1<sup>st</sup>

## Novice

1st Lou Baker

*Vriesea (unknown)*

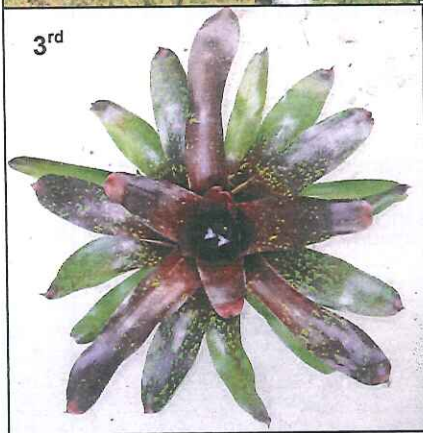
2nd Lou Baker

*Vriesea (unknown)*

3rd Bob Mc Lean

*Neoregelia 'Deep Reward'*2<sup>nd</sup>

Keen buyers at the  
Plant Sale table

3<sup>rd</sup>

*Neoregelia 'Deep Reward'* was  
hybridized by Grace Goode  
'Vulcan' x *princeps*



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## Inside!

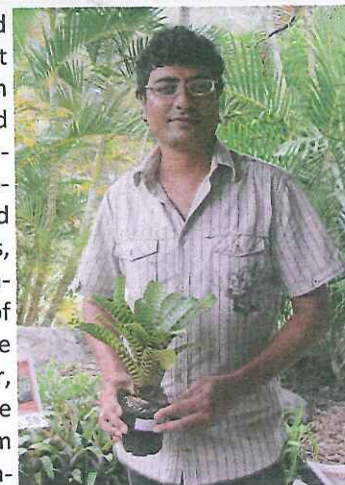
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# Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 6

June 2009

The very wet weather of early April did not dampen enthusiasm of members at our meeting when Amil Ghodké from Plant Biotech introduced us to the world of tissue culture. This technology involves the mass production of true-to-type plants from carefully selected, good quality sources ('mother' plants, seeds, pups tubers etc.) in a sterile environment, under controlled conditions of light, temperature and humidity. The resulting plants have excellent vigour, are disease free and hardy, and can be obtained in large numbers and uniform sizes in a short period of time as compared to conventional techniques.



Amil produced this *Vriesea hieroglyphica* by tissue culture. With it's leaves of chocolate coloured bands and tall green flower spike of pale cream flowers, this plant has the name of King of Bromeliads.



A warm welcome to Lettie and John Nisbett who, along with Greg & Narelle Aizlewood and Margaret Briggs are new members this year. We look forward to sharing our love and knowledge of bromeliads with them all.

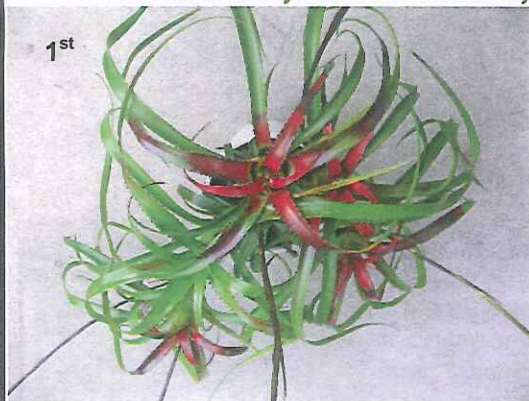
Our Society meets at 2.0 pm on the first Sunday of each month. Meetings are either at the Glasshouse Mountains Neighbourhood Centre or at a member's home.

Glasshouse Country News are  
pleased to be able to support  
the Glasshouse Country Brome-

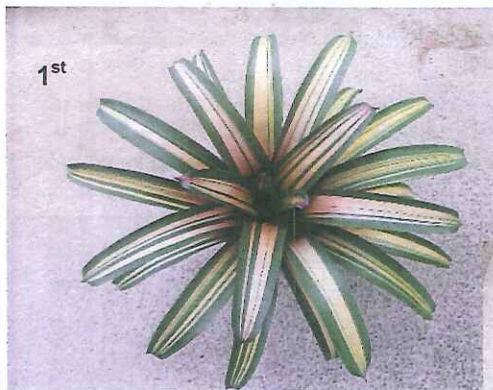


Tender Contractors to  
Sunshine Coast  
Regional Council  
85 Roberts Road, Beerwah, Qld  
Markets every Saturday 9am - 5pm  
Telephone: (07 54946798)



1<sup>st</sup>2<sup>nd</sup>**Advanced**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Len Waite  
*Neoregelia pendula var. brevifolia*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sheryl Waite  
*Orthophytum vagans*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Len Waite  
*Orthophytum Sunset*

1<sup>st</sup>

*Vriesea* 'Highway Beauty' is a hybrid  
between *bituminosa* and *saundersii*.

2<sup>nd</sup>**Novice**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Waite  
*Vriesea* 'Highway Beauty'
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Watkins  
*Vriesea philippo-coburgii*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann Cormack *Tillandsia crocata*

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## Mounting bromeliads

Many bromeliads are epiphytic (grow on other plants) and indeed seem to thrive better in that environment than when potted.

They form strong, wiry root systems that serve mainly as holders and absorb little, if any nutrients for the plant with their leaves adopting this function. Similarly some plants are saxicolious (grow on rocks). Tillandsias are well known as 'air plants' and are often grown in a wide variety of settings but we should remember other varieties can also be mounted in curious places. It certainly adds interest and colour to your garden.



In an article entitled 'Weird and Unusual Places to grow bromeliads' (Bromeliaceae vol XLIII- No 1 Jan/Feb 09) Rob Smyth made these mounting suggestions:

- Semi-aquatic. Some species grow just above the water line in the wild
- Growing on wires- esp Tillandsias
- Growing on bones eg after dog has had them
- Totem poles such as old tree fern trunk
- Hollow logs - esp large plants
- Big logs. Smaller logs can be hung horizontally
- Rocks and rockeries
- Ornaments
- Trees- esp callistemons, melaleucas and palms.

Other supports include crystals, cork slabs, fishing floats and sea shells.



It seems that Tillandsias can be grown just about anywhere. However, care must be taken to avoid copper treated surfaces and salts must be removed from items that have been in seawater. Soak for two weeks completely submerged with frequent water changes.

Ensure that your mounting material is not going to deteriorate and fall apart just when your plant has rooted and beginning to flourish. Many Tillandsias suffer in wet conditions so avoid mounting in deep holes or bound with too much moss as this prevents air circulation and the roots may rot.

Ideas for glues and mounting procedures are numerous. More information on these can be found on websites listed on page 5.

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## Question Time at June Meeting

Mark **Sunday 7 June** in your diary for our meeting which will feature an exciting new format for that day. It will be a Members' Forum/ Informal Talk on those questions which you have always wanted to ask and not previously had the opportunity. Now will be your chance, so bring along plants for identification, discussion of problems or any other help required. Don't forget to check that all plants which you bring are free of pests and diseases or otherwise sealed in a clear plastic bag for easy viewing.



### What's on When in 2009

June 6-8	Open Garden at Dalziell Garden 10 Ryhope St Buderim. 10 am -4.30pm Admission \$5. This garden has extensive bromeliad plantings.
July 10-12	Queensland Home Garden Expo. Queensland's premier sub-tropical gardening event. For further information go to <a href="http://www.homegardenexpo.com.au">www.homegardenexpo.com.au</a>
Sept 12-13	8.30am—3pm Sat; 9am—2pm Sun. Noosa Bromeliad Market combined Growers Sale. Noosa Bicentennial Hall Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach. tel 0412884116
Oct 10-11	8 am-3 pm Sat; 9am—2pm Sun. Bromeliad Extravaganza. Wavell Heights Community Hall, 175 Edinburgh Castle Rd Wavell Heights. tel 54853800 for info.
Nov 7-8	Spring Bromeliad Sale The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Mt Cootha Botanic Gardens.

**'Life isn't about how to survive the storm  
but how to dance in the rain.'**

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

Contributors to this Issue: Len Waite

#### Disclaimers

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 prop-

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## President's Message

The April meeting had a venue change. I have had a number of requests to have all of our home meetings at the Mary McKillop Centre in Beerwah. This venue provides a hall to hold the meeting with an under-cover outdoor area for plant sale, plant of the month & raffle displays. The rent will be higher than the Glass House Mountains venue so we will need to discuss this issue with members. I would appreciate your input into this issue.

I don't know about you but since the rain has stopped I have had the best chance for months to do some plant maintenance, clean, repot & remove the pups from our neglected plants. This delay has given us some well advanced pups providing quality plants for planting out in to our new garden. It is so easy to look at a garden space when you purchase a property & have a vision of what we need to do. The difficult part of the project is how you prune the existing flora to remove the undergrowth to create good over-story to provide the shaded, well ventilated environment to house our Broms.

We have taken the opportunity to visit some magnificent plant displays since the last meeting. I went to the ABC Gardening Australia Expo in Brisbane, Steve & Julie Flood's nursery & the Bromeliad Spectacular in Maroochydore, the colour, presentation & quality of the plants make me envious.

We have been purchasing quality plants for raffle prizes; this is intended to give members the chance to obtain good plant stock to build a quality collection. The society has been operating long enough now where most members should be growing reasonable quality plants with a good collection of plant stock. As we have now in place a numbering system for the plant of the month recording, I would like to use this same system of numbering to conduct a pup swap at each home meeting. This would mean each member would need to provide five pups for the year plus one developed plant for the Christmas meeting. I believe all these plants should be Bromeliads. The way this would work is when you arrive at the meeting & sign the attendance sheet you will take a number put it in a box & record that number on the attendance sheet, we will then draw two numbers from the box & the two members will swap pups. These pups will need to be named.

#### Happy Growing

#### Bob McLean 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		

#### To Get In Touch:

Phone Margaret at 54969601 or Mail Box 424, Glasshouse Mountains 4518

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## Watch out for those bears



We may complain about insects eating our bromeliads in Queensland, but how fortunate are we not to have spectacled bears as dinner guests.

These shy bears are the only species that live in South America but their numbers are diminishing and they are listed as vulnerable on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN's) Red List of Threatened Animals.

Spectacled bears get their name from the light colored rings around their eyes that make some look like they are wearing glasses. They have long claws that allow them to climb trees very well and to tear open masses of bromeliads. Their large, flat molars allow them to chew other very tough plants that are found in the rainforest such as palms, cacti, and orchid bulbs.

Fruits and bromeliads are favoured foods. In fact, tree nests or stick platforms are often constructed so that they can reach and feed on epiphytic bromeliads and other fruit-laden

## Naming controversies

Recent editions of Bromeliaceae have discussed confusion on the naming of a few plants in Australia. Derek Butcher wrote that a label naming plants as *Aechmea serrata* may well be suspect (Bromeliaceae vol XLII-No 6 Nov/Dec 2008). He indicated that the true *Aechmea serrata* is rare and is remarkable for the beauty of its foliage and specially for the greatly spiny toothed leafy bracts that come with inflorescence. He maintained that plants sold in Australia labeled as *Aechmea serrata* are in fact *Aechmea Smithiorum*. This discussion is taken up by Ross Little in the next edition (Bromeliaceae vol XLIII-No 1 Jan/Feb 2009) where he stated that only *Aechmea Smithiorum* is grown in this country. Ross continued in his article to say that the same situation also occurs with Vr. 'Red chestnut' and he maintained that this plant is *Vriesea fosteriana* and that it is extremely doubtful that the real Vr. 'Red Chestnut' ever made it to Australia.

## CANOLA WHITE OIL- "Oils ain't Oils Soll"

Check out this article by Rob Smythe on use of Canola oil as a white oil spray for controlling and eradication of flyspeck scale or any scale for that matter. It makes interesting reading. Go to **Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies** website ( <http://fcbs.org>), click on Bromeliad Information on the left hand side of the page and then click on Pests and Diseases.



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

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## Len's Timely Tips for Autumn



There is an old saying that variety is the spice of life, just maybe it works for Brom growers as well. I guess most of us grow mainly Neoregelias. Why not try some of the other genera even some of the more unusual, half of the adventure is finding out how to obtain them. Sheryl & I are no different, Neos are our specialty, but once we started delving into other genera I think I drive Sheryl crazy sometimes. If I cant work out a certain problem, guess who I harass. There is an endless world of fantasy out there.

One of our best learning tools is the website of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Simply type FCBS into Google this should give you the site. On the left hand side there is an index to work your way around this tree of knowledge. Keep in mind that a little knowledge can be dangerous, so remember we have to be able to put what we learn into practice.

Tip three involves everyone who is a member of our great society, we may be one of the smallest around but we have been noticed for some of our ideas. The only way we can keep moving forward is by involvement by all members, even if it is in small ways. Many hands make light work.

Winter is coming, almost all our plant growth is produced by sunlight, therefore we must take advantage every bit of available sunlight that is with us through winter. Meaning you may have to shift some plants to suit weather conditions. We still have to be careful how much light our babies will take so go gently.

I think to finish this month, lets refer to an article p. 4 in this issue of our newsletter regarding *Aechmea serrata*. It may well be that this information is truly correct but how do we rectify a situation like this. We buy a plant in good faith, we grow it on, we start to sell this plant to new members (in good faith), then we learn that this is not right. Does this make us wrong or are we right if we do it in good faith. Food for thought.

## Websites of interest



### For information on Tillandsias:

[www.exoticlife.com.au](http://www.exoticlife.com.au).

A Tillandsia specialist nursery in NSW.

[www.bobsgreenhousedelights.com](http://www.bobsgreenhousedelights.com).

See sample mounting ideas and cultural notes from a Californian enthusiast.

[www.keyessentials.co.uk](http://www.keyessentials.co.uk).

Key Essentials is a Tillandsia supplier in the UK.

<http://plants.web-indexes.com/airplants>

This site is aimed at the person who has just bought a Tillandsia and knows very little or nothing about them.

<http://tillandsias.gardenwebs.net>

See some beautiful photographs.

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