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Disclaimer:

This bi-monthly newsletter is intended to provide general information only for members of Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. Contributors and the Editorial Committee will not be responsible for any loss or damage to property or injury to persons regarding the information provided.

What's On When

- August 3** Meeting at Jo Allen's nursery, 340 Mawson's Rd, Beerwah. 2:00pm Great nursery!
- September 21** Deadline for newsletter contributions. Photos in jpeg file format please. High res. preferred. Don't have to write? Jottings or talk over phone is fine. All material acknowledged; editorial control is exercised as space is an issue-pardon pun.
- September 7** AGM at the Neighbourhood Centre, Glasshouse. Deadline for Olive Branch trip payment.
- October 5** Trip to Olive Branch Nursery operated by Olive & Len Trevor, 232 Canvey Rd. Ferney Grove. Bus departs Glasshouse P.O. 9:00 a.m. sharp, departs nursery at 2:00 pm. Bring your own supplies for morning tea and lunch. Olive will provide coffee/tea. We're privileged to be the *only* guests for this educational day. Cost only \$10 as subsidized by the society. Bookings taken at the August meeting.
- November 2** Meeting at Talbot Lodge, 4 Prudence Court, Upper Caboolture. Another great day!

Resources to Explore

www.sunshinecoastbromeliadsociety.com

www.fcbs.org Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Subtropical Gardening magazine's recent issue no. 12 available from our library, features *Puya mirabilis*, tells you why a dog might eat a brom (yes) and how to remove tired mother plants from their pups.

Smile!

Bad spellers of the world—untie!



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A serene spot in
Belinda and
Geoff's garden
Palmwoods

Glasshouse Country
Bromeliad Society
Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

August 2008

Meet You in My Garden!

"Home garden visits are a breath of fresh air! I get new ideas and renewed enthusiasm for what can be at times just plain hard work. Each garden reflects the personality and creativity of its owner. Absolutely lovely!" So one member described her pleasure over GCBS meetings hosted by members in their home gardens.

As we well know, garden meetings offer even more than inspiration. The informal setting enables us to get to know each other better, learn and also reinforces our love of the Glasshouse Mountain area.

Our appreciation for warmly welcoming us in recent months goes to: Belinda & Geoff Tilton of Palmwoods who hosted the "Christmas meeting"; and since then David & Karen Binstead of Maleny, Pat Pennell of Glasshouse Mountains, Bob & Margaret McLean of Beerwah who hosted a wonderful bbq lunch; and most recently, Jenny Cruice of Wamuran. *more on p.6*





President's Message

Dear GCBS members,

It is with deep regret this will be the last message to all members of the Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society.

Since its inception some three years ago, my wife and I have enjoyed the company of some wonderful people which would not have happened without the society.

Our common love of bromeliads has led us to visit some beautiful gardens and see some extraordinary plants. The knowledge gained from these meetings is shared knowledge helping you as it has us.

A big thank you to committee members who have helped with the organizational aspects of the club. You know who you are. Thank you once again.

Last but not least, there are the members. Without you there is no club. Club membership is going from strength to strength. There are some 50 members on the books now and ever increasing.

While the Baileys are unsure of the future, you can rest assured we will maintain contact with the club wherever we are.

Thank you all once again.

Norm & Bev Bailey

Who is Who

President: Norm Bailey

Vice President: Steve Hargreaves

Secretary: Margaret McLean

Treasurer: David Binstead

Librarian: Pat Pennell 5438 7375

Committee members: Kaye Notman, Bob Watkins

To Get In Touch:

Phone Norm at 5496 9601 or mail Box 424, Glasshouse Mountains 4518



Bulletin Board



Welcome new members **Tina Davidson** from Beerburum and **Jenny Davidson** from Wamuran!

Potting Mix is available from Ardie & Lou in Landsborough for \$4.50/ bag or \$12/3. You pick up or **ph: 5494-8426** for delivery to the meeting .

Fertilizer is available for \$5/tub at meetings.

Wanted to buy. **Galvanised iron piping** suitable for shade house construction. Ring Raymond **ph. 543 99485**

Free! Come take out and away two .5 m high *Agave americana* with offsets. Faye **ph. 5494-7116**

Elaine's Mystery Bromeliad Unmasked!

Last year Elaine Charles of Maleny thoughtfully shared loose cuttings of a nameless bromeliad. What was it? Be baffled no longer! When it flowered, Len identified it as an *Aechmea caudata*. If you have one, now you can tag it.



Aechmea caudata are described in Andrew Steen's *Bromeliads for the contemporary garden* (2003) as a vigorous growers which should be planted where they can dominate an area. This very hardy bromeliad is able to withstand salt spray, frost and wind. "Reddish bracts and lime-yellow florets appear on a 1m tall, branched flower stem, giving the distinct impression from a distance that the flower spike is a deep orange. In full sun the leaves turn a golden green..." Andrew Steen's books are available from our library.



Do you have a surprising discovery or story about a bromeliad in your collection to share with us? Anything about reciprocal relationships between bromeliads and wildlife? gcbnews@gmail.com Ph:5494-7116

Plants of the Month



Guess who truly has pride of place in Sheryl and Len's hearts, the winning tills or grandson, Jacob?

June

Advanced:

1st Sheryl Waite, *Tillandsias* (pic left)

Novice:

1st Bob McLean, *Aechmea caudata*

2nd Ann McCormack, *Cryptanthus*

July

Advanced: none

Novice:

1st Mark Pearce, *Neoreglia garnish* (pic below)

2nd Lou Baker, *Vriesea*

3rd tied Ann McCormack's, *Cryptanthus rosie* and

Bob McLean's, *Guzmania*



Mark's *Neoreglia garnish*

Note: The Advanced category is for experienced growers and the Novice category for new growers. The most frequently successful Novice at year's end moves to Advanced for the following year. Place winner or not, all broms entered are admired and appreciated!

Wanted! Photos of
PotMs with their
person if possible.

Sheryl and Len Go to the World Conference!

When the 18th World Bromeliad Conference was held in Cairns this June 2008 the conference was a significant event both for Australia and personally for two of our members, Sheryl and Len Waite.

Originally the conference had been scheduled for New Orleans but owing to the impact of Hurricane Katrina was moved to Cairns, the *first time ever* that the conference had been held outside the USA.

Over 300 of what the ABC described as the "world's leading and most passionate bromeliad experts and enthusiasts" participated from throughout Australia, Japan, South America, South Africa, Europe, N.Z. and the USA. Len and Sheryl were there too enjoying seminars, observing a Rare Plant auction where broms sold for up to \$100 each and also to talking face-to-face with people who, up until now, they had only known through books and websites (*see below*). "It was like being back at school but in an interesting way", said Len. However, there was more in store for our intrepid Queenslanders...

Len and Sheryl also entered competitions. Unsurprisingly, they so impressed judges that they were awarded:

Three (3) trophy awards: Bob Whitman Award for best specie, *Cryptanthus beuckeri*; Grace Goode Award for the best miniature *Neoreglia* "Small World in Show"; Best Flowering Bromeliad *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*.

Add to the trophies, 11 Merit Awards (which for some odd reason are higher than a First Place award); 4 First awards and 2 Second awards.

We look forward to congratulating these two awesome growers in person and seeing their blue ribbon plants!



L to R: Michael Kiehl from Florida, Sheryl, Shane Zaghini author of *Bromeliads Next Generation* and *A Guide to a Beautiful Neoreglia*; and Karen Holzheimer from Bundaberg.

Meet Your My Garden! contd.

If you are wondering what you need to provide in order to host a meeting, the answer is ... your garden and a place for chairs. GMBS provides coffee, tea, milk and an urn for hot water. Members bring their own picnic chair, mug and enthusiasm. Some memories...



Hosts Geoff & Belinda take a breather!



There's more than broms to our meetings! Jo with "Patchy", Norm and Bev's dog.

"To plant a garden is to believe
in tomorrow"

Amor



Red leaved broms crown grey-green succulent tresses in Jenny's garden.



Ardie happily holds the flower of an *Aechmea serrata*



Timely Tips for August & September

Len offers this advice for August and September:

1. **Weed and spray** walkways around the nursery using Bindii & Clover Killer, Zero, or Roundup. Prevent weeds from flowering and their seeds germinating in spring time by carefully removing all of them from your pots.
2. **Inspect each *Neoregelia*** carefully by lifting it up and inspecting it from all angles. **Cut off dead leaves** at the base or it will develop scale. If you do see scale, spray with systemic killers such as Confidor or Dimethoate.
3. Need to **pot pups**? Start after the Brisbane Exhibition (Ekka) and **fertilize** them with low nitrogen Osmocote. When taking pups off the mother plant spread a little Organic Extra around the base and she may give you more! Guzmanias and Vrieseas need a touch more than other broms.
4. Get your **plants into good light** so as to toughen them up for summer. After all, who needs all-green bromeliads?
5. From mid-August **boost yellow/pale broms with Organic Extra** and don't forget to fertilize your lawn with Eco 88 or similar.
6. **Water broms only when necessary** in these winter months and then in the morning only. This applies especially for *Cryptanthus* which hate being wet at night. Rainfall is alright as it means the atmospheric temperature is warm.

Want to "show" your plant?

Len and Sheryl offer these hints: Inspect your bromeliad for scale or other damage and deal with any problems. When happy with the situation, apply some final tender loving care by washing the plant and also the pot. Sheryl uses a baby's bottle brush; the small end is for washing rubbish out of the throat of the plant and the big end is for gently brushing the rest. Presentation counts as much for bromeliads as it does for people!

Finally, never use oil of any kind to make your plant shine as ultimately oil causes permanent damage to your precious plant.