



# BROMELETTER

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
OF  
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA INC.



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and all other correspondence to:

The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.  
PO Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.

Photo by Nina Woodcock *Alcantarea* 'Silver Plum Variegated'

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June & July 2023

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Our next meeting is on**

**SATURDAY, August 12th, 2023**

**AT 10 AM – 3 PM**

**Bromeliad Society of Australia Monthly Meeting - Topic: Plant Photograph-  
Federation Pavilion, Showground Rd, Castle Hill NSW 2154, Australia**

**Our SPRING SHOW is on**

**Saturday 30th SEPTEMBER 2023 9am - 4pm**

**Sunday 1st OCTOBER 2023 10am - 3pm**

**Federation Pavilion, Showground Rd, Castle Hill NSW 2154, Australia**

**Bromeliad Competition Display**

**20+ Plant Sales tables**

**Literature**

**Information & Advice**

**Continuous re-stock**

**EFTPOS**

**PLEASE BRING A BOX**

**Society Coach Trip 11/11/2023**

**Wildwood Garden, Bilpin**

**Botanic Gardens Greater, Mt Tomah**

**Hillbilly Cider Shed, Bilpin**

**Cost \$20.00 Per Person**

**For bookings contact**

**Carolyn on 96495762**

**Bring a folding chair for the**

**Barbeque lunch**



## JUNE MEETING TOPIC NEUTROG AUSTRALIA

### *Biological Fertilisers*

Our guest speaker for June was Helen Lovell from Neutrog Australia. Helen is a Horticulturalist and farmer of black Angus cattle on her farm in central Victoria. Helen spent time touring large gardens as a horticulturalist and then completed a Landscape and Garden Design course and she has worked in the industry for over 15 years.

Looking for a change, she left retail and spent 6 months merchandising whilst considering her next move. A phone call to a mate one day ended up with her accepting a sales representative role selling Charlie Carp. She then applied for a sales rep job at Neutrog, knowing their products well from her horticultural endeavours. In 2005 Helen became Neutrog's first sales rep & her brief was to build the retail market in Victoria. Today she spends time as Neutrogs Brand Ambassador and travels around Australia speaking to a variety of groups and garden clubs.

Neutrog's microbiologists are committed to creating natural fertilisers using the microbes already in soils to improve nutrient absorption and target the needs of specific plants.

“Soil is rich in secrets – the science of nature and the nature of science. Unearthing these secrets is a challenge and a commitment... it's something we are passionate about. We have researched, explored, experimented, invented, refined and evolved. We have changed the way we approach soil enrichment, and created ground-breaking fertilisers that are nutrient rich and biologically diverse. For example, before it's pelletised, our chicken poo is inoculated, composted, screened and steam treated – this process eradicates pathogens, parasites and weed seeds, maximises nutrients, and optimises the living microbiology. It creates fertilisers that are alive!”

“Helen was a wealth of knowledge, all of which was enlightening to hear. She has invited members to join the ‘Pooh Bah’ club and Facebook page, where members are kept informed of new developments in soil nutrition.

Google ‘Pooh Bah’ or go to: <https://neutrog.com.au/join-the-pooh-bah-club/>  
or email Helen at: [helen@neutrog.com.au](mailto:helen@neutrog.com.au) and she can join you up.

The site has loads of information and quite a collection of videos to watch showing exactly how their products are developed and made.

By Kerry McNicol

Neutrog was formed in 1988 and is based at Kanmantoo, 60kms south east of Adelaide. The factory site covers an area of some 20 hectares and employs over 50 people.

Neutrog's name was born from the combination of 'nutrients' and 'organics' to accurately reflect the true nature of the products manufactured, which is a range of ACO certified organic products, along with specialist organic-based, chemically-boosted fertilisers, liquid probiotics and our supermulch Whoflungung.

As a company, Neutrog is only at the beginning of its biological evolution, but we are already manufacturing novel and imaginative products that have never been made – ones that are more microbiologically diverse, making them more robust and adaptable, and more tolerant to drought, heat and frost.



Helen Lovell from Neutrog Australia

For us, Quality Control and Safety Assurance are critical components of products that perform day in day out. As well as nutrient content and microbiological diversity, our fertilisers are tested for pesticides, fungicides, heavy metals and pathogenic bacteria that are harmful to humans.

From our original factory in South Australia along with the factory established under license in South Africa, Neutrog supplies some of the most magnificent gardens and grounds around the world. Neutrog fertilisers are currently being exported in large quantities from Australia to places like Vietnam, Singapore, Korea and Taiwan where there is a cultural appreciation of our clean, green origins.

all information from <https://neutrog.com.au/> - reproduced with permission

# JULY MEETING TOPIC MOUNTING TILLANDSIAS

## BY HAROLD KUAN

Harold was first drawn to *Tillandsia ionantha* when Chris Larson attended an Australian Bromeliad Society show and sales day a few years ago. He was amazed by the tiny plants that were covered in trichomes allowing the plant to draw in 95% of its water needs from the air. Harold demonstrated the dramatic colour change from grey to green when Tillandsia are watered. He was also captivated by the variety of blushing colours tillandsias display when in bloom. After flowering the main tillandsia plant dies but produces multiple pups which in some cases form large clumps.

Harold was inspired by these plants and began collecting and then experimenting with different ways to display and mount them. Harold demonstrated his wood mounting techniques for us. Elevating mounting to an art form Harold described how to pick gnarly pieces of wood for display. When choosing a mount, look for hard wood with an aesthetically pleasing form that is stable when placed on a flat surface. To remove any salt or pests the wood needs to be soaked for two weeks, dried in the sun and then scrubbed with a toothbrush. He said “you need to make sure the wood looks natural for the best results, no hard cuts as natural breaks are more appealing.”

To prepare your Tillandsia, break off a large pup from a clump or remove any dead leaves or dying older plants from the clump and trim dried leaves. Trim off dead roots, these are brown and shrivelled, white roots are still viable. Let the plant calous over for a day or so.

Harold then looks for the best place to position the plant on the wood observing the rule of thirds. For the most eye catching result he chooses the highest point on the mount, not the middle. He then drills a hole right through the wood so that the plant can drain and dry out again after watering. To keep the plant in place Harold uses Selleys Kwik Grip vertical gel along with some smaller wood chips. The glue needs a few hours to dry. If the mount will be sitting on a wet surface think about rising it up with some thumb tacks.

Harold also demonstrated how to cut and bend rapid mesh stands for hanging tillandsia. He used bolt cutters to cut out a 3 x 6 pannel which makes a good sized stand for displaying many small tillandsia or one large hanging plant. He also demonstrated how to drill a hole through the top of a piece of wood and thread through some wire to create a hanging mount.

Nina Woodcock





Top Left: Harold Kwan showing some of his mounted tillandsia

Top right: Mounted tillandsia

Mid left: applying glue to the mount

Bottom Left: Tools used for mounting

Bottom Right: Bending the Rapid Mesh a piece of wood works well.









# PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

## JUNE

### Open

### Judges Choice

First  
Second  
Third

*Billbergia* 'Talbot Evita'  
*Billbergia* 'Fred Gerber'  
*Neoregelia rubrovittata*

Harold Kuan  
Harold Kuan  
Kerry McNicol

### Open

### Members Choice

First  
=Second  
=Second  
Third

*Vriesea* 'Fancy This'  
*Billbergia* 'Talbot Evita'  
*Guzmania sanguine*  
*Neoregelia rubrovittata*

Ian Hook  
Harold Kuan  
Helga Nitschke  
Kerry McNicol

### Novice

### Judges Choice

First  
Second  
Third

*Tillandsia stricta red form*  
*Tillandsia fasciculata*  
*Neoregelia* 'Boldstreak'

Phil Ross  
Anna Ernst  
Phil Ross

### Novice

### Members Choice

First  
=Second  
=Second  
Third

*Tillandsia fasciculata*  
*Tillandsia stricta red form*  
*Aechmea recurvata* var. *benrathii*  
*Neoregelia* 'Boldstreak'

Anna Ernst  
Phil Ross  
Phil Ross  
Phil Ross

### Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

First  
Second  
Third

'The Pendant'  
'Ness Monster'  
'Tillandsia Tanya Marie'

Janet Kuan  
Anna Ernst  
Ian Hook





*Billbergia*  
'Talbot  
Evita'



*Billbergia*  
'Fred Gerber'



*Neoregelia rubrovittata*



*Tillandsia* 'Kilkivan'



*Vriesea*  
'Fancy  
This'



*Neoregelia* 'Boldstreak'



*Tillandsia stricta* red form

*Guzmania sanguine*

*Aechmea*  
*recurvata* v.  
*benrathii*

*Tillandsia*  
*fasciculata*



'Ness  
Monster'



'The Pendant'



*Tillandsia* 'Tanya Marie'

# PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

## JULY

### Open

### Judges Choice

First

*Tillandsia capitata x streptophylla*

Harold Kuan

Second

*Tillandsia* 'Patterson'

Carolyn Bunnell

Third

*Tillandsia rothii*

Harold Kuan

### Open

### Members Choice

First

*Tillandsia* 'Patterson'

Carolyn Bunnell

Second

*Aechmea recurvata* . *benrathii*

Harold Kuan

Third

*Neoregelia* 'Dream Baby'

Nina Woodcock

### Novice

### Judges Choice

First

*Neoregelia* 'Quirky'

Nina Woodcock

Second

*Neoregelia* 'Mambo'

Linda Molloy

Third

*Neoregelia* 'Dream Baby'

Nina Woodcock

### Novice

### Members Choice

First

*Neoregelia* 'Dream Baby'

Nina Woodcock

Second

*Tillandsia juncea*

Nina Woodcock

Third

*Neoregelia* 'Quirky'

Nina Woodcock

## Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

First

'Roller Coaster'

Anna Ernst

Second

'Love is in the Air'

Janet Kuan

Third

'Caged'

Ian Hook





*Tillandsia*  
'Patterson'

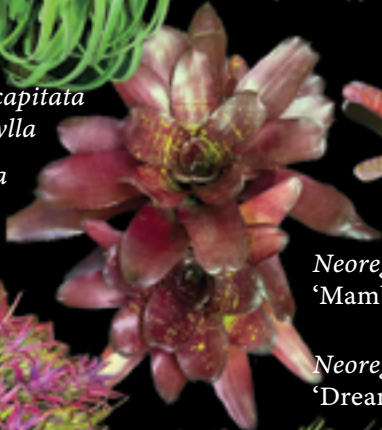


*Tillandsia rothii*



*Tillandsia capitata*  
*x streptophylla*

*Neoregelia*  
'Quirky'



*Neoregelia*  
'Mambo'



*Neoregelia*  
'Dream Baby'



*Aechmea*  
*recurvata* v.  
*benrathii*



*Tillandsia juncea*



'Love is in the Air'

'Caged'

'Roller Coaster'



## GARDEN VISIT: RAY HENDERSON'S PARADOX HORTICULTURE



On the 2nd of April this year I had the great pleasure of visiting Ray Henderson's garden at Paradox Horticulture in the Glenning Valley roughly two hours drive north of Sydney. It was drizzling and overcast but I had on my new pair of gum-boots and I was determined to look at every single plant. This was my second visit to Paradox so I knew how impossible that task would be. I squelched and chunched my way around taking lots of photos and looking out for changes in the garden. It was still so lovely, the same but different. Ray said to another visitor that the best thing about this kind of slow growing garden is that it is relatively low on maintenance. They may require remulching once very few years and the removal of dead leaves but because there isn't much watering required, the weeds don't get hold. Once the garden is set up, it is there for the long term.

In my wanderings I came across a *Tillandsia kruchoffiana* (pic top left p15) the inflorescence towering above me in contrast to the tiny delicate flowers just opened. If the sun had been out the plant would have received dappled shade for most of the day but some full sun in the afternoon. This *Tillandsia* is one of the largest tank tillandsia and grows well in Sydney's climate.

Ray grows succulents, agave, cactus and euphorbia in between bromeliads large and small. Giant alcantarea, agave and euphorbia take command over the landscape and while billbergia, neoregelia, aechmea, spread to occupy the spaces between. The reds and pinks of the bromeliads contrast with the green and turquoise of the succulents and cactus creating a dry but tropical looking garden.











Ray builds mounds with garden waste which are covered with mulch and planted with a colourful variety of visually interesting plants. The large ornamental blue banana leaves give the garden height for dramatic effect and shade some of the more delicate plants.

Below is a huge dragon tree which is a perfect place to attach an orchid while offering protection from the midday sun to some mini neoregelia below. The advantage with these trees is that they don't drop leaves on the bromeliads so their cups don't fill with debris meaning less maintenance long term.

P16 Top right Alcantarea Peter Tristram



## AUTUMN SHOW WINNERS 2023



Grand Champion

Carolyn Bunnell (middle)

Reserve Champion  
Species Award

Elizabeth Mudriczke



Novice Champion

Anna Ernst

# BROMELIAD COMPETITION

## NEW MONTHLY PRIZES

### FROM MAY 2023

		Previous Monthly Prizes	New Monthly Prizes
OPEN	1st	\$20	\$40
	2nd	\$7	\$20
	3rd	\$5	\$10
NOVICE	1st	\$20	\$40
	2nd	\$7	\$20
	3rd	\$5	\$10

## BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

### SPRING SHOW

Castle Hill Showground, 129 Showground Rd, Castle Hill

Saturday 30th SEPTEMBER 2023 9am - 4pm

Sunday 1st OCTOBER 2023 10am - 3pm

\*\*\* Free Admission \*\*\*

Bromeliad Competition Display

20+ Plant Sales tables

Literature

Information & Advice

Continuous re-stock

EFTPOS

PLEASE BRING A BOX



Bromeliad Society of Australia PO Box 340 Ryde NSW 2112 [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au)  
For future show notifications, please contact - [show@bromeliad.org.au](mailto:show@bromeliad.org.au)



## FEATURED BROMELIAD NEOREGELIA HEART MUSIC & HEART MUSIC TOO



Last months cover featured *Neoregelia* 'Heart Music' however it was more likely *Neoregelia* 'Heart Music Too'. I stumbled across this discrepancy last year when I had these two flowering plants both labeled *Neoregelia* 'Heart Music' and both growing in similar conditions. So I went to find out what had happened. I found the tale *Neoregelia* 'Heart Music' had been followed up and I wanted to include the story here. I hope that a few plants out there might get new labels or at least the addition of three letters.

Photographs by Nina Woodcock

Top Left *Neoregelia* 'Heart Music' Top Right *Neoregelia* 'Heart Music Too'  
bottom Left *Neoregelia* 'Heart Music Too'



EXCERPT FROM

## DECISIVE ACTION NEEDED—S.O.S

N. 'Heart Music' (the striped one) was registered by K Golinski in 2000 from his CD and nobody queried this until a New Zealander pointed out an anomaly in 2004. One of the none striated clones was called 'Heart Music Too'. In 2004 Keith confirmed that a plant with ('Black Olive x ?) on the label but without stripes was around. How many other clones were out there? Nobody knew or were unwilling to divulge.

The problem is that plants called N. 'Heart Music' circulated world wide a long time back. Very much in demand. Took me about two years to get a pup. I even wrote my name on the back of a pup but it still went to America. Visiting Ipswich I found a red striated form in Carmel Cullen's garden. This is obviously the one used by Allan Freeman in his crosses. See N. 'Ticker' named by myself and observe the striations. See also the 4 other registrations by K Golinski with the same quoted parentage from 1997 where N. 'Cozzie' has striations. Where did these striations come from? Allan Freeman said he used 'Heart Music' as pollen parent. Did this have striations?! We have since learned from Allan via Carmel that the striated 'Heart Music' is actually a hybrid. We know that the striated version of Heart Music was in existence before 2000 because it was adult when it got into the CD. It is doubtful that it could have been non striated when it was used as a parent in 1997. She very wisely has suggested in her previous article that ('Heart Music' x 'Prince of Darkness') be renamed N. "Prince of Happiness". Care should be taken here because 'Blue Mood', 'Cinderella' and 'Emotive' have already been registered by K Golinski with the same parentage and this newly named plant should be clearly different.

This would leave a bit of work. The registrations of crosses 'Heart Music', 'Heart Music Too' have been confirmed by Keith Golinski. My plant without striations came from the Olive Branch Nursery as 'Heart Music'. After discussion with the registrar I changed my tag and registration to Neo . 'Heart Music Too'. Could Allan have used a different plant to that in the grex quoted by Keith? I doubt it.

That solves all the problems for the future generations. One question from Olive Trevor relates to the difference in appearance of her plant to the registered plant. Keith Golinski grew his plants hard and hungry. The difference is probably environmental. I will include three photos of my three plant originating from Olive. These as pups were taken from the one plant. This photo illustrates the great difference of one plant by just sticking its leaves out from the shade. I apologize for the quality of my photos and my plants but I was never expecting to write this. I was just growing them along side a seedling which appears to be just the same at this stage.

by Rob Smythe MSc

Amended by Butcher 4/2/2009 BSI

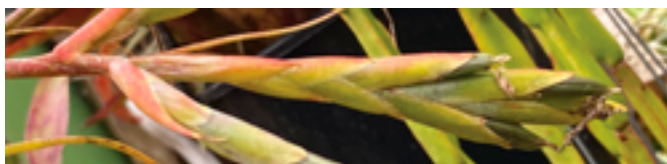
## SEED BANK

If you have seed to donate please contact Terry.

Below is the list of seeds in our Seed Bank.

<i>Alcantarea extensa</i>	18/11/22	Terry Davis
<i>Alcantarea australiana</i>	17/01/23	Kerry McNicol
<i>Vriesea fosteriana</i>	06/02/23	George Hardy
<i>Aechmea bromeliifolia rubra</i>	05/03/23	David Hastings

50¢ per packet (plus postage) Members or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other - Contact Terry Davis (02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809



## LITERATURE FOR SALE

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

Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden by Andrew Steens \$20.00

Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007) by BSI \$ 6.00

Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias by Margaret Paterson \$25.00

Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree by John Catlan \$10.00

Bromeliad Cultivation Notes by Lyn Hudson \$10.00

Growing Bromeliads 3rd Ed by BSA \$20.00 (\$12 member price)

## MONTHLY TRADING ACCOUNT REPORT 2023

	May 1st-31st	June 1st -30th
Opening Balance	\$15,228.15	\$20,142.26
Receipts	\$8,742.95	\$423.98
Less Expences	\$3,828.84	\$298.15
Closing Balance	\$20,142.26	\$20,268.09

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Neos. “For My Own Satisfaction”

Book 2. Crypt., Til., Vr., etc.

Books available on-line at  
[www.bromeliad-hybrids.com](http://www.bromeliad-hybrids.com)

## **ESSENTIAL BROMELIAD WEB LINKS AND PAGES**

**Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR):** <http://registry.bsi.org/>  
for correct identification and spelling of your hybrid or cultivar.

### **New Bromeliad Taxon List:**

<http://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist> Refer to this site for latest species name changes and correct spelling.

### **Bromeliads in Australia:**

<http://bromeliad.org.au/> Refer to this site for the society Newsletters, events and current seed list

### **The Bromeliad Society of Australia Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2037990933090559/>

Keep these web sites set as desktop icons for quick reference access.

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