

Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 20th November 2014 at 11 a.m.

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery
114 Pine Street Wardell 2477
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Discussion: October 2014
General Discussion

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Meeting 18th September 2014

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am
The 16 members and three visitor present were welcomed.
A total of 11 apologies were received.

General Business

Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were lots of apologies due to so many other events on in our area, those members who attended were reminded to please write any apologies they were aware of into the attendance book.

Ross and Lesley (our Groups Tillnuts) attended another Tillandsia workshop in Brisbane and reported that it was a very worthwhile bi-monthly event to attend. John Olsen and Bruce Dunstan showed many different forms of *Tillandsia funckiana*. Barry Genn displayed quite a number of his own beautiful hybrid creations. The theme for the day was 'red Tillandsias', Lesley took along a very nice *Till.* 'Marron', *Till. bradeana*, *Till. brachycaulos* and a gorgeous little *Till. sprengeliana* proudly showing off its pendant red inflorescence. The technical part of the day was understanding one of the taxonomic differences used to differentiate between *Vriesea* and *Tillandsia*. This part of the day's discussions was up to Ross who felt the best way to show this was to dissect a *Vriesea* flower, a large one was used as the nectar scales are easier to see with the naked eye. It was explained to the Group that *Tillandsia* DO NOT have these nectar scales. Unfortunately only tiny *Tillandsia* flowers were available on the day with little time for fiddling so no *Tillandsias* were harmed during the discussion !
Notes and photos page 7.

Ross also reminded us all about the Conference at Parramatta which is getting closer, so if you are contemplating going it is advisable to make accommodation arrangements soon. If you ask around there is often somebody willing to share where the main stipulation as far as accommodation goes is NO SNORING !

In his travels during the last month Ross also attended the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Show which was held in conjunction with the Orchid Show and this was also very good, with only a single box of plants finding a new home.

Trish informed us of the correct pronunciation of 'Oaxaca' (wah-HAH-kah) which was mentioned in Doug Binns' article in the September Newsletter, making it easier for us to read.

Trish had also received an e-mail from Don thanking us for the Get Well card and stating that he hoped to be able to get back to the Group meetings soon.

Les initiated a very worthwhile discussion about our monthly competition. His first question was "What is a Novice"? It was agreed that a novice was someone who had been growing bromeliads for less than 5 years and had never won a competition. If you have been growing bromeliads for more than 5 years or win the Novice annual trophy you move up to the Open section.

If you put a plant in Novice or Open (not both) you can also put an entry in the Decorative section.

Les's discussion then centred on whether clumps could be entered in the Open or Novice competition or if it had to be a single plant. In previous discussions regarding clumps it was agreed that these were to be singularly connected. However the question was asked that providing a clump, not necessarily singularly connected but well established, "could this be entered into competition?" After some discussion it was agreed that clumps represent many years of growing be it singularly connected or individually planted, providing the clump is well established and not thrown together into a pot the day before, **YES** they could be entered. It is up to the individual if they want to put their plant in the Open, Novice or Decorative section. Members are bringing in nice clumps which Ross thinks is great and it is their choice which section they would like their plant to go in, bearing in mind the meaning of decorative if entering into that section.

Les asked what kind of presentation is required in the Decorative section. An entry can be a single plant, a clump or multi-plantings but should be in, or mounted on, or in decorative materials, whether natural or man made. Also included are all decorative baskets, decorative dish gardens and decorative terrariums. Emphasis is placed on harmony or contrast between plant(s) and container. (taken in part from the BSI Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors). For our group Decorative and Artistic are included in the one section. Artistic is floral design with bromeliads and other materials, either natural or man-made. It is acceptable to conceal a utilitarian pot in a decorative pot.
Is a flowering plant decorative? Yes, if it is presented in a decorative container.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was decided that members place their plants where they thought was most suitable and above all enjoy your plants! As Laurie commented the competition is not about winning, it's about participating and seeing what other people are growing and hopefully this has cleared up some of the confusion for the newer members.

Ross showed how well personal insect spray cleans writing off pots and how it brightens up pots for presentation into competition. Les reminded us to spray it onto a rag first as the hydrocarbons in the spray can damage your plants.

Ross has 10 copies of 'Brom Mania' for sale which are all signed and dated by the author. They are written in Thai but Ross is hoping to get a translation done. The book was first published in 2013 and consists of 230 pages of beautifully photographed bromeliads of most genera and also includes photographs of gardens and nurseries, making it a very worthwhile addition to your library. One of the most appealing aspects of this book, giving it a point of difference to other publications are the amazing watercolour illustrations. Even though the book is written in Thai, we are fortunate that the photographs of each bromeliad species is identified by its botanical name, whilst the names of all the hybrids are written in English. One copy is to go in the Group's Library.

Ross demonstrated removing pups from an *Alcantarea* for Michelle. It is quite often much easier to take the plant out of the pot first, starting at the bottom working your way around, remove the lower leaves until you can easily access the pups. Gently ease the pup away from the mother plant and cut downwards at the point of connection. He followed the same process with a second plant showing that you can cut straight down and take some of the mother plant with the pup. If a pup is cut a bit short or even snapped short, drop it into the leaf axil of another bromeliad and the pup should form roots.

Wendy announced she will be moving to Queensland and so would be leaving the Study Group. We will be sorry to see her and Ian go and wish them all the best.

Warren demonstrated some artistic arrangements for us and has us all inspired to enter the Decorative section of the competition next month. (photos p.9)

The first arrangement he showed, which was already completed, used crucifix orchids with moss and lichen covering the oasis.

The next arrangement was called 'The Waterfall' and this gave the idea of water flowing over rocks. Warren used various fungi and material from 'down the back' of Ross and Helen's property. He used the idea at last year's Sydney Royal Easter Show and was awarded 2nd place. He showed how to camouflage the oasis with moss, using hairpins to attach it securely. This is necessary as the judges look at the arrangement from all angles. He does drawings of his ideas before he starts.

Next he did a tall arrangement called 'The Forest', and lastly his 'grande finale' which was on a large piece of driftwood and was quite spectacular. This piece was taken to Woodburn Orchid Show the following day where it was awarded 'Champion Floral Arrangement' (photo p.10). Now Ross knows where all his Vriesea flower spikes went !

Neoregelia macwilliamsii

Derek Butcher

This all started with yet another parcel from John Catlan in Queensland which contained a plant named *Neoregelia macwilliamsii*. Now we all know the difference between *Neo. macwilliamsii* and *Neo. compacta*, don't we? One is bigger than the other!

This saga began about twenty years ago when we grew *Neo. compacta* in Adelaide where it flowered in the middle of winter and promptly died. Eventually it dawned on us that the plant didn't like living in Adelaide. Some ten years ago we heard about *Neo. macwilliamsii* growing rampant in Queensland so we thought we'd have another try. And yes, *Neo. macwilliamsii* grows rampantly in Adelaide too, but does not flower! So, I have to rely on my mates such as John Catlan to send me the odd parcel now and again with a flowering specimen.

First things first. I had to photograph the plant and its sex parts before starting dissecting. This was finished and there was a discussion with the female of the household as to whether the top third of the petal was mauve (Isley #45) on the outside, and Rose pink (#37) on the inside, or was it lilac (#44). This seemed to depend on whether you looked at the comparison chart indoors or outdoors! Anyway, it seemed more scientific than L.B. Smith's red for *Neo. compacta* and nothing for *Neo. macwilliamsii*!

The comparison began and we came very close to *Neo. macwilliamsii*, despite the fact that long stolons are not mentioned in the formal description. The centre leaves were red with small green dots as specified and all other detail seemed to nearly match.

Harry Luther has always pointed out to me the similarity between the two species and that *Neo. macwilliamsii* could be conspecific. In fact, he believes the only difference is that *Neo. macwilliamsii* is a *Neo. compacta* with one or two genes from *Neo. marmorata*.

This makes you think of a Skotak hybrid, only it has happened in the wild and could be represented by the formula *Neo. compacta* X *compacta* X *marmorata* X *compacta* !

What does intrigue me is that L.B. Smith named *Neo. macwilliamsii* in 1969 when he was aware of the existence of *Neo. compacta*. If you use Smith's key using the *Neo. macwilliamsii* description you come to *Neo. compacta*! However, he decided to compare *Neo. macwilliamsii* with *Neo. carolinae*. Let me digress for a moment, when a botanist describes a new species they must either describe the plant totally in Latin or do a comparison with another species in Latin.

A Latin comparison is easier and seems more popular. As a layman I used to think they would pick a species more closely allied but now I am not sure. The cynic in me keeps suggesting that if 'A' differed from 'B' because of width of leaf, then it would be quickly spotted as a synonym. If 'A' differed from 'C' because of a number of factors, the outcome would be more clouded! Hence my concern in Smith's comparison of *Neo. macwilliamsii* with *Neo. carolinae*, rather than with *Neo. compacta*.

You are no doubt aware that I have correspondents all around the world and luckily all write and understand Australian. I have one very good contact in Hawaii who is always having problems with correctly named 'species' imported from mainland U.S.A. So we compare notes. Lisa Vinzant said this: "The giant form of *compacta* is sometimes called *macwilliamsii*, although it exhibits flower morphology similar to the smaller *compacta*. Apparently, it has a strong gene for marmoration since 100% of its hybrid offspring so far have been spotted plants, whereas *compacta* crossed with some other parent (e.g. *concentrica*) has shown none of this. Also, you can tell the difference between the two not long after germination. A seedling with one *macwilliamsii* parent, be it male or female is long and grassy in a way that sets it apart from any Neoregelia I've seen. I'm not saying that is enough to qualify it as a separate species, just that there is more here than meets the eye"

For those who use photographs or paintings to assist in naming plants, there is a botanical painting by Margaret Mee that looks identical to *Neo. macwilliamsii* even to the small green spots on the red centre leaves BUT is called *Neo. compacta*!

The *Neo. compacta* saga continues in Australia where John Catlan has promised to send me a flowering portion of a true *Neo. compacta* grown in Queensland for comparison purposes. Apparently, there is a range of plants in Queensland, from the compact *compacta* to an extra large, rarely flowering rampant *macwilliamsii*, (I think they let Adelaide have the last-mention to keep us quiet!).

The *Neo. compacta* and *Neo. macwilliamsii* offset well and I cannot see the necessity to grow these from seed. So, how did this range of plants occur? Have successive waves of importation from the U.S.A., each bringing in a 'true' clone with little pedigree?.

Bromletter July/August 1998-Volume 36, Number 4

(Photo page 8 Wendy Buddle's *Neoregelia macwilliamsii*)

Tillandsia ionantha 'Pink Champagne'

by Lesley Baylis 2014

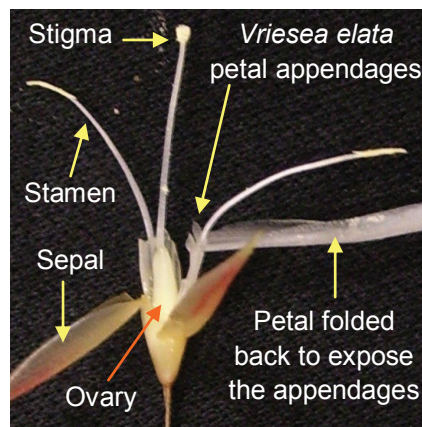
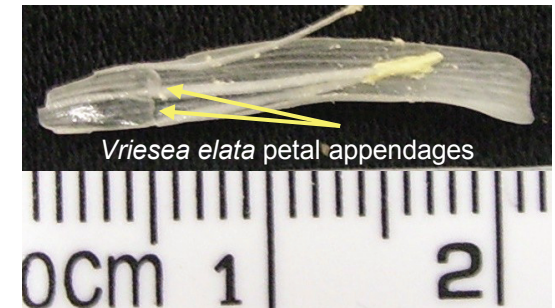
It seems that this Spring there are a lot of plants (broms of course!) flowering really well. Maybe it was the colder winter or the drier period that we are experiencing but it's very good to see the results..... Everyone is probably familiar with the red leaved *Tillandsia ionantha* but there are now so many different cultivars of



this plant and a particularly nice one is called "Pink Champagne". When seen close to the normal red *ionantha* for comparison it shows how beautiful it's pale leaves are. Mine are all growing outside of the shade house under a tropical peach tree which allows bright light during the Winter months, when the tree has shed its leaves, and then filtered light during Summer.

Petal Appendages / Nectar Scales / Callosities

It is believed these appendages / scales are most probably involved in nectar management, retention and presentation. Other thoughts for their use is as feeding-part (tongue) guide and also protection against nectar desiccation. These appendages are the last structure to be formed in a flower.



Bromelioideae have 2 appendages per petal on the adaxial surface of the petal.

Pitcairnioideae have a single blade generally quite large and conspicuous.

Tillandsioideae have 2 that are variable in size and shape, typically large while in some species they are small and obscure.

Taken from: Petal Appendages in Bromeliaceae
Gregory K. Brown and Randall G. Terry
American Journal of Botany 79 (9): 1051-1071. 1992.

Photos by Ross Little



Aechmea tessmanii 'Rubra'
equal 1st Open Marie Essery



Quesnelia quesneliana
equal 1st Open Kay Daniels



Neoregelia mcwilliamsii
1st Novice Wendy Buddle



Neoregelia 'Predator'
grown by Trish Kelly



Cryptanthus 'New Coster's Favorite'
grown by Les Higgins



Orthophytum 'Warana'
grown by Jeanette Henwood



Tillandsia mounting under development
by Wendy Buddle



Warren Hulbert putting together 3 of his creations, top left won 1st Decorative.
One of his pieces won Champion Decorative at Woodburn Orchid Show 2014.

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little

The Six-Headed Best-in-Show Winner

by Stan Oleson



A six-headed, best-in-show prize winning *Aechmea fasciata* 'Silver King'.

Rowena Thompson of Wilmington, California, began her bromeliad career in 1979 with a gift: *Aechmea fasciata* 'Silver King'. When the South Bay Bromeliad Associates was preparing its annual show in May 1981, Rowena told me of her aechmea that now had three inflorescences. She had removed the mother plant when the three pups were about half the size of the mother and had been rewarded with three, equally beautiful plants in one pot. I encouraged her to enter it into competition. She won a second place award.

Later that year, with two large pups on each of the three mother plants, she again cut off the mother plants leaving the pups in the original pot. Since the six pups were crowding one another I suggested that she apply wooden spacers to encourage a symmetrical pattern. During the August 1983 South Bay Bromeliad Associates Show, Rowena won best-in-show for this outstanding specimen with the six, striking, pink inflorescences dotted with lavender-blue flowers.

Rowena did something that most of us usually do not do. Instead of cutting off the pups to increase her collection, she removed the mother plant to increase the size of her specimen plant. Now we are waiting to see if each plant will again produce two pups. What a show stopper that would be: twelve blooms.

San Pedro, California

Reprinted from: B.S.I. Journal — 1985 V3 (1)

Tillandsia hamaleana E. Morren

by Prof. Dr. W. Rauh

(Syn: *Wallisia hamaleana* E. Morren, 1870; *Phytarhizia hamaleana* E. Morren, 1870; *Tillandsia commelyna* E. Morr. ex E. Morren, 1870; *Tillandsia platyphylla* Baker, 1888)

On my expedition to northern Peru in 1967 I found on my way to Ayabaca at an altitude of 2600 m an old tree covered with a number of beautiful Tillandsias and Vrieseas. One of the most exciting Tillandsias among them was *Tillandsia hamaleana*, which has already flowered for the second time in our bromeliad greenhouse. As it has big, dark violet flowers similar to *Till. lindenii* and *Till. cyanea*, has a pleasant scent, and a very long flowering time (about one month).

Tillandsia hamaleana is one of the green Tillandsias of medium size. It forms stemless rosettes of a height of 30 - 40 cm including the inflorescence. The leaves are soft, fresh green, ligulate, 20 - 30 cm long, 3 - 4 cm broad and scarcely adpressed lepidote. The upper part of the leaves is curved back and tapering into a short acute tip. The sheaths are pale green and not contrasted with the blade. The inflorescence is erect and only a little bit longer than the leaves (about 30-40 cm). The scape is slender, 10-15 cm long and covered by the sheaths of the scape bracts. The inflorescence consists of mostly three spikes, a terminal one and two lateral spreading ones. Each spike sits on a short (0,5 cm) pedicel, is up to 6 cm long and 2,5 cm broad, and bears 8 to 12 flowers in two ranks. The primary bracts are shorter than the spikes, very thin, drying soon, red brown coloured and gray lepidote. The flower bracts are sharply keeled in their upper part, red-brown, gray lepidote and thin.

The big flowers have a diameter of 3-4 cm. They are deep violet when opening, with a white centre ("eye"). The blades of the petals are broad and spread when fully developed. The colour gradually changes to a pale violet-blue when the petals will become reflexed. Style and stamens are deep included. The blossoms stay open for several days.

If you keep a flowering plant in your room, the whole room will soon be perfumed by the pleasant fragrance of the flowers. (Editor: the perfume is exquisite)

The culture of this plant is easy in a pot with a mixture of peat and sand, but grows equally well as an epiphyte mounted on grape-wood. Like all green Tillandsias, *Till. hamaleana* does not need much light but requires high humidity.



Reprinted in part from: BSI Journal, 1970, Vol. 20, No. 4

Photo by Lesley Baylis 2014

The Root of the Matter



Roots, no one can dispute the importance of roots. What would a tree be without them? We eat roots, use them in medicine and extract industrial chemicals from them. Roots, by their very nature, evoke strength, stability, tenacity and have inspired us to adapt 'roots' into our daily language. While money may be 'the root of all evil'. And it is important to get to 'the root of the problem'. On the positive side, most of our lives are 'rooted in faith'. Heaven

knows that to be a rootless drifter goes against our sense of security, and we therefore advise our children and fellow man to 'put roots down'.

So what does all this root talk have to do with plants? Nothing much actually, it only serves to point out the importance that people put on roots. But what of plants, aren't roots at least equally important to plants? The answer, of course, is yes. However, not all plants! When one begins to speak of epiphytic and lithophytic plants, we begin to enter the 'Twilight Zone' of our preconceived notions about roots.

Surprisingly, people who collect or grow bromeliads, orchids and other epiphytic plants, often draw the line when it comes to treating them like real epiphytes. The very idea of roots, without soil, can function at all, seems to cause severe doubt. However, one need only look at these amazing plants in their natural habitats to learn to appreciate the genius of their design, one that has allowed almost 10% of all plants to adapt to some sort of epiphytism. In all, some 84 plant families have adapted some or all of their members to an epiphytic lifestyle. No, we won't name them all, but in order of relevant abundance, here are a few of the top families in the epiphyte hierarchy: Orchids, two out of three are canopy epiphytes. Ferns, a surprising 29% of ferns are found in forest canopies. The *Araceae*, such as *Anthurium* and *Philodendron*, contains many epiphytic members and among the *Bromeliaceae*, fully half of its members are epiphytic.

Most epiphytic plants are monocots, but dicots are also well represented. Other plant families with strong tendencies towards epiphytism are the *Cactaceae* (cactus), *Ericaceae* (Blueberry Family) *Gesneriaceae*, *Melastomataceae* and *Pipeaceae*. There are even some surprises, *Zamia pseudoparisitica*, a rather large Cycad, grows only as an epiphyte. Its large seeds, are distributed by birds, amazingly take hold rapidly in what would seem an extremely hostile environment for such a plant. The mechanics of seed dispersal among epiphytes is truly amazing, but we are now wandering precariously away from the root of our story.

Roots of non-epiphytic plants serve the purpose of holding the plant upright or in place and providing moisture and food to the rest of the organism. These 'normal' plants have roots that do not have the ability to regulate water loss to prevent desiccation when water is scarce. They will take up water whenever it is present, and shed water when it is not. To this end, non-epiphytes have developed strategies to reduce water loss in dry or other stressful situations. Foliage drop is perhaps the most common and conspicuous method, followed by root loss. Tap roots often form large caudices or storage organs which serve to regenerate previously shed roots and foliage, when drought conditions abate.

But what of epiphytes? These plants face all of the same stress factors as other plants, perhaps even more. While most epiphytic plants occur in pluvial or very wet forests where conditions are pretty much the same all year-round, providing abundant moisture and moderate temperatures, some epiphytes are to be found in xeric habitats as well. All these plants have a common need to be held in place, gather food and moisture and to reproduce and disperse seed. It is hard to imagine a less hospitable place than the canopy of a tree for the support of the plant. Far away from soils and their incumbent moisture and stability, these plants have developed mechanisms to attach themselves and take up precious water and nutrients. So then it might be safe to assume that a plant, if not earth bound, is an epiphyte and therefore must have the same survival techniques from one type of epiphytic plant to another. Not so. Many plants living in the forest canopy are growing almost a terrestrial existence, rooting into densely matted layers of mosses and roots of other species where moisture levels are more or less constant, these are often referred to as 'continuously supplied epiphytes'. However, most epiphytic plants live in places where water may be available only seasonally and some ability to survive prolonged periods without a fresh supply is essential to their continued survival, these are referred to as 'pulse supplied epiphytes'. Their adaptation to epiphytism is varied, but most have at least some ability to limit water loss or to store water for future use. Some epiphytes, such

as Cycads, Ericads and some members of the *Rubiaceae*, form a caudex for water and food storage. Other plants, such as cactus and gesneriads are stem succulents, a group that many orchids fall into as well. Then there is external storage means by which some plants are able to survive drought. Tank type bromeliads are an example. These plants have a water retaining vase or bowl-like shape that retains sometimes large volumes of water. Trichomes or hairs on the leaf surfaces can avail the plant to this water source, even during times of little rainfall. Some aroids and orchids are known as 'trash basket' epiphytes. Forming a network of aerial, non attachment roots to form a 'basket' that effectively catches leaves and other debris from the host tree. This debris becomes compost and a source of moisture and nutrients.

Some epiphytes fall into the group called facultative epiphytes, having the ability to survive as a terrestrial or adapt to life as an epiphyte. Many of the more mesic bromeliads such as *Neoregelia*, *Aechmea*, etc, fall into this category. But, perhaps the most interesting of the epiphytic plants are the xerophytes, those adapted to life in the most inhospitable environments, where water is a scarce and occasional commodity. Such plants have developed means to both avoid and endure drought condition.

Not surprisingly, given the general diversity of plant families involved, these plants have developed some different strategies for survival in xeric habitats. Orchids tend to depend upon their root systems for holdfasts and water and nutrient gathering, even photosynthesis in some cases. The roots of orchids and other plants like some *Anthuriums*, are covered with a spongy material called velamen, a structure that can vary from one cell to many cells thick. On species that photosynthesize with their roots (an adaption unique to epiphytes) the velamen layer must necessarily be thinner. The velamen helps prevent transpiratory loss of moisture from the root surface while serving as a storage organ. The velamen itself is non living tissue, filled with fissures and channels and does not shrink or expand appreciably when either wet or dry. Velamen can play host to mycorrhizal fungi, which may aid some orchids with nutrient fixation. Rapid uptake and retention of water is essential in xeric epiphytes and to this end the velamen works very well. It instantly absorbs water, quickly filling all its internal cavities to capacity by capillary action then retaining it for take up by the root's transfer cells.

Orchids in general are wholly dependant on their root systems. There is little doubt that a healthy root system is essential to the health and survival of orchids. In fact, some orchids have abandoned their foliage and stems in favour

of a leafless existence, carrying their chlorophyll in their root systems. But what of bromeliads? As epiphytes and xerophytes sharing much of the same habitat as orchids, they share the same stress factors but answer them in different ways.

Xerophytic bromeliads notably *Tillandsias*, use their roots primarily as holdfast. Wirelike roots are tough and lack a covering of velamen like that found in orchids. To gather and retain moisture, these plants have highly developed trichomes or peltate scales which act as does the velamen, to instantly capture and store water. The water is trapped in the dead storage tissue and absorbed through specially adapted one way cells. Contrary to the leafless orchids, bromeliads are wholly dependant upon their leaves. However as there are leafless orchids, so there are rootless bromeliads. *Tillandsia usneoides* the ubiquitous 'Spanish Moss' is the most common example, but there are many more. All the 'rootless' Tillandsias produce roots in their seedling stage, then abandon them with maturity. Many such rootless species are lithophytes living among boulders on stony ground, but there are some epiphytic ones, aside from *Tillandsia usneoides*, as well. One good example is *Tillandsia duratii*, which as a rootless epiphyte, uses its leaves as tendrils to grasp and hold twigs to prevent it from dislodging.

A common misconception about epiphytes is their presumed ability to absorb moisture directly from the air. *Tillandsias* especially are often called 'air plants', fostering the notion that they do not need contact with water. Water vapour (humidity) will help epiphytes reduce their moisture transpiration, but will not be absorbed by them. Direct wetting by fogs, rain or artificial means in cultivation, is essential to their survival.

Tropiflora Cargo Report Vol. 9 #2 June, 1999

From the BSI Glossary

Ligulate — Shaped like a strap; lingulate.

Lithophyte — A plant that grows on rocks but obtains its nourishment from the atmosphere and from accumulated humus in the fissures.

Mesic — Of the moisture conditions typifying a mesophyte, i.e. regular availability of moisture.

Mesophyte — A plant with optimum growth within the mean of temperature and moisture gradients.

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Wendy Buddle	<i>Neoregelia macwilliamsii</i>
2nd	Les Higgins	<i>Cryptanthus 'New Coster's Favorite'</i>
3rd	Flo Danswan	<i>Edmundoa lindenii</i> var. <i>rosea</i>

Open Popular Vote

1st	Marie Essery	<i>Aechmea tessmanii</i> 'rubra'
1st	Kay Daniels	<i>Quesnelia quesneliana</i>
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Judges Choice

1st	Marie Essery	<i>Aechmea tessmanii</i> 'rubra'
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Decorative

1st	Warren Hulbert	Untitled floral arrangement
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Comments from the Growers.

Wendy grows most of her plants in the garden including her *Neo. macwilliamsii*. When she comes across a plant that is usually green then all of a sudden there is a nice surprise that the plant has turned red she likes to bring it along to show us all. This was an unnamed plant Wendy won in the raffle, it is grown under the dappled light of tree ferns which get watered only when it rains.

Les acquired his *Cryptanthus* 'New Coster's Favorite' from Margaret Paterson, the plant he had on show this month is the first pup from that original acquisition. It is grown under 25% white shade cloth overlaid with 50% green or beige shade cloth. This plant can vary in colour from green/white to dark pink.

Flo grows most of her plant under 70% beige shade cloth, she waters and feeds the plants sparingly

Marie bought her plant 2 years ago from Robina. It is under 70% beige shade cloth and as it hangs near the top of her shade house it gets very good light.

Kay's *Quesnelia* does very well under the shade of trees and has been very prolific having pups. This plant is a pup from the original mother plant. It is very easy to care for.

Warren gathered all the plants, inflorescences, fungi, mosses etc. he required to embellish his Decorative floral creations from local sources. When he finds the bits and pieces he likes eg. logs etc. he gets his inspiration by the shape of each particular piece then sets about putting the arrangement together.