

KABBROM

Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Society Inc NO 6 November / December 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

October already, the broms are pupping - even some pups are pupping. Spring has well and truly sprung. Dust is in the air and Christmas is almost upon us. Isn't life great???

The September meeting, even though we were small in numbers, and with only one table of plants for sale, was a most enjoyable meeting. We were honoured that our patron Carryn Sullivan paid us a visit and stayed for the afternoon. A special afternoon tea of home-made cake, biscuits and quiche was served. Thank you to the Ladies who did the cooking, organizing and helping at the hall.



Carryn donated a \$100 towards our cause, to be used as we see fit. She remarked to me she had a great time and hopes to visit us again soon.

I also want to thank all those who helped in a variety of functions on the day to make up for those who were unable to attend. It certainly showed the spirit of all of you that failure is not an option.

Next month, your committee will be gathering for a couple of hours to put together next year's calendar of events. Therefore I strongly urge all of you to make use of the suggestion box at the next meeting. This will be **your** opportunity to have a major input as to what you would like to see, hear and/or experience next year.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting at the hall on Saturday 24/10/09.

Best wishes and kindest regards,

Carlo M. Hanswyck

Member News

We welcome Lochlan Blair (Little Lottie). Born 29 July 2009 to Steve and Julie Waite. Brother for Jacob who was our youngest member! Congratulations to the family. Proud grandparents Sheryl and Len couldn't even find a photograph for us. Well really!

By the way - Look at the *What's On* section for the plant sale at Julie and Steve's house. They have to move, so there will be some wonderful buys. I have already booked a special plant.

Julie Bethany is getting around OK with her friend the oxygen bottle being dragged behind. She would like to come to meetings but still has to go to the RBH 3 days a week for her 5 hour dialysis treatment and unfortunately Saturday is one of those days. We wish her continuing improvement.

Julie Flood has been unwell with an undiagnosed illness. She has slowly begun improving but it will a slow recovery. We wish her well.

The Shade Centre

Gary May has negotiated a discount on purchases for all CDBS members at *The Shade Centre*, Unit 5 - 9 Combarton Street, Brendale. Find out their best price and then ask for the discount.

BROMELIACEOUS WORKSHOP NOTES

31.08.2009



Steve Flood addressing the audience in the garden of Sheryl and Len Waite.

Many members from both the Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society and the Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Association were there to enjoy the day.

Thank you to Steve Flood for coming to share his knowledge with the group leaving his wife Julie who was unwell on the day. We wish her well with recovery from her illness.

Over in the far left of the photo is Narelle Aizlewood (red and yellow shirt), Greg Aizlewood and Len Waite who also gave informative talks. We particularly thank Narelle who replaced Arnold James who was unable to attend at the last minute.

Landscaping with Bromeliads

Steve Flood

Discussion focussed on 4 aspects

- Light
- Temperature
- Media
- Fertiliser

Light

- Light is a critical factor when growing bromeliads. This makes intergenerics very difficult to place as they are a combination of light needs.

- Generally silver/grey foliage reflects sunlight. Blue foliage has a waxy layer which acts as an insulation. Both take more sun than other foliage colours.
- Tropical plants contain Anthocyanin (foliage colours are red pink purple blue). Anthocyanin acts like a sunblock and attracts pollinators.
- Texture of leaf - shade plants have a thinner, softer leaf tissue.

Temperature

- Use the plants that grow well locally and grow plants suitable for the type of climate you live in.

Media

Terrestrial	grows in the ground in soil
Epiphytic	grows on live trees
Lithophytes	grows on rocks
Saprophytes	grows on dead trees

- Air needs to be 15% - 20% in media

Fertiliser

- Adjust the PH and drainage management. PH testing kits are available at Bunnings.
- If the PH is 5 only half of the elements will be absorbed.
- If the PH is 6 then all of the elements will be absorbed.
- Epiphytes have 2 types of roots – one attaches and the other feeds. In pots they need high potassium (K) low nitrogen (N) .e.g. N10, P4, K24 in a 9 month slow release product.
- Tillandsias need higher nitrogen and less potassium
- Guzmanias can grow either terrestrially or epiphytically.
- Liquid fertiliser - use at a 1/3 to 1/2 strength once a month to give colour and boost inflorescence.
- *Seaweed extract* is not a fertiliser but it contains cytokine which mobilises the elements in the plant. Minerals move around faster and are relocated to where they are most needed, enabling cell repair to damaged areas. Stress in a plant can be caused by too much or too little of water, wind, frost, sun. The plant stops producing cytokine.
- If a plant is slow growing – underpot.
- If a plant is fast growing and large – overpot.

Alcantarea	full sun
Aechmea	strong light
Hohenbergia	good light
Ananas -	good drainage
Neoregelia	shade – too much or too little affects leaf colouring
Pitcairnia	full sun, moisture, organic extra
Billbergia	strong light, careful not to overwater, high K
Tillandsia	shade 50% no afternoon sun
Vriesea / Guzmania	high nitrogen, strong light/deep shade but in the shade will lose the colour
Cryptanthus	big range of light intensity, mainly jungle stock, needs shade, rich soil, fertiliser needs to be high in nitrogen

Instead of fungicide.

Steve outlined a process of treating fungicide on Tillandsias with organic methods (Liquid Microbe Food – LMF). The process was extremely interesting and it was agreed to invite Steve to a general meeting in 2010 to repeat this information.

Dyckias Cryptanthus and Orthophytums

Len Waite

Orthophytums

- Can put in bowls and over time they will clump up.
- Water thoroughly; dry out before the next water.
- Fertilise heavily.
- Plantlets – leaves must be dead on the bottom before removing and potting up. Remove all the dead leaves at the base before potting.
- If small plants get stressed then as a full grown plant they will flower earlier and not look as nice.

Dyckia

- Keep water up if in pots.

- Use potting mix and sand. The Talbot Lodge mix is a blend that has been carefully selected to contain PH 6. The mix does not contain nutrients so fertiliser is required at potting.
- When taking offsets, remove the plant from the pot and then work from base. This ensures minimum damage to your hands.
- Most have orange flowers – full sun required.
- A few have green leaves and yellow flowers – do not put in full sun.
- When collecting seeds watch for the first seed to burst and then put a brown paper bag over the flower heads and shake. The seeds will be collected in the bag.
- When sowing seeds, use Yates seed raising mix and sand.

Neoregelias

Narelle Aizlewood

- Flowers are white blue or mauve
- Some will tolerate hot conditions. (Cruenta, Red Macaw)
- Light and sun enhance colour. Note that *hot sun* is **not full sun**.
- Feel leaf and if cool the plant is not burning
- If a plant is burnt, the offsets are usually hardier than the parent
- 70% shade cloth is recommended in summer
- The PH should be between 5 ½ to 6. Add perlite.
- Mix consists of ½ inch bark, ½ inch charcoal, ½ inch perlite
- Neoregelia mix. To a polystyrene box of Talbot Lodge Mix, add 1 cup superphosphate blue. This gives colour to the plant.
- Keep the nitrogen low. N9 P6 K18
- Newer hybrids may lose variegation. A plant was displayed with 2 pups – one variegated and one non-variegated.

Tillandsias

Greg Aizlewood

Before beginning his talk Greg outlined the importance of Bromeliad Society International (BSI) membership. The association provides funding for

1. Collection of threatened plants
2. Taxonomists – to correctly identify plants
3. Marie Selby Gardens who have been collecting since the 1950's. 2000 plants in the collection are waiting for identification.
4. Botanists to study Bromeliaceae
5. Bi-annual conference. Next one is 2010 Big Easy New Orleans July 26 – August 1

Tillandsias

A large group – 15 000 species known so far.

Found in the southern states of USA, West Indies, South America.

Wide range of growing habits – ground to trees, around coastal belts, jungles, deserts

The leaves range from green soft textures to small grey hard leaves

- Jungle areas green leaves (Ecuador, Colombia)
- Arid desert curly leaves

Greg concentrated on grey leafed plants from Peru to Brazil. These plants were passed around with reference to characteristics of the plants.

cacticola	grows on cactus
ionantha	15 different species. lives in sand in peru, on the snow line in the andes. pups from base. len produced a small ionantha 'peanuts' – a small slow growing form.
juncea	jucifolia – pups on stolons.
butzii	one type will clump, another will replace only
caerulea	perfumed
duratii	scented
schieliana	grows profusely
paelacea	nicely clumps. natives use it as a football
streptocarpa	small and large forms
bulbosa	ants love bulbosa
seleriana	large varieties
T kurt houston	lots of scurving
gardneri	reversed leaves
tenuifolia	grows on rocks

seideliana
sprengeliana
recurvifolia var subsecundifolia extinct in the wild
xerographica sits on cactus
fasciculata showy pieces, hard soft forms

Fertilising

- In pots use a slow release fertiliser.
- ABS mixture (available from the librarian) excellent for mounted bromeliads
- If using rain water double fertiliser on packet.
- If using town water use as recommended.

Water

- Water regularly and soak thoroughly
- Water once a week in winter.
- In summer water once and give a thorough hosing. Let dry out fully. After a couple of days check and ensure that plants are ready for another water. Tillandsias require water to feed during the night. The plants need to be watered in the morning to ensure that they are not saturated in the evening.
- Duratii and xerographica do not need water - mist only.
- Tectorum - if overwatered mount upside down and allow water to drain away.

Hang Tillandsias where there is a gentle breeze.

Scale / mealy bug

Use Rogur, Confidor, Anti scale, Eco-oil. Ants foster scale so get rid of ants. In October spray 1st week then after 2 weeks, respray. It is important to repeat the spray as the young will usually escape the first spray and return.

Seed

Pollinate. Wait. Collect seed. Put on polystyrene with old shade cloth wrapped around. Wait for growth. After leaves have appeared use a mild fertiliser daily.



At our September meeting, Steve Waite, due to unforeseen circumstances, was unable to address the meeting on seed raising. Bruce Roberts, with 30 minutes notice, ducked home and collected a few of his cordylines and then delivered an informative and interesting talk on these plants.

Thank you very much Bruce.

The CD has finally arrived. **Derek's Tillandsia, March 2009.** Newly released and contains pictures of most known tillandsia. Cost: \$10.00. As only a limited number are available, workshop attendees will be given first chance to buy the CD at the November meeting. However we can obtain more copies so if you are interested please write your name on the appropriate list at the November meeting and we will order more. We have also bought one for the library so it will be available for loan in 2010.

MORAYFIELD DISPLAY AND SALES



Raffle winner with Jeanette Robertson



Carol Button, Lesmar Debrincat, Deirdre Roberts, Carlo Hanswyk, Jeanette Robertson, Pat Robertson, Rob Murray



Carlo Hanswyk, Criss Button, Lesmar Debrincat



The 3 wise monkeys!
Hear no See no and Speak no
Alias
Rob Murray Bruce Roberts Pat Robertson
They got into trouble!

It was a successful and enjoyable day at Morayfield.
Thank you to all who provided plants and assisted with the selling and organisation.

POPULAR VOTE AUGUST WINNERS NOVICE:

1. Pam Board
2. Pam Board
3. Deirdre Roberts

Neoregelia 'Ruby Rose'
Neoregelia 'Enchantment'
Vriesea 'Highway Beauty'

ADVANCED:

1. Len Waite
2. Madge Jarvis
3. Madge Jarvis

Orthophytum 'Blades'
Tillandsia ionantha
Tillandsia disticha maxima

SEPTEMBER WINNERS NOVICE:

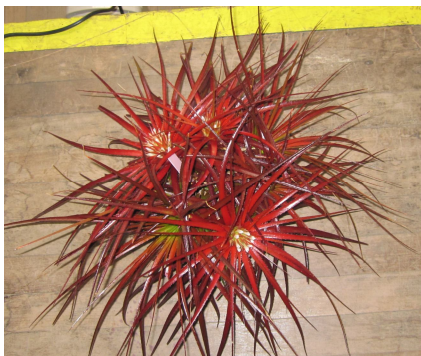
1. Lesmar Debrincat
2. Carol Button
3. Deirdre Roberts

Vriesea fenestralis
Tillandsia bulbosa
Guzmania 'Georgia'

ADVANCED:

1. Madge Jarvis
2. Madge Jarvis
3. Madge Jarvis

Tillandsia scheideana
Guzmania 'Sunnytime'
Guzmania hybrid



Orthophytum 'Blades'



Vriesea fenestralis



Tillandsia ionantha

STUDY GROUP

Thursday 19.11.2009

Where: Sheryl Waite's garden, Talbot Lodge,
4 Prudence Court, Upper Caboolture.

This will be a Christmas Break-up for those who have attended during 2009. Wear your Chrissy earrings and bring something special for the morning tea.

WHAT'S ON in 2009

October 24 8:00-2:30

Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society Annual Show
Helensvale Community Centre, 31 Discovery Drive, Helensvale. \$2.00 entry.

October 24 & 25 9:00 - 4:30

Anne McBurnie & Phillip Beard's Garden
5 Timbertop Court, Capalaba. Ph 3206 0807.

October 31 & November 1 9:00 – 4:00

The Olive Branch.
234 Canvey Road, Ferny Grove. Ph 3351 1203

November 7 & 8 8:00 - 4:00 (7th); 9:00 - 3:00 (8th)

Bromeliad Bonanza \$3.00 entry
Mt Coot-tha Gardens Auditorium

November 7 & 8 8:00 – 4:00

Julie and Steve Waite's Plant Sales
318 Old Toobul Point Road Caboolture. Ph 0405 789 321

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the 4th Saturday of the month at C.T.Williams Hall at Caboolture Showgrounds, Beerburum Road Caboolture, 12:30 for 1:00 pm start.

MEETING DATES FOR 2009

October	24.10.2009	Tony & Lesmar Debrincat <i>Wet Feet Plants / Cryptanthus</i>
November	28.11.2009	XMAS PARTY at the Hall
December	NO MEETING	
January 2010	23.01.2010	

Take advantage of these wonderful opportunities available at each meeting

- * Knowledgeable and informative guest speakers
- * Lending library
- * Plant display and competition
- * A chance to ask experts about problem plants
- * Plant sales
- * Plant fertiliser, pots, hangers for sale
- * Raffle

OFFICERS

President	Carlo Hanswyk	5495 1380
Vice President	Jeanette Robertson	5495 2497
Secretary	Deirdre Roberts	5499 2724
Treasurer	Rob Murray	3888 2637
Membership Secretary	Lorraine Rolley	3285 2743
Committee Member: Editor	Barbara Murray	3888 2637
Committee Member: Hostess	Anne Hanswyk	5495 1380
Committee Member: Librarian	Lesmar Debrincat	5438 7869
Committee Member: Plant	Len Waite	5496 7795
Committee Member: Popular Vote	Bruce Roberts	5499 2724
Committee Member: Raffles	Sheryl Waite	5496 7795

HALL STEWARDS

Plant Sales	Angela Slaughter and Julie Waite
Hall Set Up	John Parker
Catering	Martha Richards and Deirdre Roberts

Our society has posted our Club News on the website of the Bromeliad Australia – check it out at www.bromeliad.org.au

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland website www.bromsqueensland.com has lots of information as well as their journal Bromeliaceae – well worth a read. Hard copies are available from the CDBS library.