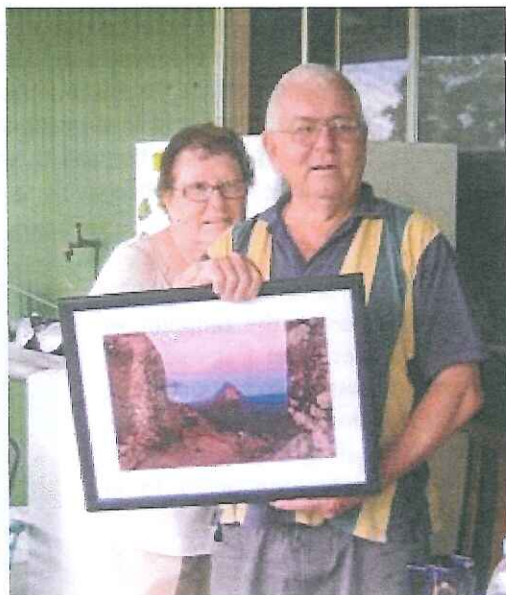


We are sorry to say that Bev Bailey, one of our founding members, lost her fight with cancer in late January. Bev is fondly remembered as an enthusiastic member and a great supporter to Norm. Our thoughts are with Norm and his family.



Tillandsia magic

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Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4

February 2009



Christmas 2008

A summer storm, with a light and sound show, held off just long enough for the short formal section of our Christmas meeting to be concluded. Avril's garden was inspirational, with wonderful use of bromeliads in a landscape of sculptures and tropical plants. *Alcantarea imperialis* 'Rubra' and *Aechmea* 'Jesus Christ Superstar' made a majestic setting for the Christmas festivities before the rain chased the large group of members indoors to enjoy Avril's warm hospitality. A BIG thank you to her and others who provided a wonderful Christmas celebration.

Glasshouse Country News are pleased to be able to support the Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society in their publication



Tender Contractors to
Sunshine Coast
Regional Council
85 Roberts Road, Beerwah, Qld
Markets every Saturday 9am - 5pm
Telephone: (07 54946798)

Bromelia balansae in Bob Watkin's garden. It is no wonder that the common name is 'Heart of Flame'



Bromeliads lend themselves to so many landscaping styles. *Bromelia balansae* is suited to dry conditions but be warned! The foliage has curved spines bearing vicious dagger-tipped claws on the edge described by some as 'lethal'

Asian serenity in Avril's garden



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Frogs in Bromeliads



The central tank of bromeliads provide ideal hiding places for small frogs which feed off the insects and algae and lay their eggs in large clumps on the water surface. This little fellow is a Green Treefrog (*Litoria caerulea*) and was discovered in daylight after a rain shower. The deep resonant "crawk crawk" mating call is well known and cursed by some people, especially at night when trying to sleep.



In South America bromeliads often provide a home for the tadpoles of more exotic species of frogs such as the brightly coloured Poison Dart Frog (formerly Poison Arrow Frog). Some species of this frog produce a toxin which is used by Amazon Indians to tip their poisoned blow darts.

What's on When in 2009

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| March 8 | Meeting 2.0 pm at Suncoast Water Gardens 283 Fraser Rd Beerwah |
| March 27-28 | Queensland International Orchid Fair, Bray Park |
| April 10-11 | Bribie Island Easter Orchid Show. Location, Bribie Island High School |
| April 10-13 | Bromelaide 2009 Australian Conference
Held at Adelaide Meridien
21-37 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide S.A. |
| May 2-3 | A Bromeliad Spectacular; The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc
Millwell Road Community Centre For info tel 54967795. |
| May 24 | Rotary - Glasshouse Country Garden Expo at Beerwah |

See Secretary for Flyers.



Potting mix is still available in 25 L bags for \$4. Contact Ardie Baker on 5494 8426

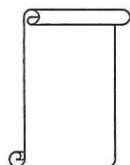
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Our December meeting was social and festive and did not include a bench for plant judging, so this seems a timely opportunity to discuss the merits of entering your plants. Showing plants contributes to the education and enjoyment of our members and actually helps you in the care of your plants. As you endeavour to improve plant quality, you will become more aware of plant selection and growth requirements such as moisture and light. This may commence as early as the removal and potting of an offset. Important points to consider include:

- Position the plant in the centre of the pot
- choose pots which are clean and free of marks
- choose healthy plants which have good shape and colour and are undamaged
- inflorescences should be fresh
- remove bottom leaves which are yellow or marked
- ensure that plant is clean and free of leaves, dirt and disease or pests
- include a name tag if known.

In the future, plants entered for Plants of the Month should be set up and ready for show before a meeting begins. Voting will take place after the meeting concludes and before afternoon tea is served. There are now two categories – one for Advanced growers and the second for Novice growers. Certificates will be prepared for winners in each category as follows:

- First (blue)
- second (pink)
- third (green).



A Recognition of Achievement will be presented annually to the overall point winner in each category. The winner of the Novice grower group will then move on to the Advanced Group for future competitions.

Don't forget to vote for your favourite plants this month!

Website of interest

Hunter District Bromeliad Society (<http://www.hunterbroms.com/>)

Articles include Bromeliad Seed Raising, Forcing Flowering Gassing Bromeliads, Foliar Feeding Bromeliads and Mosquitoes in Bromeliads

If you grow Orthophytums now is the time they will be pupping. So split them up and plant in cactus mix. (sand & potting mix). Same rule applies for Cryptanthus, plant in same mix.

Now Xmas is over, every grower will be selling again. Keep in mind one good quality plant is worth four cheap ones. If you are going to improve your collection, buy quality not cheap.

Don't be afraid to ask questions of people who have been growing for years. No question is a silly question to ask as we learn by comparing ideas with other growers big & small.

I know I have spoken on light before, but it is probably one of the most crucial factors on growing your plants the way we saw them when we bought them. You have to learn to put your babies in as much light as possible without burning them. This will mean you may have to shift them from time to time as the sun changes direction.

Remember anything I say or write is my opinion only and some people may disagree with my views, but this leads to hearty discussion.

Happy New Year.

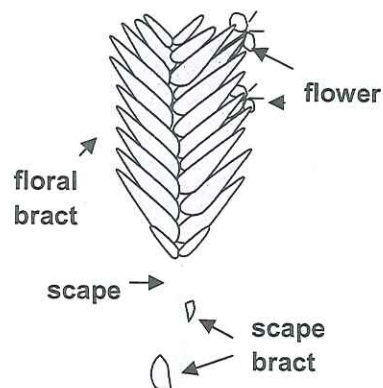
A Cautionary Tale of *Nidularium* 'Robert Reilly'

About 25 years ago, I purchased some seed labeled as *Nidularium purpureum* from a West German (as it was then) seed merchant. When the seedlings flowered, their identity was unclear.

There was some variation in growth habit amongst the seedlings. One form looks like *Nidularium longiflorum* (formerly known as *N. innocenti wittmackianum*), but with sharply pointed, rather than rounded, floral bracts. As the seedlings' identity was unknown, I labeled them, and their progeny, "unknown *Nidularium* from Robert Reilly". I gave, or traded, them to various people under that identity at that time.

Recently, I was asked for the parents' names of *Nidularium* 'Robert Reilly'. There is no such hybrid. Rather, what appears to have happened is that the label 'unknown *Nidularium* from Robert Reilly' has, over the years, evolved into *Nidularium* 'Robert Reilly'.

The moral of the story is to be careful with labeling, as considerable confusion can be created otherwise.

When is a flower not a flower ? - When it is an inflorescence !

An inflorescence is sometimes thought to be a flower when it is actually a combination of scape (floral stem or stalk), bracts (specialized or modified leaves) and flowers. Coloured floral bracts may attract pollinators and are often more obvious than the flowers.

Bromeliads are extremely varied in their inflorescences. Whilst some last only a few days, others may bloom for months. Some may be as tall as 10m whereas others are tiny or perhaps hidden in the vase.

Local Bromeliad History

Lutheran missionaries introduced pineapple plants to the southern coastal district of Queensland in 1838. Glasshouse Mountain area featured in the development of the Queensland pineapple industry. Arch. E. King and his brother took up residence on Agricultural Homestead blocks at Glass Houses (later named Glasshouse Mountain) in 1898. They harvested their first pineapple crop in 1903 and the trip by horse and dray to Roma St Markets took three days.

In 1916 the State Government inaugurated the Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement and established an experimental and training farm to grow tropical fruit. Ex soldiers returning from the Great War were provided with a portion of land and given training in growing pineapples. A cannery was established at Bulimba in 1919 to process the Beerburrum crops. The industry appears to have peaked around 1921, but success declined over the next few years as farms proved to be non viable. Many settlers began moving out of the area or turned to the timber industry for their livelihood.

Editorial Committee : Pat Pennell , Margaret von Konigsmark, Bob Watkins

Contributors to this Issue: Len Waite

Disclaimer:

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

Hello All

A happy new year to you all. Margaret & I have had a very busy few weeks shifting plants and house (and now to establish a new home for our plants) since we got rained out at Avril's and what a great show it was and is. When you compare the garden with what we saw on our last visit to now, well done Avril.

We have some great events to look forward to in 2009. We will have garden visits in March, June, August and October. We have the Rotary-Glasshouse Country Garden Expo in Beerwah on the 24 May and I believe we need to devote the May meeting to a workshop to plan this event. The other months we will meet at the Glass House Neighbourhood Centre, when these meetings will coincide with the newsletter issue and management committee meetings. The newsletter team is doing a great job but all members need to remember it is your newsletter so please contribute, share your experiences. We all know the challenges of gardening and no one knows the lot.

We have to thank Community Recycling Inc. for the sponsorship of the newsletter and the Glasshouse Country News for the printing. We have this commitment for six issues.

We intend to conduct a garden competition again this year in conjunction with the Garden Expo. Please give this some thought! Bromeliads give a good show all year. I am talking to Australia Zoo Travel about having a three day package with one of the days being garden tours; this may be Saturday or Monday with a Zoo tour on the other day depending on the group size and the Garden Expo on Sunday.

Please remember to supply plants for the plant of the month as this is a great way to show off what you can produce and remember, we have different categories to encourage you to show your plants. Please remember, if you bring a plant for the plant of the month, for sale, identification or disease problem the plant must be clean or isolated in a plastic bag. Remember also, where possible all plants should have a name tag.

Happy Growing

Management Committee

President: Bob McLean

Vice President: Len Waite

Secretary: Margaret Mc Lean

Treasurer:: David Binstead

Committee members: Kaye Notman, Bob Watkins, Librarian: Pat Pennell

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