

KABBROM

Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Society Inc NO 4 July / August 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Brommers

Well here we are half way through the year already! Where does the time go? I hope all your broms are coping with the cooler weather OK.

I'm sorry Deirdre and I missed out on the bus trip to Bundy as I believe it was a great trip. Hopefully we won't miss the next one that Sheryl is planning.

Our sales and display day at the shopping centre went well and a second one is planned for September so hopefully everybody is growing up some beautiful plants to sell. Whilst I am talking about the shopping centre plant sales day I ask all those that participate to remember that we are promoting Bromeliads as well as selling and so we need to be mindful of the quality of the plants we are offering for sale. They do need to be good quality plants and well presented as, after all, they are an advertisement of our product.

Happy bromming all

Bruce

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the 4th Saturday of the month (except December) at The Combined Services Club, 21 Hayes Street, Caboolture. 1:30pm start.

MEETING DATES FOR 2010

June	26	Guest Speaker: Gary May
July	24	Guest Speaker: Barry Kable
August	28	Guest Speaker: Lorraine Rolley
September	25	Guest Speaker: Nigel Thomson
October	23	NO MEETING: DAY BUS TRIP DETAILS TBA
November	27	CHRISTMAS PARTY

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

STUDY GROUP

Thank you to Sheryl Waite for hosting these workshops and to Jeanette Robertson for co-presenting. *Study groups may be cancelled due to commitments by the Waites. Please check this newsletter for the dates.*

All members are welcome. Just remember to bring a notebook, a pen and a plate for Morning Tea.

When: 3rd Thursday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

July 15

August 19

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

POPULAR PLANT COMPETITION 2010

APRIL

NO COMPETITION AS MOST OF US WERE ON THE BUS TRIP!

MAY

NOVICE SECTION

1ST PLACE

Cryptanthus 'Marion Oppenheimer'

Barbara Murray

2ND PLACE

Tillandsia 'Sylvia Fraser'

Carol Button

3RD PLACE

Neoregelia Anna 42

Barbara Murray

JUDGES CHOICE

Cryptanthus 'Marion Oppenheimer'

ADVANCED SECTION

1ST PLACE

Tillandsia pseudo-baileyi

Madge Jarvis

2ND PLACE

Neoregelia 'Good for Grace'

The Waites

3RD PLACE

Cryptanthus 'Imposter Red'

Madge Jarvis

JUDGES CHOICE

Neoregelia 'Gloriosa'

The Waites



Cryptanthus
'Marion Oppenheimer'



Tillandsia 'Sylvia Fraser'



Neoregelia Anna 42



Tillandsia pseudo-baileyi



Neoregelia 'Good for Grace'



Cryptanthus 'Imposter Red'

FAREWELL RAY AND MARTHA



We wish you and your family an enjoyable trip back to the UK and that you fall in love with and buy *that house* when you arrive. Thanks for the good times.



MEMBERMOMENT

Madge brought along this massive *Tillandsia diaguitensis* which she has been growing for years.

MAY GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Bob Cross. He entertained us with his wealth of humorous anecdotes on displays he has created over many years.

O



BROMMOMENTS

Len brought along some *very* neglected plants and showed them to the members. It was indeed a rare sighting as usually the members drool over Len and Sheryl's beautifully grown plants.

As Len explained – everyone has them – they can be revitalised with effort, and the effort is worthwhile as no-one enjoys looking at neglected plants.

WAITEYS WORDS OF WISDOM

- 1 Winter time being almost a rest time for our bromeliads, this should give us time to do the things that we say we never have time to do
- 2 This can be a fun time and a learning experience, simply fire up your computer log on to Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. There is enough information on this to keep any one busy all winter. I find the photo index very helpful as a reliable reference guide.
- 3 Remember to go easy on the water through the cooler months. Only water when you know they have had a chance to dry out. Too much can cause crown rot, too little will cause cold damage such as dehydration.
- 4 I have probably said this before - only take pups that are quite mature and have roots at this time of year.

Happy Bromming
Bye for now
Waitey

MAY WORKSHOP

For those who came it was a wonderful day. A small but dedicated group braved the inclement weather and listened to some experienced growers with interesting lectures.



First was Darren Webb from Power Blend who talked to us on the making of potting mix. The process is unbelievably complex, takes time and is scientifically controlled. The product is then adjusted to suit the individual needs of the client. Darren spoke of the necessity to ensure that there are no mistakes in the process. For all those who listened it was fascinating.



After a tasty morning tea, Steve Flood addressed the group. He never ceases to amaze as he always speaks passionately on something new. This time the topic was Vrieseas and he and Julie brought along a selection to show us. Steve then outlined the growing needs of the plants and along the way a most interesting topic of introducing microbes into soil was discussed.



Lunch was short but sweet and then along came Greg and Narelle Aizlewood and the topic of Tillandsias. Well it began as a session on removing offsets and then advanced to audience participation. We all had a go at removing the pups using chisels and brute strength – fun and learning was had by all.

Len Waite then produced some Orthophytums and Dyckias in need of separating and again we enjoyed an interactive session. Len also demonstrated when not to separate so that the specimen can shine as a display plant. He showed us how beautiful they can look.



The day was so friendly and enjoyable that we were all loathe to go home.

Thank you Sheryl and Len for organising the speakers and using your home yet again for the workshop.

ALL BROMELIADS BLOOM!

(Article taken from the Illawarra Bromeliad Society Newslink April 2010 which cited Bromeliad Society of NSW's Bromeliad Newsletter, January 2010 Vol. 28(1), which in turn was reprinted from the newsletter of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, August, 2009.)

How many times have you heard that said by speakers who are deemed to be authorities in bromeliad culture? And how many of you have at least one bromeliad in your collection that apparently missed the lecture on blooming and now stubbornly refuses to put up a bloom spike? Probably the most common complaint that I hear from new growers is that they have had great luck in growing pups of a particular bromeliad after purchasing it in a home and garden centre, and now have many plants that seem to be full grown but refuse to bloom. *Aechmea fasciata* is often the subject of this discussion—a common commercially available variety that sometimes can be a bit stubborn. Usually I ask whether they are fertilising it. If this answer is “No” then my response is “That’s your problem!”, and if they say that they fertilise it regularly, I say “Stop fertilising it.” (See how this works?) Then I ask if it is growing in strong light: (response—“Put it in the shade”); if they are growing it in low light (“Put it in stronger light”), and so on. The basic point I try to make is that if the current culture practices are resulting in the plant not blooming, you should try something different. And often that’s all it takes to spur the plant into bloom—a change from its normal routine. The grower ends up with a beautiful blooming bromeliad and I look like a genius: everybody wins!

Unfortunately, it doesn’t always work out that way. Occasionally you have that “hard-core” non-bloomer that simply refuses to cooperate. I think everyone runs across these plants at some point—whether it be that unusual *hohenbergia*, or a seldom seen species of *aechmea*, or, in my case, *Vriesea philippo-coburgii*.

I acquired this plant quite a long time ago at an Extravaganza and was advised by none other than Wally Berg (certainly an authority on bromeliad culture and someone that you paid attention to when he gave advice) that “You may have a little trouble getting that plant to bloom!” That turned out to be an understatement. Over the next decade I put my plant and its progeny (this plant is very generous in producing pups) in full sun (it seemed to like this just fine, but didn’t bloom), full shade (it liked this too and turned a little greener, but didn’t bloom). I let it form a large clump (sometimes bromeliads like a little company before they bloom) with no response. I split it into individual plants and potted them in multiple varieties of potting mixes (it continued to grow and reproduce just fine, but didn’t bloom). I left it out in the cold (Wally also said it may need some cold weather to spur it into blooming) when temperatures fell below -10C. It didn’t seem to mind this either—but it didn’t bloom. I even used Herb Plever’s ethylene pills and followed his instructions precisely—the *aechmeas* that I treated at the same time bloomed, but not *Vriesea p-c*. Finally, this past winter we had a spell of really cold weather and I left one potted specimen of *V. philippo-coburgii* outside to fend for itself, but took pity on a larger clump of the same plant and carefully covered it with frost cloth until the weather warmed a bit. In mid-June I noticed a tell-tale elongation of the centre of several of the plants in the clump and by early July it was clear that these plants were putting up an inflorescence—and so was the plant that was left out in the cold!

Interesting, but the story doesn’t end there. In mid-July I had occasion to visit the Boca Raton Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society in South Florida (an interesting, rowdy bunch) and during the course of their meeting, the president asked if anyone was growing *Vriesea philippo-coburgii*. Mine was the only hand raised, and he proceeded to inform the group that he had been growing this plant for well over 10 years and had come to call it “the plant that never blooms”. He was amazed to notice that his clump of *Vriesea p-c* was putting up several bloom spikes! Finally, last weekend a grower in Deltona [Florida] told me that for the first time in memory his *Vriesea philippo-coburgii* also was blooming.

What triggered the same species of bromeliads (plants that hadn’t bloomed for several generations) in Port Orange, Boynton, and Deltona—three widely different climates—to all begin blooming at the same time? I’m doubting that the deciding factor was cold weather alone. Cold weather in South Florida is probably 20 degrees [F] warmer than in Port Orange and Deltona tends to see low temperatures somewhere in between the two. Could it be the combination of cool weather last winter followed by an unusually wet spring and summer? Typically we see little or no rain in the spring for three to four months, but this year we experienced frequent rains, culminating in enough rain in one event in May that caused wide-spread flooding for several days. These rainstorms soaked much of the east coast of Florida during this period and that is the only obvious connection that I see linking the three different locations.

So, the comment that “all bromeliads bloom” is once again proven correct. Sometimes, however, you may have to wait for over a decade to see that bloom—and you may never know for certain what caused that bloom to be triggered.

MORAYFIELD DISPLAY AND SALES



Thankyou to Carlo and Anne Hanswyk for organising and managing the major raffle.
Total funds raised - \$690.00.
A big thank-you to Jack Jarvis for donating the first prize – a handmade wooden clock.
1st Prize Jason Robertson
2nd Prize Sue Parker
3rd Prize K. Webb



NEXT Display and Sales on 4th September 2010 at Morayfield Shopping Centre

WHAT'S ON IN 2010

Saturday 4th September

Morayfield Display and Sales

Saturday 11th September 8:30 – 3 & Sunday 12th September 9 – 2

Noosa Bromeliad Market Combined Growers Sale: Noosa Bicentennial Hall, Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach

Saturday 9th October 8 – 3 & Sunday 10th October 9 – 2

Bromeliad Extravaganza: Wavell Heights Community Hall 175 Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights

Saturday 23rd October

Bus Trip to gardens on the south side of Brisbane. Details to follow.

AUSTRALASIAN Bromeliad Conference

NT Bromeliad Society Inc
Darwin NT 7th – 10th April 2011
Holiday Inn Esplanade 1/6 Esplanade Darwin NT
For Hotel Booking call 1800 007 697
Garden Tours \$25.00

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Registration Fee Early Bird \$220.00
if paid before 31 October 2010
Gala Dinner delegates \$65.00
non-delegates \$70.00
Late Registration \$280.00

Contacts: Registrar: Ross broms16@bigpond.com Information: Harry acacia@octo4.net.au

LIBRARY NEWS

All members may borrow from the library. Items must be returned the next month. If this is not possible please contact the Librarian prior to the meeting.

FOR SALE

Tillandsias, March 2009. CD. Newly released and containing pictures of most known Tillandsia. Cost: \$10.00.

***Tillandsia II* by Paul T. Isley \$80.00**

Remember if you want pots, hangers, name tags to use the order form (available at meetings or I can email one to you) and return it to The Waites. The goods will be at the next meeting.

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.

OFFICERS

President	Bruce Roberts	5499 2724
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	Nicole Nielsen	5428 6373
Committee Member: Raffles	Sheryl Waite	5496 7795

HALL STEWARDS

Plant Sales	Angela Slaughter and Patrick Robertson
Hall Set Up	John Parker
Catering	Sue Parker

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