

KABBROM

Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Society Inc NO 4 July / August 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Members

Well half the year has gone already. Hope your broms are enjoying this weather.

We had two interesting mini workshops at our May meeting and Dr David Murray gave a talk on pest management at the June meeting.

Our display at Morayfield Shopping Centre is on the 4th August. If you can spare some time to help it will be appreciated.

Cheers
Kayleen.

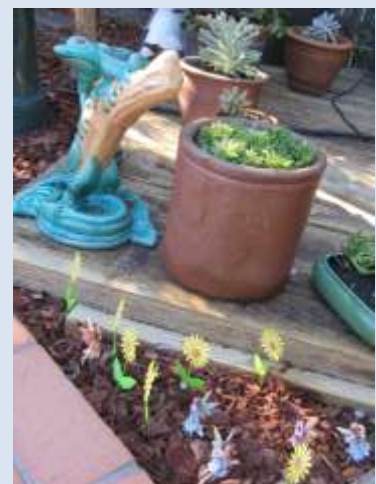
STUDY GROUP

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

If you are interested in holding a study group in your garden contact Sheryl or Jeanette. Please check this newsletter for the dates and venues as sometimes last minute changes occur. Every effort will be made by email and phone to contact attendees.

When: 3rd Thursday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am
August: TBA September: TBA

Study Group Moments



Thank you to Beryl and Barrie. They have made a new section in their garden. Very creative.



Margaret and Raymond made us very welcome in their lovely garden. Margaret makes the art work that we see here and more. Margaret had collected a range of plants that were of concern to her and Len and Sheryl were on hand to provide explanations for her woes.



[1]



[2]



[3]

(1 & 2) Cold and wet but healthy enough! Look at the flower spike.

(3) Tissue Culture – the problem has occurred with every pup in the same place.



Healthy plant. Mum is dying slowly.



Jelly in the leaf axis. No problem. The plant is trying to heal itself.

BROMMOMENTS

Miniature Neoregelias

(This is the notes I made for the Brommoment talk I was intending to do at the last meeting but I left the print out at home and so you only got the bits I remember. This is culled from quite a few different sources and I am sorry not to acknowledge them all. Olive Trevor, Bob Reilly, the BSI website and a few sellers websites were my informants. Barbara)

Miniature Bromeliads - especially the mini Neoregelias - have been gaining interest with local collectors over the last few years. These colourful, easy to grow jewels are smaller than the normal sized Neoregelias and don't take up a lot of space.

This interest has been driven by the perennial 'lack of space' issue many collectors face, and the fact that many 'new' varieties have been made available with a wide range of these little plants primarily hybridised in Australia. They are prized for their foliage which lasts the life of the plant.

There are 3 SECTIONS

Small Minis	<10 cm wide
Medium Minis	between 10 and 15 cm wide
Large Minis	between 15-20 m wide

They have an erect rosette formed by 10 or so leaves, all of which have very small spines on their margins.

Miniatures will grow well in small pots (around 10cm in diameter)

Most of them produce offsets at the end of long runners called stolons. This allows each plant its own space so that the clump you grow is very balanced and attractive.

Suspending the plant in the shade house enhances the markings on the leaves.

With bright light and sufficient watering the mini Neoregelia can grow to fabulous clumps over time.

They can also be grown in the lightly shaded positions in the garden over logs and stumps. Make sure that they do not get the full afternoon sun.

Add 9 -12 month release fertiliser when first planting but be careful with future fertilising (particularly liquid fertilisers) as it can cause the plant to lose its shape and colour.

Here in our area we need 50% shade cloth in Autumn Winter and early Spring and 75% for the rest of the year.

Watering should occur twice a week from October to March and once a week at other times.

Strong light and little fertiliser will grow the most attractive plants.

Note: Kayleen is very interested in Minis and has a lovely, ever expanding collection.



Jeanette brought along 2 plants to demonstrate how to prepare them for future growth. The first was the beautiful *Tillandsia multicaulis* which won popular vote in February. She cut it to pieces! Removed all the flowers so the plant could concentrate on pupping - broke my heart watching.

The photographs show a different plant before and after the removal of the mother. Again this allows the plant to concentrate on offsetting.



This plant has pupped out of the bottom of the pot!

If you look closely you will see that the offset has come through the hole in the bottom of the pot.

Thanks to Len for bringing this plant. Many members have brought along oddities. They are so interesting to look at. Keep bringing them in!

POPULAR PLANT COMPETITION 2012

May

NOVICE

1st	<i>Tillandsia queroensis</i>	Carol Button
2nd	<i>Tillandsia butzii mez</i>	Carol Button
3rd	<i>Vriesea</i> Royal Hawaiian Series x Speckles	Kayleen Courtney

INTERMEDIATE

1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Red Macaw'	Perry Crawford
2nd	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Delicioso'	John Pullin
3rd	<i>Quesnelia</i> 'Curly Tops'	John Pullin

ADVANCED

1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Groucho'	Len Waite
2nd	<i>Guzmania sanguinea</i>	Jeanette Robertson
3rd	<i>Guzmania sanguinea</i> variegated	Len Waite



Tillandsia queroensis



Neoregelia 'Red Macaw'



Neoregelia 'Groucho'

June

NOVICE

1st	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Hyde's Silver'	Carol Button
2nd	<i>Tillandsia stricta</i> nigra	Carol Button
3rd	<i>Guzmania</i>	Kayleen Courtney

INTERMEDIATE

1st	<i>Tillandsia stricta</i> dark form	John Pullin
2nd	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Imposter Red'	Perry Crawford
3rd	<i>Tillandsia caticola</i>	John Pullin

ADVANCED

1st	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Red Champagne'	Jeanette Robertson
2nd	<i>Guzmania squarrosa</i> hybrid	Barbara Murray
3rd	<i>Cryptanthus</i>	Jeanette Robertson



Tillandsia 'Hyde's Silver'



Tillandsia stricta dark form



Billbergia 'Red Champagne'

WAITEY'S WORDS OF WISDOM

1 Potting mix is an interesting subject to talk about because we use many varied recipes to plant our bromeliads in. Firstly if what you're using is working for you don't change what you're doing. With the mix we use we keep it in containers, if you do the same just keep it slightly moist (not saturated) to keep it from becoming dusty and also some air flow to stop it becoming musty.

2 Fertilizer another much talked about subject, with our situation we keep it as simple as possible. When we plant offsets we use a low nitrogen high potassium osmocote, for Neoregelias we fertilize when we plant and don't do anything else until they reach maturity. This method can be used on all Broms. I also keep in stock a higher based nitrogen osmocote to fertilize plants I want to push a little faster like Dyckias, Vrieseas, Guzmanias and Cryptanthus. With the rest *Less is More*.

3 Pests and diseases another much talked about subject I personally don't believe in a regular spray program because we kill all the good bugs as well the bad ones. Yes I do spray but only when I think it is necessary. Prevention is a better way to go, like having good air circulation and cleaning old dead leaves off your plants this gives scale etc. less places to hide.

4 Most important of all is go out and *Smell the Roses*. By this I mean enjoy what you do or don't bother doing it, don't take it too seriously. Happy growing!

Cheers Waitey.

MEMBER NEWS

Guest Speakers



Rob took the photos and they are shocking. Sorry that I do not have a nice one of David speaking to us. This one was taken when Len was seeking advice on a jelly substance found on many Bromeliads. David is a bug specialist not a bacterial specialist so he is seeking further advice. David gave us a wonderful talk on the bugs that affect our bromeliads. We ran out of time with all our questions. David is intending to send us a copy of his talk which I will put in the next Kabbrom.



Len pictured with his own hybrid Billbergias and the parents of those hybrids.

We are so lucky to have a member with so much knowledge and expertise involving our bromeliads.

My photos of his plants were as bad as Rob's so my apologies for not capturing the beauty of these plants.

Len gave us lots of growing tips.



Sheryl and Jeanette demonstrated the decimating of and the potting up of a *Tillandsia krukoffiana* and some lucky members took a plant home. Again the information imparted whilst they were working is invaluable to the new member and enables the more seasoned grower to quietly reassess his or her own processes.

SILHOUETTES

by Jude Pullin



MICHELLE FRASER

Michelle tells me she has been living at Scarborough for decades, she must love the area. Her collection started when Michelle stopped at a roadhouse at Glasshouse years ago and bought a Bromeliad. She now claims to have a disease called Bromitis which she has passed on to her sister and brother. I am sure it is contagious because there are lots of collectors out there in the plant world with Bromitis.

Michelle's favourite Brom is *Acanthostachys strobilacea* she finds this plant intriguing. Most of Michelle's collection is grown naturally under trees and mainly in pots.

Our monthly meetings are enjoyed by Michelle who is particularly keen on having guest speakers at our meetings as these people are usually very knowledgeable and always willing to share information. The monthly workshops are something Michelle would love to attend to further her knowledge and to also meet other keen growers. At our meetings Michelle also enjoys the variety of plants offered for sale by growers.

Keep up the enthusiasm Michelle.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

SNAP-A-BROM

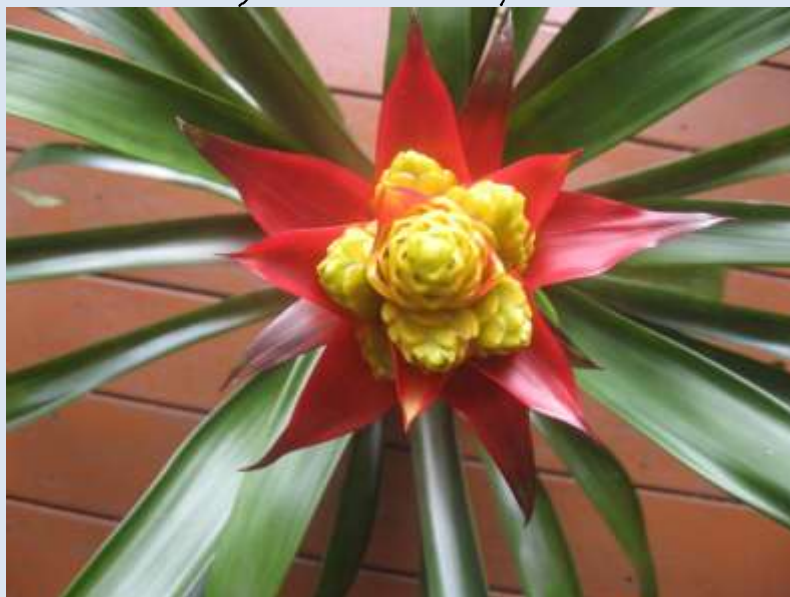
Winner for May:

Guzmania Trisha taken by Jeanette Robertson



Winner for June:

Guzmania Mango taken by Deanna Robertson



TEG'S PHOTO TIP

LIGHTING



Always use natural lighting when available. The best time to photograph is early in the morning when the light is sharp or later in the afternoon when the light is softer. During the middle of the day the light is too harsh & will “blow out” the beautiful colour of your broms. Believe it or not, cloudy days are the best days to shoot because clouds are a natural diffuser of light.

If shooting indoors, be aware of the type of light bulbs used. Many cameras these days have a setting that allows you to adjust the tone (white balance) according to what lighting is used. Read your manual under the white balance section. You should be able to choose between day light, cloudy, tungsten, fluorescent and a few custom settings. This will help you produce natural looking colours in your photos.

Don't be afraid to use your flash even when the sun is shining. It can help to shoo away shadows.

Sometimes making a box out of semitransparent white material and then inserting the plant in the centre can help the white balance and create a more natural looking plant photograph. However, this can take some practice!

Be aware of shadows. Our eyes are so used to constantly altering the light that comes through that we don't always pick up a shadow that is in the picture. We only notice it when looking at our finished photos. If you are using a flash, this can create shadows.

CABOOLTURE AND DISTRICTS BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC

Postal Address: P O Box 748 Caboolture QLD 4510

MEETING VENUE: Combined Services Club, 21 Hayes Street, Caboolture. 1:30pm start.

MEETING DATES FOR 2012

July	28	Guest Speaker NARELLE AIZLEWOOD Judging Bromeliads
August		25
September	22	Guest speaker ARNO KING Landscaping
October		21 & 22 Overnight Bus Trip
October		27
November	24	Christmas Party

Our society has posted our Club News on the website of the Bromeliad Australia - check it out at www.bromeliad.org.au via the front page, Clubs, Caboolture or the direct link is <http://www.bromeliad.org.au/news/CBS.htm>

WHAT'S ON IN 2012

4th August 7-4 Morayfield Shopping Centre Sales and Display

6,7,8 September 9-4:30 Laidley Garden Clubs Annual Gardens & Flowers event Laidley Cultural Centre, Plainland Rd, Laidley Entry \$3 Ph. 5465 1129



Keep updated on the Bromeliad International website bsi.org
September 24 – October 1, 2012

13th 8-3 & 14th October 9-2 Bromeliad Extravaganza Community Hall 175 Edinburgh Castle Road Wavell Heights

20th & 21st October Overnight Bus Trip

Agenda

Saturday

Bob & True Grant AUSTRALIAN BROMELIAD WHOLESAL NURSERY

Morning Tea

Ross Little and Helen Clewett PINEGROVE BROMELIAD NURSERY

LUNCH

Evening

Staying overnight at Ballina. Possibility of a river cruise for dinner. (This part is in negotiation still!)

Sunday

Kerry Booth Tate PRIVATE GARDEN

Gloria & Tom Dunbar PRIVATE GARDEN

3rd November 8-4 & 4th November 9-3 Bromeliad Bonanza Brisbane Table Tennis centre 86 Green Terrace Windsor. Entry \$4



March 15 – March 18 2013

Register after March 31st and before December 31st, 2012 NZ\$280

Register after December 31st 2012 NZ\$300

Email: coolbroms@bsnz.org or visit our website: www.bsnz.org

OFFICERS

President	Kayleen Courtney	3886 9521
Vice President	Ron Murray	5446 0230
Secretary	Lyn Trail	5429 0487
Treasurer	Rob Murray	3888 2637
Membership Secretary	Lorraine Rolley	3285 2743
Committee Member: Editor	Barbara Murray	3888 2637
Committee Member: Hostess	Jeanette Robertson	5429 0146
Committee Member: Librarian	Leonie Foster	5438 7869
Committee Member: Plant Steward	Len Waite	5496 7795
Committee Member: Popular Vote	Jude Pullin	5429 0146
Committee Member: Raffles	Sheryl Waite	5496 7795

HALL STEWARDS

Plant Sales	Sue & Ron Murray
Hall Set Up	Pat Robertson
Catering	Deanna Robertson