants of the real *Ae. pimenti--velosoi* in cultivation (in NSW at least), almost all of which are simply labelled *Aechmea* unknown, *Aechmea* ? or *Aechmea recurvata* hybrid? They match the drawings and descriptions of *Ae. pimenti-velosoi* perfectly. Unfortunately no one seems to know where these unnamed *Aechmeas* came from).

Ae. 'Pie in the Sky' is a nice little plant worthy of a spot in any collection. It may be a species or a hybrid - we may never know - but whatever the case, we shouldn't use the *Ae. pimenti-velosoi* name for it particularly when the real *Ae. pimenti-velosoi* exists in collections.



SPRING SHOW - RESULTS

Reserve Champion	nea nudicaulis var aequa Billbergia 'Grand Finale andsia duratii var saxitilis Tillandsia straminea	' David Scott	
CLASS 1. AECHMEA May consist	t of multiple connected p	lants. Potted.	
Ae.nudicaulis var. aequalis	1st	Carolyn Bunnell	
Ae.correia-araujoi dark form	2nd	Kerry McNicol	
Ae.disticantha var. glaziovii	3rd	Phillip La	
CLASS 2. BILLBERGIA Single sp	ecimen only. Pups allow	ed PROVIDED they are	
	obviously too immature	e for removal. Potted.	
<i>Billbergia</i> 'Hallelujah' x 'Golde	en Joy' 1st	Carolyn Bunnell	
Billbergia 'Tarantella'	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell	
Billbergia 'Ellen'	3rd	Carolyn Bunnell	
CLASS 3. BILLBERGIA COLONY	Aay consist of multiple co	onnected plants. Potted.	
Billbergia 'Grand Finale'	1st	David Scott	
Billbergia 'Pink Champagne'	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell	
Billbergia 'Fascinator'	3rd	Carolyn Bunnell	
CLASS 4. CRYPTANTHUS May co	onsist of multiple connect	ted plants. Potted.	
Cryptanthus 'Blood Red'	1st	Lydia Hope	
CLASS 5. NEOREGELIA SPECIES	May consist of multiple	connected plants. Potted.	
Neoregelia guttata	1st	Carolyn Bunnell	
Neoregelia ampullacea	2nd	John Schembri	
<u>CLASS 6. MINIATURE NEOREGELIA</u> May consist of multiple connected plants. Potted or mounted.			
Neoregelia 'Aurora'	1st	Carolyn Bunnell	
Neoregelia 'Lillipet' No 11	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell	
Neoregelia 'Chrissy	3rd	Kerry McNicol	
CLASS 7. POT OF NEOREGELIA May consist of multiple connected plants. Potted.			
Neoregelia 'Big O'	1st	Jan & Jon Townsend	
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Kahala Dawn	2nd	Helga Nitschke	
Neoregelia marmorata hybrid	d 3rd	Carolyn Bunnell	
<u>CLASS 9. TILLANDSIA</u> Single specimen only . Pups allowed PROVIDED obviously too immature for removal. Potted or mounted.			
Tillandsia duratii var saxitilis	Species Award & 1st	Kerry McNicol	
Tillandsia tectorum	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell	
Tillandsia crocata x duratii	3rd	Kerry McNicol	

.... Continued p 17

SPRING SHOW WINNERS



Aechmea nudicaulis var aequalis



Billbergia 'Grand Finale'



Tillandsia straminea



Tillandsia duratii var saxitilis



Ae.correia-araujoi dark form



Ae.disticantha var. glaziovii



Billbergia 'Tarantella'



Billbergia 'Hallelujah' x 'Golden Joy'

Cryptanthus 'Blood Red'



Billbergia 'Ellen'



Billbergia 'Pink Champagne'





Billbergia 'Fascinator'

SPRING SHOW WINNERS



Neoregelia guttata



Neoregelia ampullacea



Neoregelia 'Aurora'



Neoregelia 'Lillipet' No11



Neoregelia 'Chrissy'



Neoregelia 'Big O'



Neoregelia 'Kahala Dawn'



Neoregelia marmorata hybrid



Tillandsia tectorum



Tillandsia crocata x duratii



Tillandsia lorentziana



Tillandsia capillaris



Tillandsia streptocarpa



Vriesea hieroglyphica x platynema



Vriesea 'Purple Panther'



Neoregelia 'Wally'



Neoregelia 'Blushing Zebra'



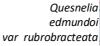
Neoregelia 'Aquarius'



Canistrum triangulare



Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'



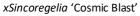


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xBitanthus 'Red Burst'

Xincoregelia 'Gallactic Warrior'



Eoregelia 'Purple Grape'





Dyckia hybrid



Tillandsia cacticola









'Quoll'



Dyckia 'Warren'

'Dried Offering' 'Goldie' (below right) (below left)



SPRING SHOW - RESULTS ... cont

CLASS 10. TILLANDSIA COLONY	, , ,	
	Potted or mounte	
Tillandsia capillaris	1st	Carolyn Bunnell
Tillandsia streptocarpa	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell
Tillandsia lorentziana	3rd	Bruce Munro
CLASS 11. VRIESEA May consis		
Vriesea hieroglyphica x platyn		Carolyn Bunnell
Vriesea 'Purple Panther'	2nd	John & Jan Townsend
CLASS 12. FOLIAGE / VARIEGAT		nected. Potted/mounted.
	Immature inflore	scence only, not above leaves.
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Wally'	1st	Carolyn Bunnell
Neoregelia 'Blushing Zebra'	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Aquarius'	3rd	Carolyn Bunnell
CLASS 13. OTHER GENERA Ma		
	Potted, or mount	ed if appropriate.
Canistrum triangulare	1st	Carolyn Bunnell
Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'	2nd	Liz Mudriczki
Quesnelia edmundoi var rubro	<i>bracteata</i> 3rd	Kerry McNicol
CLASS 14. INTERGENERIC May consist of multiple connected plants. Potted.		
xSincoregelia 'Cosmic Blast'	1st	Kerry McNicol
xBiltanthus 'Red Burst'	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell
xSincoregelia 'Gallactic Warrio	r' 3rd	Lydia Hope
CLASS 15. MOUNTED BROMELI	AD/S Various plants, but	NOT Tillandsia, connected or not.
	Suitably mounted	
Neoregelia 'Purple Grape'	1st	John Schembri
Neoregelia 'Quoll'	2nd	John Schembri
CLASS 16. TERRESTRIAL BROME	connected plants	uded. May consist of multiple
<i>Dyckia</i> hybrid	1st	Carolyn Bunnell
Dyckia 'Ruby Ryde'	2nd	Lydia Hope
Dyckia 'Warren'	3rd	Helga Nitschke
		-
CLASS 17. ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT Mostly Brom. material. May be multiple plants,		
or parts of. Embellishments allowed.		
'Caw-Data'	1st	Carolyn Bunnell
'Goldie'	2nd	Carolyn Bunnell
'Dried Offering'	3rd	Christine Johnson
<u>CLASS 18. NOVICE</u> May consist of multiple connected plants. Potted or mounted.		
Tillandsia straminea	Novice Champion & 1st	Bruce Munro
Tillandsia cacticola	2nd	Bruce Munro

3rd

Bruce Munro

Tillandsia scheideana

How to Ease Sunburnt Bromeliads

by Paul Turvey 2015

Taken from FNCBSG Dec 2016 written by Ross Little A response by Paul to a sunburnt Bromelied guery on a forum: I reckon you've done extremely well to only get that much damage!! Well done indeed. Apart from a bit more misting, the only other thing I can suggest is a bit more nitrogen in the fertiliser, or, if the pH of your water is alkaline, something added to it to bring the pH back to neutral or slightly acid. This is something I'm trying myself, since I have a few Vrieseas that routinely do this. Low nitrogen levels can increase susceptibility to burning (established scientifically for at least some bromeliads) and this would occur especially in leaves that don't produce a red/purple sunscreen e.g. plenty of foliage Vrieseas. Nitrogen shortage in older growth can result if a plant is pushing all of its nutrients into new growth (which is what they seem to do) and there isn't enough nitrogen available to support the whole plant. This overall shortage might just be because there isn't much nitrogen fertiliser in the medium or in the water, but it can also occur if there is plenty of nitrogen fertiliser but the pH is also high i.e. up above 7.2 or so, because as the pH gets up much above that (my tap water has pH = 7.8), the bromeliads mechanisms for taking up nitrogen fertilisers do not work. So, they get starved of nitrogen by the high pH, even though there is plenty of nitrogen fertiliser around. I have no idea if this might apply to you or how it might work in your situation, but I thought I'd mention it since it's something I'm giving a go for my bromeliads.

Certainly in my case, I've established that I get much more growth using the same fertiliser mix and concentrations if I acidify the water to bring it down from 7.8 (quite alkaline) to about 6.5 (slightly acidic). I think I've made a few good inroads on the leaf-tip burning and die-back, but I'm still getting a bit. Calcium hardness of the water is also something that has been linked to leaf damage in Vrieseas. My current plan (just starting) is to use citric acid rather

than other acids to bring the pH of the tap water down, since citric acid also chelates the calcium in the water so it can be used to eliminate calcium hardness. Do you have hard, limey water, which is very possible in your area? That could also be a contributor affecting just some Vrieseas. Hope this helps Paul





WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

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

Judy-Ann Armstrong, Margaret Carter and Maree Kalitis have recently joined our group. If you would like to become a Member, please see details below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

year January to December. Annual Membership: Overseas Membership: Renewal is due **1st January** for membership

Australia A\$25 Asia/Pacific Zone A\$40. Rest of the World A\$45.

<u>New Membership</u> requires a \$5 joining fee, plus Annual Subscription. (Those joining after our spring Show 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.

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** (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.
- A 3% surcharge for this service will be made.

Plant of the Month Competition October 2017

Open Judge's Choice.

1st 2nd 3rd

Open <u>Members' Choice</u>

1st 2nd =2nd 3rd =3rd Bill.bergia 'Georgia' Tillandsia cacticola Canistrum triangular Goudaea 'Sons of Tiger Tim' Vriesea 'White Cloud'

Canistrum triangulare

Vriesea White Cloud' Tillandsia cacticola



*Vries*ea 'White Cloud'

> Goudaea 'Sons of Tiger Tim'

Carolyn Bunnell Kerry McNicol Carolyn Bunnell

Kerry McNicol Carolyn Bunnell Carolyn Bunnell Ron Farrugia Kerry McNicol



Tillandsia cacticola



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Judge's & Members' Choice

Novice

1st 2nd Guzmania 'Gold' Aechmea recurvata Christine Johnson Pamela Munro

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st

'Planet Tillandsia'

Pauline Blanch



Guzmania "Gold'







'Planet Tillandsia'

Car-



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LITERATURE for Sale

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

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRICE
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden	Andrew Steens	\$20.00
Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007)	BSI	\$ 6.00
Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias	Margaret Paterson	\$25.00
Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree	John Catlan	\$10.00
Bromeliad Cultivation Notes	Lyn Hudson	\$10.00

Growing Bromeliads- 3rd Ed. by BSA is out of stock.

Reprinting negotiations are under way. Watch this space!

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 **some** of the <u>most recently</u> added seed to our Seed Bank. For a full list please go to <u>bromeliad.org.au</u>

Tillandsia botteri	24/07/17	Steve Molnar
Tillandsia guatamalensis	14/08/17	Terry Davis
Tillandsia gardneri	20/08/17	Terry Davis
Vriesea saundersii	09/09/17	Michael Drury
Tillandsia caulescens	04/10/17	Terry Davis
Tillandsia stricta (hard leaf)	08/10/17	Terry Davis
Vriesea rodigasiana	08/10/17	Kerry McNicol
Puya mirabilis	24/09/17	Bob Maclay
Tillandsia tricolor	13/10/17	Terry Davis
Tillandsia deppeana	10/10/17	Kerry McNicol
Seed has been moving quickly, especially the more recent additions.		

SO if you have seed to donate please send it in or bring it to our next meeting.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

BROMELIADS – a large colourful range of Bromeliads, both species and hybrids of many genera. Includes a very large range of Tillandsias. A mail order list of Tillandsias is available upon

request. We also specialize in orchids, cacti, succulents, hoyas, bonsai and carnivorous plants, PLUS gems, fossils, natural history, books and much MORE!



810 Springvale Rd., Braeside VIC 3195 PH: 03 9798 5845, FAX: 03 9706 3339 E-MAIL: sales@collectorscorner.com.au WEBSITE: <u>www.collectorscorner.com.au</u> Open 9am-5pm 7 days a week. M. J. PATERSON 212 Sandy Creek Road, GYMPIE QLD 4570

A Large Range of Bromeliads For Sale, especially our own hybrid Neoregelias, Tillandsias, Cryptanthus and Vrieseas Do call in if you are up this way.

But, please, phone first. Phone/Fax: (07) 5482 3308. E-mail: wm_paterson@bigpond.com Also available Bromeliad Hybrids. "For My Own Satisfaction" Book 1.

Neos. "For My Own Satisfaction" Book 2. Crypt., Til., Vr., etc. Books available on-line at www.bromeliad-hybrids.com

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E-mail: mossy@melbpc.org.au

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Prop: Peter Tristram. C/- P.O. BOX 2, BONVILLE NSW, 2441 (a few miles south of Coffs Harbor.) Specialising in SPECIES and VARIEGATES from mostly imported stock. TILLANDSIAS to titillate the most discerning fanciers. Beautiful VRIESEAS (including 'silver' species). GUZMANIAS, AECHMEAS, NEOREGELIAS, etc. Visitors welcome—phone first: (02) 6655 4130 A.H. Send S.A.E. for MAIL ORDER list of quality plants.

