

BROMELETTER

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.



Published by the Bromeliad Society of Australia Society

bromeliad.org.au

ISSN 2208-0465 (Online) January February 2024 Vol 62:No 1



Please send articles for Bromeletter to
editor@bromeliad.org.au
and all other correspondence to:
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PO Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.
Photo by Terry Davis of Kerry McNicol's Canistropsis "Lemon"

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ISSN 2208-0465 (Online) October January 2024 Vol 62 No 1



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CONTENTS	
January Meeting Topic Doris Kiernan	4
February Meeting Topic Nidulariums	6
Plant of the month competition January 2024	8
Plant of the month competition February 2024	10
Congradulations to our newest Life Members	12
Fire Ants	13
DEREK BUTCHER OAM 4th Jan 2024	16
Vale Lloyd Godman 1952-2023	18
Vale Cameron Czarnecki	20
Seed Bank	22
Monthly Trading Account Report	22
Literature for Sale	23

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Our next meeting is on SATURDAY, April 13th, 2023 AT 10 AM – 3 PM Bromeliad Society of Australia Monthly Meeting -Speaker: Rosemary Roberts on Hoyas - plant cuttings will be available

BSA Autumn Show and Sales Saturday 4th May 2024 9am-4pm Sunday 5th May 2024 10am- 3pm

Our General May Meeting is SATURDAY, May 11th, 2023 AT 10 AM – 3 PM Bromeliad Society of Australia Monthly Meeting Topic: TBA



NEW MEMBERS:

Peggy O'Donnell Mark Phillips Karen Hunt Brent Jones Evan Norton Graham Spence

JANUARY MEETING TOPIC DORIS KIERNAN

BROMELIADS ON A BUSH BLOCK.

Hello everyone, We live in Wyoming near Gosford on the Central Coast of N.S.W. We moved there in 1996 as it is very close to all amenities but it is also private and feels quite rural. The block is four acres and is a mixture of bush and lawns. There are no formal gardens but I have planted bromeliads under and around the many trees on the block. When we moved in, all of the bush area approximately three acres, was covered in lantana which I cleared gradually over about 3 years.

By then I had joined the CCBS and collecting bromeliads became an addiction. I started with 1 shade house and then Greg converted an old stable down the back into another one and now we have five. We also joined Hunter Bromeliad Society and so we have two meetings and two markets each month.

All the old mums were planted everywhere and they grow really well as the Weather here is ideal for bromeliads. I don't really do much to them, occasionally cutting a couple out or breaking off a dead inflorescence. The ones in the ground are never watered by me, only what falls as rain. We don't have town water but we do have a bore so I can water the ones in the shade houses which I only do if we haven't had rain for two or three weeks in Summer. As we have many eucalyptus trees the ground is covered in leaves which form a mulch which stops most of the weeds growing.

We also have a lot of birds, swamp wallabies, possums, bandicoots, bush turkeys, frogs and insects. All these provide the bromeliads with the food they need to grow. So no watering, fertilizing, spraying, weeding etc, in fact not much gardening at all, which means I have time to pot up for meetings and markets, which I enjoy doing.

We have been to many bromeliad conferences in Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. which we really enjoy as we meet up with friends. We always have extra time before or after to enjoy those places and see more of the country we are in. Bromeliads have been a great hobby for me as it has given me plenty to do especially since retiring from teaching and we have had the opportunity to travel more which we really enjoy doing.

Doris Kiernan



FEBRUARY MEETING TOPIC NIDULARIUMS

Nidularium talk by Ian Hook and Kerry McNicol, Amal Eid wrote the summary.

For our February meeting we were treated to a magnificent display of mostly flowering nidulariums bought in by members. Each plant was discussed by Kerry and Ian covering differnt growing conditions and the different forms of each variety when grown in different ways. Here is a summary of the discussion.

Nidularium innocentii enjoys bright growing conditions but not full direct sun. Nidularium innocentii var. paxianum variety prefers a shady position.

Nidularium 'Ruby Lee' gets good contrasting-coloured stripes on their leaves.

Nidularium 'Red Queen' is similar to Nidularium 'Ruby Lee', but it has speckled green spots.

Nidularium 'RaRu' has a brown flower in bright dappled light but in more shade the flower turns a rich pink.

Nidularium 'Madonna' has a candy pink flower.

Nidularium 'Miranda' is a variegated and not so cold hardy cultivar of Nidularium 'Madonna'.

Whitrockia smithii is now Nidularium amazonica and has an orange bract flower sitting low in the well. The Nidularium amazonica var. 'Maggie Hicks' variety is green and smaller.

Nidularium 'Litmus' as the name suggests, the flower changes in colour from bright red to purple to blue.

Nidularium fulgens has bright green leaves with darker green spots and prominent thorns that are soft to the touch and an orange to pink bract.

Nidularium 'Rutilan Regel' is variegated

Nidularium 'Leprosa' has spots on the flower and leaves.

Nidularium ratilanshas a pink flower and no spots.

Nidularium antoineanum is a mini plant with the flower sitting deep in the well.

Nidularium Rubens always has long a long stolen and gets more colour in the shade and in bright light the leaves look variegated, but they are not.

Nidularium campos portoi likes bright very protected humidity.

Nidularium procerum is a long strappy plant.

Nidularium scheremeteiwii is more orange.

Nidularium cariacicaense is a red flowered small variety depending on the growing conditions.

Nidularium angustobracteatum has small brown strappy leaves with a red flower. Growing in the shade gets very black with dark leaves.

Nidularium atalanesis can grow vertically in good sun for bronze colouring collected by Ruby Ryde and Sandra Rio

xNiduregelia 'Something Special' enjoys bright light and flowers in the Autumn.



PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION JANUARY 2024

Open Judges Choice

1. First	Dyckia delicata	Harold Kuan
2. Second	Neoregelia 'McAwesome'	Nina Woodcock
3. Third	Neoregelia 'Heat Rash'	Kerry McNicol

Open Members Choice

First	Dyckia delicata	Harold Kuan
Second	Neoregelia 'Heat Rash'	Kerry McNicol
Third	Neoregelia 'McAwesome'	Nina Woodcock

Novice Judges Choice

First	Billbergia 'Walter Richter'	Bob Bartley
Second	Neoregelia 'Hawaiian Sunset'	Phil Ross
Third	Neoregelia 'Predator'	Phil Ross

Novice Members Choice

=First	Neoregelia 'Predator'	Phil Ross
=First	Neoregelia 'Hawaiian Sunset'	Phil Ross
Second	Billbergia 'Walter Richter'	Bob Bartley
Third	Neoregelia 'Yin'	Bob Bartley

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

First	'Embracing New Beginings'	Janet Kuan
Second	'Multi Neo'	Nina Woodcock



PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION FEBRUARY 2024

Open Judges Choice

First Canistropsis 'Lemon' Kerry McNicol Second Neoregelia 'White Walker' Kerry McNicol Third Tillandsia fasciculata Harold Kuan

Open Members Choice

First Neoregelia 'White Walker' Kerry McNicol Second Canistropsis 'Lemon' Kerry McNicol Third Tillandsia fasciculata Harold Kuan

Novice Judges Choice

First Neoregelia 'Coppelia' Phil Ross
Second Billbergia 'Muriel Waterman' Bob Bartley
Third Tillandsia leiboldiana was var. guttata Bob Bartley

Novice Members Choice

First Tillandsia leiboldiana was var. guttata

=Second Billbergia 'Muriel Waterman' Bob Bartley

=Second Neoregelia 'Coppelia' Phil Ross

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

First 'New Beginnings' Janet Kuan



CONGRADULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS JOY CLARK AND HELGA NITSCHE





Autumn Show

Saturday 4th May 9am - 4pm Sunday 5th May 10am - 3pm

Free admission

Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground off Showground Road, Castle Hill, NSW

20+ sales tables continually restocked • Bromeliad Competitions on Display Lucky Barrel Draw • Literature, information and advice • Pienty of Parking • EFTPOS Bring a box for Parthesos

For further information please contact lan Hook, President Mobile 0408 202 269

www.bromeliad.org.au

F Bromeliad Society of Australia

FIRE ANTS FACTS WILL THEY REALLY AFFECT US?

Fire ants are smart, highly adaptive and can survive in a range of climates. Below are key facts about fire ants to complement your chosen image or video:

- Fire ants are copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen and measure 2–6 mm in size. Fire ants appear in a variety of sizes in one nest, making them easy to identify against other ant species.
- Fire ant nests appear as mounds or flat patches of loose soil with no obvious entry and exit holes.
- Fire ant nests are usually found in open areas such as lawns, garden beds, near water sources, along roadsides and in newly developed areas with disturbed soil.
- One fire ant nest that goes undetected can multiply and spread, putting an entire community at risk.
- Fire ants can be reported anytime at fireants.org.au or by calling 13 25 23. Take a photo of the nest and ants and report within 24 hours.
- Fire ants spread by travelling over and underground, flying up to 5 km, rafting on waterways after floods and hitchhiking in organic materials moved by peo ple.
- Fire ants have a painful sting that can cause severe and potentially fatal allergic reactions in humans and animals.
- Fire ants are a destructive pest that can severely impact our way of life and living in the great outdoors. They can destroy crops, damage electrical equip ment, kill pets and livestock, damage native ecosystems and render parks, playground and backyards unusable.
- If fire ants win it will cost the Australian economy \$2 billion per year, forever.

So, will it really impact we humble bromeliad growers?





Fire Ants Located in Wardell compiled by Helen Clewett. FNCBSG March 2024 Bulletin

On January 19 a cluster of five fire ant nests in a 60m area was discovered by a keen gardener at Wardell Pod Village, the cluster counts as one infestation. The fire ants like disturbed soil and because of landscaping work, the ants could have been brought in through mulch, soil or some other way.

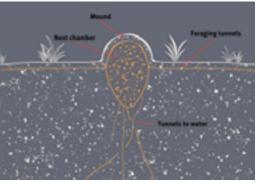
At a community meeting hosted by the Department of Primary Industries, about 35 people attended the Wardell Memorial Hall with questions. The village is now under a Fire Ant Biosecurity Emergency Order covering a 5km radius of Wardell. What does this infestation discovery mean for Wardell and the Northern Rivers area of NSW — is there any way to stop it getting worse?

There were two representatives from the NSW DPI - Chief Invasive Species officer, Scott Charlton and the National Fire Ant Eradication Program Chief Operations officer, Graeme Dudgeon. "As of February 1, there have been no new fire ant infestations discovered in Wardell and surrounds. The Emergency Order and 5 km exclusion zone will remain in place. It could be up to two years before Wardell has its Proof of Freedom papers and is free of fire ants" Mr Charlton said. "No one in southeast Queensland has been cleared," he said. "The metric for success is stopping the spread."

"The ants are difficult to get rid of." Sniffer dogs, drones and helicopter spraying are part of the approach to stop the fire ant spread. So too, is consultation with the community on eradication and educating residents on how to spot a nest. Mr Dudgeon said a typical sign to look for is "there are no obvious entries to a fire ant nest". Fire ants don't seem to like natural bushland, they like to nest along curbs and guttering.

What is the fire ant bait made of? The fire ant bait is made up of corn grit soaked in a mixture of soybean oil and a Insect Growth Regulator, either S-methoprene (widely used in mosquito control programs) or pyriproxyfen (commonly used in dog and cat flea collars). The bait treatment is used in accordance with the product label and permit from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority to ensure safety to humans, animals and the environment. The aim is to make the queen infertile and then the nest dies of old age. "Sometimes the baiting is done six times to make sure we get rid of every queen out there" Mr Charlton said.





What can I do? Everyone needs to keep an eye out for nests, anyone who discovers a fire ant nest should call 1800 680 244 and report it immediately. If possible, take a photo or video for confirmation that it is fire ants. They are a danger to the community because they kill native plants and animals and can damage ecosystems beyond repair. For information on the movement of material and about fire ants go to the DPI website - https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/report-a-pest-or-disease Unfortunately, just a few days after our January meeting the alert was issued regarding the detection of the red imported fire ants in Wardell. This detection was within 300 m of our meeting venue at PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) issued a Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order 2024 - meaning we're now in a 'fire ant movement control area' of a 5 kilometre radius of where the nest was found. This lockdown order is to prevent the movement of fire ant carrier materials from the fire ant movement control area (5 km radius).

How did this affect us at PineGrove : restriction of potted plant movement - we are only allowed to move bare rooted, thoroughly washed plants.

How did this affect our FNCBSG NSW meetings: restriction to members to bring potted plants to our February meeting for Popular Vote Competition, Show and Tell and sales of potted plants. Any potted plants brought along were basically to be confiscated and held at PineGrove until DPI notification that they could be released. Members were only allowed to bring bare rooted plants, thoroughly washed and free of pests. The restrictions have been reflected in our February Popular Vote entries in that bare rooted plants only were allowed to be tabled, so we had very few plants entered. Thank you to all our Group members for abiding by these restrictions.

Restriction of movement of fire ant carrier materials is in place on: organic mulch, compost, growing media, manure, hay, chaff, silage, soil and anything with soil on it, silage, potted plants, turf, agricultural equipment, earth moving equipment, mining and quarrying materials, grass or vegetation and clippings. Results since the Emergency Order was invoked are that PineGrove had around 50 people from DPI Biosec urity spread corn grit bait over the entire property. No fire ants were detected and we have been issued a Fire Ant Activity report. Always use chemicals responsibly considering bees and our native wildlife.

Since no further infestations have been detected in Wardell, we are now allowed to bring five potted plants per person to our meetings under section 38 of the Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order 2024. However, no potted plants brought to our meetings are at any time to be placed on the ground. They should be taken from the vehicle and placed directly onto the Popular Vote tables and returned directly to the vehicle at the end of the meeting. There is no restriction on the number of bare rooted plants.

Hopefully, no one will take this threat lightly. We, as bromeliad growers are extremely lucky that we can bare-root that 'must have' plant, but that does not mean we should be complacent in obtaining it!

DEREK BUTCHER OAM 4TH JAN 2024

Bromeliad Society International Honorary Trustee 2008. Wally Berg Award of Excellence 2012.

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of one of Australia's, if not the world's, greatest source of information on

Bromeliads we've had. Derek had devoted over 40 years of his life along with his wife, Margaret to

Bromeliads. Derek compiled the most

comprehensive resource files of Bromeliad

descriptions, herbariums and photos which are now available on the Bromeliad Species Database. Derek was involved in many other resources available to us such as the BCR -

Bromeliad Cultivar Registry, the Bromeliads in

Australia website - look for Detective Derek, The New Bromeliad Taxon List and more.

He wrote articles that were published in Newsletters and Journals around the world and also some books he compiled and wrote are of note:

'Bromeliaceae Names and Synonyms'.

'The Amateur Guide to the Greyish Leaved Tillandsioideae'.

'Key to the Genera of Bromeliaceae'.

'Glossary of Terms'.

'Bromeliaceae and its Eight Subfamilies'.

'Checklist of Australian Bromeliads, Hybrids and Cultivars including Notes for the Hybridist - 5 editions from 1981 to 1997.

Some cultivars honouring Derek in the BCR:

Aechmea 'Derek's Organensis Ha Ha'

Neoregelia 'Uncle Derek'

Tillandsia 'Derek' (photo - right)

Vriesea 'Derek's Dilemma'

Vriesea 'Butcher's Yuletide'

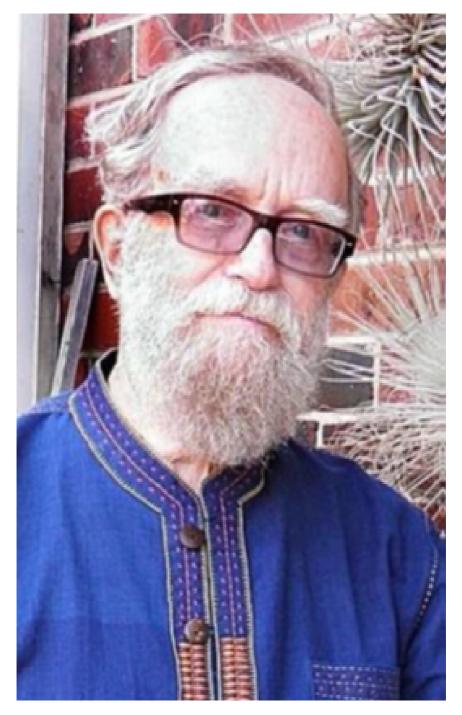
Neoregelia 'Butcher's Red Delicious'

Neoregelia 'Butcher's Treasure Island'

Derek was always generous with his knowledge and shared written information readily. He often gave cryptic responses to queries that helped one to search in the right direction for answers - lessons were learnt from these experiences - he has been forever the teacher about everything Bromeliad to many of us in the Bromeliad world.

Through all his hard work Team Butcher will live on forever - RIP Derek. His motto "Never Trust the Name on a Label" (Photos by Kosit Kaewkangwal and Chris Larson)

(Reprinted from: Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W. January 2024)



VALE LLOYD GODMAN 1952-2023



Lloyd Godman
Extreme Gardening tillandsia
surfing at Eagles Nest near
Inverloch, Victoria, Australia
Easter 2018.

It is quite a task to sum up the last 25 years that I have known Lloyd. The endless energy, and the countless tales, and being taken along for the ride with Lloyd's ideas makes it hard to believe this will not be ongoing.

I first met Lloyd around 2000 when he first came to Melbourne. He had quickly befriended Maurice Kellett who had a bromeliad nursery reasonably close to Lloyd's new home in St Andrews. Maurice and Lloyd would often travel to Bromeliad Society meetings together. What struck me at first was Lloyd's different slant on the hobby.

He was seeing plants in a different way to the rest of us. Lloyd was interested in the physiology of these plants and the way that he could use this to express his art. He was the ecological artist. His quest was always pursued with vigour and a seemingly endless optimism. In this he was always seemingly interested in dragging us along with him, to look at them as he did.

Sometime after Lloyd arrived in Australia, he seemed to move toward more of an interest in Tillandsias. His works with installations in various situations, his spinning mobiles, and the concept of swarms in various locations around Melbourne - extending to swarms around the world - were pushing the boundaries of the plants we grow. It was fascinating to see how Lloyd's vision of ecological art was expressed in these projects. Lloyd was always active in the BSV, in recent years, from being a regular speaker at BSV to also being on the BSV Committee. He was always interested in furthering the exposure of our wonderful plants.

Lloyd also had a range of other interests such as surfing, photography, music, recently being very proud of a photo used on a Rolling Stones re-release – a photo taken on a tour that he attended while back in New Zealand. The same tour that I saw at Kooyong in Melbourne back in 1973. His web site is full of great photos of the bands of the early to mid 70's. His interest in music did not wane, and I met him at Adelaide at the (world music) WOMAD Festival in Adelaide which he regularly attended. I would delight in seeing the excellent photos he took there, always capturing the moment.

A look at the web site https://www.lloydgodman.net/ will show you an array of the seemingly endless ideas he had across a range of interests.

Also available from the web site is a range of eBooks on Tillandsia and other topics. Lloyd's friendship, optimism, and different perspective on our plants will be missed by the members of the BSV.

Our sympathies go out to Tess & his family.

Chris Larson

Taken from Bromeliad Society of Victoria Inc Feb/mar issue 2024



Top and right 'AIR' each plant within each cages corresponds to a plant outside in the urban environment. Each plant is tagged with a QR code with directions to the other plants location. https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/my-garden-path-lloyd-godman/13607548

Below left Tillandsia window screen installation in East Melbourne 2021 Below right from Lloyd Godman's LAB xeric the Installation piece 'Spicee' July 2019





VALE CAMERON CZARNECKI

19.11.1992 ~ 26.02.2024



It is with great sadness that we inform our members of the passing of Cameron Czarnecki. It was not easy to miss Cameron when he attended meetings, he was 203cm (6'8") and usually arrived bearing a tray of bakery goods for afternoon tea. Cameron was a 'visitor' at first, coming on a few occasions to join his mother Karen who had joined the society in 2020. It wasn't long before Cameron himself became interested in bromeliads and joined in discussions and helped out at the sales tables. He would move around meetings talking to as many people as he could. He then seemed to naturally slip into the catering for general meetings, then at BSA shows until he took charge of catering for our Christmas parties and organized the BBQ on the bus trip to Mt. Tomah, last year.

His passing was a shock to us all, having gone into hospital for a procedure, then suffering a blood clot, which travelled to his heart.

We had a small insight into Cameron's diverse life, when we met some of his other friends, some of whom he met travelling, others from his gaming community - it seems 'Halo' was one of his favorites, he even convinced Karen to watch the series with him on TV. There were also many from his work life where he was thought of highly. Here he partook in TWO of his favorite hobbies - cooking and singing. His workmates said they quite often came in to work and Cameron would be already be there working and singing away.

His mother, Karen, father and brother and his family have a huge hole in their lives and we are thinking of them at this time hoping that their loss becomes a little easier to bear in the times ahead. Kerry McNicol and Joy attended his funeral and presented flowers onbehaf of the Australian Bromeliad Society.



This is Mesocyclops? Mesocyclops are found in the bromeliads with clearer water. These have only recently been discovered as a mosquito predator by Dr. Michael Brown working at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. They are very small and just visible to the naked eye. They zig and zag about often carrying two large egg sacks. Several researchers are using these creatures to study mosquito breeding in mine shafts and water tanks. These fellows keep my bromeliads free of mosquitos right through the year up until the heat and heavy rains of summer. They are now gone, dead or washed out of my bromeliads. They do not like putrid conditions and do best in clearer waters in cooler conditions. however they can be replaced after the heat of summer. (Uncle Derek says they look like very miniature Mitsubishi logos if you clean your bifocals) Taken from: Bromeliads and Mosquitos by Rob Smythe M.Sc. FNCBSG September 2020

SEED BANK

If you have seed to donate please contact Terry. Below is the list of seeds in our Seed Bank.

Tillandsia pohliana	7/12/23	Terry Davis
Tillandsia juncea	7/12/23	Ian Hook
Tillandsia pseudobaileyii	09/12/2023	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia fuchsii forma gracillis	09/12/2023	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia chapalillaensis	02/12/2023	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia extensa	18/12/2023	Terry Davis
Puya mirabilis	no date	Bob Maclay



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

Flyspeck Scale Treatment for Bromeliads From FNCBSG July 2015

750 mls Canola Oil 3 tablespoons of Sil Detergent 1.25 ltrs of water

Mix in a jar: 300 mls (of above solution) with 300 mls vinegar Mix into: 4 litres of water and spray affected plants. In summer spray plants in the afternoon and wash off the following morning. This is Grace Goode's non-toxic recipe supplied by Gloria and Flo.



Note: we can't guarantee it, but it's worth a try if you want a reasonably safe solution to fly speck scale.

MONTHLY TRADING ACCOUNT REPORT 2024

	Jan 1st-30th	Feb 1st -29th
Opening Balance	\$23,536.55	\$22,123.42
Receipts	\$1,372.76	\$1,111.15
Less Expences	-\$2,785.89	-\$2,857.71
Closing Balance	\$22,123.42	\$20,376.86

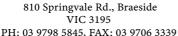
from Maureen Johns

COLLECTORS' CORNER

BROMELIADS – a large colourful range of Bromeliads, both species and hybrids of many genera. Includes a very large range of Tillandsias. A range of tillandsias is offered in the Collectors Corner eBay store: https://www.ebay.com.au/str/ collectorscornervictoria

We also specialize in orchids, cacti, succulents, hoyas, bonsai and carnivorous plants, PLUS gems,

fossils, natural history, books and much MORE!



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Neos. "For My Own Satisfaction"
Book 2. Crypt., Til., Vr., etc.

Books available on-line at

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.

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)

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