

# Plants of the Month—July



## Advanced

Both places from Len & Sheryl Waite

1<sup>st</sup> *Dyckia* 'Sunset'



## Novice

1<sup>st</sup> Margaret McLean

*Neoregelia* "Bevvie Bee"

2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Pennell

*Neoregelia* 'Fairy Tale' shared with

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob McLean

*Vriesea* 'Poelmanii'

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# Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Newsletter

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*Neoregelia* 'Red McCaw'

See article by Deb Horne on  
this magnificent plant in  
Jan/Feb issue of  
*Bromeliaceae* available at  
[www.bromsqueensland.com](http://www.bromsqueensland.com)

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

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**Advanced**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cheryl & Len Waite  
*Orthophytum* 'Stellar Beauty'
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheryl & Len Waite  
*Deuterocohnia lorentziana*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lou Baker

**Novice**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Belinda Tilton  
*Cryptanthus* 'Marian Oppenheimer'
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Pennell  
*Vriesea* speckles
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bob McLean  
*Vriesea* 'Christine'



We booked our trip for the Bundy Brom Binge as new members and what a binge it was ! Pete gave me all the spending money before we left and said he would not get involved in the buying of broms. We had bought so many great plants from Martha and Ray that I thought I would just enjoy the bus trip and the company, but yes, we did spend on many more broms.

Visiting two gardens, including a great morning tea at Russell and Karen Holzheimers' and then to John and Val Johnson buying many Broms before lunch.

Lunch venue was changed to the RSL and they were able to cater for our group at short notice. After lunch we went to Ray and Del Gough and then on to our Motel to relax from a very busy day of enjoyment and purchasing. The Motel was very comfortable and after a great dinner , a group of us gathered around the court yard talking and having a drink or two.

The next morning, after a large breakfast, we went to two gardens, Ray and Mary Pratt and Val Honeywood. Travelling south, we called into the ice cream shop at Childers and although some people found the ice cream too rich made on full cream milk, I loved it and could have had another one. Lunch ? We did not need it.

By this stage the bus cargo space was overflowing with plants and many of us were bringing our precious buys into the bus.

Now to our last garden at Gympie with Linda Percival where there were bargains to be had including pups at a very good price. An added bonus there was to meet Margaret Patterson and have the opportunity to buy her newly released book.

I was so busy looking for bargains in the shade house with all the brom pups for sale that I missed out on the book but Pat Tennant bought one for the library so I can borrow that one.

We returned home close to the schedule and a great time was had by all.

Pete and I enjoyed the friendship of fellow members and appreciate all the effort Sheryl put into making this trip so enjoyable and run so smoothly. We are looking forward to the next one.

Answers to Knowledge Test—page 4

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Nidularium 'Orange'        | 4. Guzmania 'Grand Prix'   |
| 2. Aechmea 'La Tigra'         | 5. Billbergia 'Strawberry' |
| 3. Orthophytum 'Warren Loose' |                            |

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

Contributors to this Issue: Len Waite, Tina Kruidenier



## TILLANDSIA II by Bob Reilly



The book opens with a description of tillandsias' physical characteristics and their cultural requirements. While the advice is generally useful, some care needs to be taken in its application to sub-tropical and tropical growing conditions. Further, many of the recommended growing aids e.g. fertilisers, are not available in Australia.

The next chapter describes 61 species. In each case there is a description of the plant, its habitat and some advice on cultural requirements. The text is supported by excellent photographs of the flowering plant. Collectively, these species would make a good tillandsia collection. All are available in Australia.

The next chapter has photographs of flowering plants of over 70 tillandsia hybrids. This chapter is a major expansion of the corresponding chapter in the 1987 book. Several of the featured hybrids have been made by Australia hybridists. For each hybrid, there is a photograph of the flowering plant, but no other information. While this is a weakness, it is a reasonable trade-off, if the choice would have been to cover fewer hybrids (because of space constraints).

The next chapter has photographs of a range of additional species and hybrids. Most of these are tillandsias, but there are also ones of other genera.

The next chapter outlines a somewhat eclectic mix of people who have contributed significantly to tillandsia taxonomy. An Australian, Derek Butcher is last, (but not least I hasten to add!) in this line up.

There then follows chapters on tillandsia taxonomy, their evolution and biology. It concludes with a comprehensive glossary and index.

This book is probably best suited for the tillandsia grower who has some knowledge of the subject, but is looking to take their understanding to the next "level". Experienced growers will also find much of interest.

**Date of Review: 2010**

**Library News-** This beautiful book is now in our library and available to borrow

### Bromeliad Forum on bsi.org (Bromeliad Society International)

The BSI now hosts a forum for discussing bromeliads. This forum is open to the public but you must register to post to the forum. General comments or questions about bromeliads, taxonomy information, Discussions on current or old issues of the BSI Journal. Information about events involving Bromeliads

As we are now approaching the time for our Annual General Meeting in September, it is time for members to consider the nomination of members to the management team for 2010 – 2011. I will be unable to be nominated for any position in this team and I would like to share some of the reasons behind this decision.

My last surgery was successful, but over the past few months, I have experienced new problems with both of my hands and I don't know where this is going to finish up. Additionally, the Sustainability & Garden Expo is another project which has been a large part of my community involvement for the past five years. From 2011 it will take on a new image and will have a new name—the "Glasshouse Country Festival". It will be conducted from Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, starting with the Sustainability & Garden Expo and concluding with The Glasshouse Country Community Awards Dinner on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Community groups will be invited to coordinate a special event to celebrate during Queensland Week. The state government has proposed we celebrate Queensland week, between 4<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> June and has provided grants to support these projects.

The June meeting of our Society was a great experience, as Nigel Thompson attended and gave us the opportunity to listen to the difficulties and challenges which his family had when relocating from South Africa and setting up on the Sunshine Coast. It was good to hear how bromeliads can fit the beauty of the cut flower market with a considerably longer show to enjoy. Nigel's growing method is different to what most of us adopt but he is growing for a different market. The photo on page 1 of this newsletter shows the beauty of some of Nigel's plants..

Although this will be my final contribution to the newsletter from this position, I will be continuing to contribute to the promotion of bromeliads by my contribution to the GC News and I am also talking to the Range News to have my contribution included in that publication.

Thanks to all members for your support which you have given to me as your president.

~~Bob~~  
Happy Growing Committee

President: Bob McLean

Vice President: Len Waite

Secretary: Pat Tennant

Treasurer:: David Binstead

Committee member: Bob Watkins

### To Get In Touch:

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Address mail to P.O. Box 424 Glasshouse Mountains 4518



## A Few Tips for Growing Neoregelias

Excerpts from article in *Bromeliaceae* Nov-Dec 2008 by Bob Reilly



*Neoregelia* 'Gladiator'

Potting mixtures used successfully include:

1. Well composted pine bark to which a continuous release, over a period of nine months or more, fertiliser such as Nutricote or Osmocote is added when the plants/pups



*Neoregelia* 'Cane Fire'

2. Pine bark chunks, (such as those used to grow cymbidium orchids in), treated with a special type of fertiliser available from the Bromeliad Society of Queensland. Combine 1 part charcoal with 7 parts treated bark to form this potting



*Neoregelia* 'Treasure Chest'

3. A mixture of 2 parts Peatmoss or Cocopeat combined with 1 part coarse sand.

Add Nutricote or Osmocote to this mixture.

## Test Your Knowledge

What are these plants? Answers on page 7



1



2



4



3



5

Photos from *Bromeliaceae* MarApr 2007

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## Len's Timely Tips

(1) Dust off the gloves, potting time is almost with us again. My Dad always said as soon as the Ekka was over, the time to start planting all the new Spring crops was upon us. I guess he did not realise at the time he was teaching me how to best grow Bromeliads. Mother Nature always has the final say but we should not get frosts after the middle of August.

(2) Those of you who have had potting or Bromeliad mix stored over Winter need to check it for dryness. Please don't use either mix if it is dry. The mix can contain harmful bacteria and can spread in air quite readily. Remember your gloves, no smoking while potting, wash your hands before eating.

(3) Those of us who have put our plants out to get more light need to start to pay attention to weather forecasts from now, so that we don't fry some precious souls. Also members who have been growing from seed need to watch for snails and slugs if we get some welcome rain in the coming weeks.

SHORT AND SWEET THIS ONE; Welcome to Spring (almost) my favourite time of the

## What's on When in 2010

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sept 5     | 2.0 pm Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Mary McKillop Centre Beerwah<br>Annual General Meeting           |
| Sept 11-12 | Noosa Bromeliad Market Combined Growers Sale: Noosa Bicentennial Hall,<br>Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach |
| Oct 9-10   | Bromeliad Extravaganza: Wavell Heights Community Hall 175 Edinburgh Castle<br>Road, Wavell Heights           |
| October 23 | Bus trip to 4 gardens in south Brisbane— contact Sheryl Waite 54967795                                       |



Seedlings of *Vriesea saundersii* grown from seeds in August 2009 by Margaret von Konigsmark.  
Just as well she is not in a hurry !

### Disclaimer:

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