

## Editorial

Faye Chambers

Margaret v. Konigsmark

Pat Pennell

## Contact

gcbnews@gmail.com

## Contributors this Issue:

Jo Allen

Margaret McLean

Bob McLean

Len Waite

## Disclaimer:

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

## What's On When

- Oct. 11- 12** **Wavell Heights Bromeliad Spectacular**, Community Hall. First release in Australia of two new *Vriesea* species.
- Oct. 11** **Stockade Nursery Open Day** at 70 Wades Rd., Bellmere 9-12 am. Australia's largest range of Alcantarea, over 20 avail. Giant Neos and Tank Tills. Eftpos & Credit card facilities.
- Nov. 2** **Meeting at Sheryl and Len's "Talbot Lodge"**, 2:00 pm. 5 Prudence Court, Upper Caboolture. Guest speaker. Bring chair. Afternoon tea provided.
- Nov. 8-9** **Spring Show** at Mt Coot-tha hosted by Qld Bromeliad Society, \$3 admission.
- Dec. 7** **Christmas meeting hosted by Avril Belcher**, 2:00 pm. 24 Ridgemount Place, Glasshouse Mountains.

Check Events Diary [www.sunshinecoastbromelaid.society.com](http://www.sunshinecoastbromelaid.society.com)

## Jenny Cruice's Smile!



Welcome new members Patricia and Norman Butler!



## Inside!

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| President's Message | 2 |
| Len's Tips          | 3 |
| Plants of the Month | 4 |
| Jo's Guzzies        | 6 |
| Plant Names         | 7 |
| What's On When      | 8 |

# Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2

October 2008

## Our Management Committee for 2008-9!



What a happy crew! Elected at September's AGM you see from left to right, **President, Bob McLean** and **Secretary, Margaret McLean** who when asked what is their favourite genus said they enjoy all at present, no favourites; **Committee member Kaye Notman** favours the *Vriesea* and *Neoreglia* for their interesting flowers and **Bob Watkins**, likes best *Alcantarea* and *Tillandsia*; **Treasurer, David Binstead** rather likes the *Neoreglia*. Not present : **Vice President, Len Waite** likes all but if any, is inclined towards the *Billbergia*; **Librarian, Pat Pennell** favours the *Tillandsia*.

## To Get In Touch:

Phone Margaret at 5494 6098 or  
mail Box 424, Glasshouse Mountains 4518

## President's Message

Hello all!

Thank you for inviting me to be the president for 2008-09.

I would like to start by thanking Norm & Bev for the work they have done in getting the Brom club in Glasshouse Mountains off the ground. The past few years we have seen the club go from a small group meeting at Norm & Bev's house to an incorporated body meeting all over the Glasshouse Country Region & beyond. We have all grown in our knowledge of bromeliads; this has led to an appreciation of the beauty of these plants. We have had members come and go but I believe we will see more brom lovers join than leave. I would like to thank all of those members who have offered to be on the management committee or to look after the other things required to be done before and after the meeting.

My intention is to provide knowledge through education to all members, this will be achieved by the providing of guest speakers, visits to gardens, encouragement of members to participate in the plant of the month as well as a plant clinic and a plant identification session at the meeting.

Hygiene is a most important skill grower's need to be competent in. We will have a plant inspector at each of our meetings; the intention is to prevent disease from being introduced into a garden or on to plants which can be transported to another garden. This will be a part of the education process for members to know & be able to identify plant diseases.

Plant identification is another area we need to concentrate on. This is easier said than done, most growers will at least know the Genus Group and this needs to be on the plant label. The actual plant name is more difficult, as lots of growers are growing cross breeds and don't register the plant name. If you bring a plant along to a meeting please try to have the plant label named. This will assist all of the amateurs like me to at least gain a better knowledge of plants we have in our garden.

I would also like to encourage as many members as possible to participate in "The plant of the month" as this is another part of the meeting and another part of the education process.

Finally, I would like all members to spread the word about The Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc.

For now, happy growing!

Bob McLean

## Plant Names: A Start



"The arguments between botanists over nomenclature are endless and often very complex" (Andrew Steens). We're not going to argue with anyone over this absorbing subject but rather provide a nudge in the direction.

Nomenclature or naming of plants is an international system. No matter your spoken language, the language of botanical names is the same throughout the world. It's a standard. How a plant name is sequenced and printed conveys immediate meaning to those who use and understand the system. We should. From the name order and font, one learns if it is a species plant, a hybrid, cultivated plant or a cross. Let's begin.

For a species plant, first appears the *Genus* capitalized and italicized followed by the *sub genera* in lower case, also italicized e.g. *Aechmea orlandiana*, *Vriesea splendens*, *Grevillea spinosa*. Both names are Latin, the second is usually a descriptive word.

Hybrids and cultivars have non-Latin names following the *Genus* and, if there is one, the *sub-genera*. It's written in plain or roman font with single quotation marks e.g. *Aechmea* 'Bert', *Gardenia augusta* 'Magnifica'. If there are two words, each begins with a capital letter e.g. *Vriesea* 'Scarlet Gem'.

For the full, interesting story of plant nomenclature, refer to a horticultural encyclopaedia such as ABC Gardening's "Flora" (ABC Books). For naming cultivars and hybrids refer to the "International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants" available from the State library. For easy identification of most broms and how to write their names, refer to excellent Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.'s publication, "growing bromeliads", (Kangaroo Press). Alternatively, inquire of our librarian as to best resource material. If you don't know the name of your plant, bring it to a meeting and ask Len.

Disagree? Errors? Want to say more about the subject? [gcbnews@gmail.com](mailto:gcbnews@gmail.com)

Unscramble genus. There is one unneeded letter in each.

MAAMHEEC

RPSTTYTCUHAN

MDUUWAIINLR

## Jo's Gorgeous Guzzies

Jo Allen's approach to gardening is to grow what rewards her with beauty. The natural world is diverse and so are her plantings which range from tropicals such as bat plants, to wild-life sustaining native trees and shrubs. The one species that dominates is the bromeliad of which she has hundreds, and these mostly *Guzmanias* or "guzzies". But it wasn't always the case. For 20 years Jo concentrated on orchids until a friend gave her some broms. She found they were far easier to grow and - dare we say it - more rewarding, particularly the *Guzmania*. A guzzie flowering spectacularly in pink, red, yellow, purple or white for up to 6 months is good value! It's 8 years now that Jo has been growing bromeliads commercially as well as for pleasure.



For a healthy plant Jo advises using **free draining potting mix kept just a little moist**. Beginners often think that only the vase need be watered and the soil kept dry. So as to ensure appropriate water levels and because Jo has what she regards as a small operation, she waters by hand held hose rather than a sprinkler system. This way she can ensure water gets below a plant's leaves. If growing guzzies in the garden, Jo suggests **clustering them for a colourful show**. Guzzies **need a shady spot** but early morning or late afternoon sun is acceptable. Of course, nothing stays put as one is always moving plants as shade trees grow more dense and sunlight changes.

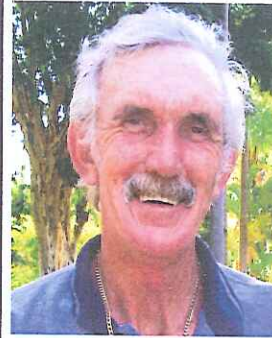
We asked Jo if she hybridizes and her reply was an emphatic, "No, life is too short!"

Pictured above: Jo with a favourite plant, the plum/white flowering *Guzvriosa x Hepa*, an inter-generic cross brought from the USA by Olive Trevor and purchased about 18 months ago.

Detail of flower:



## Len's Timely Tips for October & November Page 3



Greetings Brom Growers!

Spring has arrived so with our warm weather upon us, we must be a little more diligent with our watering. Yes, our **broms need more water**. Remember a **good drink is better than a little at a time**.

Now is the time if you are interested to create your own hybrids. With spring in fast forward many genera are now starting to flower, particularly *Dyckia* and *Billbergia*. **Happy hybridising**.

When you are spraying to control scale or insect pests, remember to **spray late afternoon**. Spraying in the heat of the day will burn precious broms.

If using **soluble fertilizer**, use it at a diluted rate. **Weakly, weekly**. If using **osmo-cote** just keep in mind **more is not always better**. Overfeeding will only turn your babies green and strappy.

**Tillandsias**: If possible keep a spray bottle handy and give your tills a daily misting to keep them fresh. If you are really keen add half strength fish emulsion or similar once a week.

**Billbergias**: You may have clumps that are starting to look a little untidy, so now is the perfect time to take non flowered offsets and create new fresh show plants. Be kind and report the old mums as a backup for the next generation.

With summer coming soon just keep in mind our **sun direction is changing**. Watch plants that may have been protected through winter. Our summer is capable of bleaching and burning the toughest plants. **Be prepared to shift broms** to safer places if the need arises.

If you have any questions on any of the subjects I give tips on, feel free ask me more at our meetings. I'll be happy to give my opinion in more detailed form.

Cheers!

Len

## Plants of the Month - August



Neo 'Lorena' is a Chester Skotak hybrid imported to Australia by Shane Zuchini; purchased by Len about 3 years ago.



After the meeting Jo sent her parrot to the geriatric maternity ward.



In front, Ron's *Aechmeas*. Original plant rescued from a friend's property and tended over a long period.

**Advanced:**

- 1st: Len Waite, *Neoreglia* 'Lorena'
- 2nd: Jo Allen, *Guzmania* 'Red Parrot'
- 3rd: Sheryl Waite, *Bilbergia nutens*

**Novice:**

- 1st: Margaret McLean, *Guzmania*
- 2nd: Ron Rhuland, *Aechmea orlandiana*
- 3rd: tie Mark Pearce, *Aechmea* 'Bert' and Bob McLean, *Neoreglia*



Margaret: "I can hardly wait to see your children." Neither can we.

## Plants of the Month - September

**Advanced:**

- 1st: Jo Allen, *Neoreglia* 'Gazpacho'

**Novice:**

- 1st: Mark Pearce, *Canistrum triangulare*
- 2nd: Margaret McLean, *Neoreglia*
- 3rd: Ron Rhuland, *Neoreglia carolinae*



Mark's canary yellow and blue/black *Canistrum* will have tulip shaped flowers. Worth an internet search for more images.



Ron's *Neoreglia carolinae*, is a true species plant.



Margaret's colourful *Neoreglia*.

**Some conditions of entry:**

Pest free. Ownership of the plant for at least 6 months. Once entered it cannot be entered again for 6 months. Hmm...sounds as though one has to be very organized with labelling, grouping plants, a calendar and so on.

**Photos to help with identification** and also inspire interest:

check the extensive "Photo Index" on [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)