

Noosa Bromeliad Market
Combined Growers Sale



Extensive display featuring mature quality flowering and colourful Bromeliads on sale!
• Hundreds of varieties • New releases
• Heavy shade to full sun

WHY CHOOSE BROMS?

- Waterwise
- Great Colours
- Lasting Flowers
- Easy Care
- Frog Friendly
- Low Nutrient Requirements

Noosa Bicentennial Hall

Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach
Saturday 5th March 8:30 am - 3pm
Sunday 6th March 9 am - 2pm

FREE ADMISSION - Bring Your Camera!

Information Ph: 0412 884 116

BROMELIAD
SPECTACULAR

Proudly Presented by the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Soc. Inc

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 8.30--4.00PM
SUNDAY 1ST MAY 9.00--2.00PM

COMMUNITY HALL MILLWELL ROAD
MAROOCHYDORE

Spectacular Display of Bromeliads

Plant Sales Monster Raffle

Refreshments Available

Bromeliad Workshop

Admission \$3.00 Children free

President Secretary
Cheryl Basic Carol Stewart
Ph 5472 8827 Ph 5445 3488



Glasshouse Country
Bromeliad Society
Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 16

January-February 2011

Inside!

Presidents
message 2

Len's timely
tips 3

Broms by Bob 4

Bromeliad
Plant Basics 5

Christmas
Party Photos 6

Christmas
Party Photos 7

Whats on When

Whats on When 8
continued

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Good
Food



Good
Friends



A Great Atmosphere

& a good time had by all

THANK YOU GEOFF AND BELINDA TILTON

Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society would like to thank

the State Member for Glasshouse **ANDREW POWELL MP.**
for his assistance in the printing of this publication



Queensland International Orchid Fair
The only major orchid show in Queensland for 2011
Featuring over 20 top Queensland and Interstate Orchid Nurseries and specialist Plant Growers. Orchid Sales, Book Sales, Fertilisers, Clivias, Iris, Bromeliads, Carnivorous plants and more. Food & light refreshments available all day.

Pine Rivers PCYC. Les Hughes Sporting Complex. Baker Street, Bray Park.
4th, 5th & 6th March 2011. Open from 8am till 4pm. (3pm on Sunday)
Free Expert Advice. FREE ADMISSION. FREE PARKING.

For more information contact. Barry Kable 0414 725 294. Murray Shergold (02) 6682 2635.
Ray Clement (02) 6553 1012.
or visit www.orchidfair.com.au

Future Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Meetings

March 6th. Paul Lancaster & Margaret Vita's Suncoast Water Gardens. 283Fraser Rd Beerwah 2.00.pm.
April 3rd. Mary McKillop Centre Beerwah 2.00. pm.
May 1st. Vanessa Pilarski's residence .Harold Place. Peachester 2.00.pm
June 4th Mary McKillop Centre Beerwah. 2.00.pm.

President's Message

Happy New Year to all.

Well, didn't we have a most unusual break. I hope you all fared okay through the wet weather and everyone you know is safe.

Our last meeting was our Christmas break-up, what a wonderful feast we all enjoyed. Even though the rain came down it still didn't stop us from having a lovely day. Thank you to all who supported the day and to Geoff and Belinda for hosting the get-together.

The effort put in by the members who participated in the secret Santa made for surprises and excitement for all. Well done.

Now is the time for us to plan for the year ahead and try to get some normality about our lives. We will endeavour to stick to the plan of having every second meeting at someone's garden. If you have a particular problem or subject you want discussed let us know and we will follow it up with someone who has knowledge in that area.

Our first newsletter has now been published by Andrew Powell. In my opinion it all worked out fine with a super effort by Bob to get it all together and then printed at a new venue for the first time. There were a few hiccups but these will be sorted in time.

Remember this is **your** newsletter, if you want anything added to **your** publication, let Bob or anyone on the committee know.

I will be away for the March and April meetings. I am sure you will be well catered for by Vice President Bob Brereton during this time.

Cheers

Len Waite.

Management Committee Officers.

President: Len Waite

Vice President: Bob Brereton
Treasurer: Geoff Tilton

Secretary: Pat Tennant

Committee members:

Immediate past President, Media liaison & P.R. officer. Bob McLean

Newsletter Editor: Bob Watkins. Librarian: Vanessa Pilarski Raffles: Kaye Notman

Plant of the Month: Ann Cormack Trip Coordinator Sheryl Waite

Christmas Party Photos



What's On When

The Bromeliad Extravaganza
Wavell Heights Community Hall
 Edinburgh Castle Road
 Wavell Heights
Saturday 12th March. 8am to 3pm
Sunday 13th March 9am to 2pm
 Refreshments available all day
FREE ADMISSION

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.

Contributors to this Issue. Len Waite. Bob McLean. Bob Schmuck.

Christmas Party Photos



Printed with the kind assistance of ANDREW POWELL MP. STATE MEMBER FOR GLASSHOUSE

Len's Timely Tips for January–February

- 1: I know your plants have had more than their fair share of water, but don't forget, hanging baskets will dry out very quickly in the heat we are getting at the moment.
- 2: The wet weather will have put some of you behind with potting, but keep at it because you have plenty of growing weather before winter arrives.
- 3: The amount of shade we have experienced since October will have made our plants a little softer than they would usually be. So watch what is getting more than their share of sun. Gently Gently.
- 4: Popular vote is your chance to compare how your growing techniques are coming along, so work on your favourites to give yourself a chance to showcase them.
- 5: Just a little afterthought, don't try to turn on your light switches when the power is out. It doesn't work.

Cheers Waitey



Editorial Committee: **Bob Watkins, Pat Pennell**

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



**Potting mix is still available in 25L bags for \$4.00.
Contact Lou and Ardie Baker on 5494 8426**



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This time I would like to share some details of another bromeliad genus, Alcantarea. Currently this genus has eighteen species. Lithophytic (the study of plants, structure) growth is endemic to Brazil. Recently separated from the genus Vriesea, Alcantarea imperialis reaches a height of 2.7 meters and contains some hundreds of individual flowers. It is one of the largest of the genus, it is terrestrial and grows to 1.5 meters in diameter. The *imperialis rubra* is a distinctive plant with its 20 cm wide leaves forming an upright rosette about 2 meters high and

wide. The leaves' upper surface is a pale blue-grey-green, while the lower surface can be either a pale or intense maroon. There are lots of variation in leaf colour between clones of their plants, so check this when you buy your plant).

The inflorescence, which can be up to 1.5 meters tall, is similar in shape to a large candelabra, with many lateral branches. Its flowers have white petals. This is a spectacular, and relatively undemanding, plant. These statement plants are easy to grow and are trouble free and will provide a great feature in your garden, which can be planted as a single specimen, in a group or as an entrance feature. The Alcantarea imperialis The Alcantarea *imperialis* is a variable species that exhibits a wide range of leaf colour and form in the wild. The bright red form that is usually called 'rubra' is just an expression of this species, and the dark purple type, usually called 'purple', is another.

There are many others, with varied widths of leaf, and varying amounts of red or purple pigment. Unfortunately, from seed the parent characteristics don't always come through, so from a 'rubra' the grower will get a mix of 'rubra', 'purple' and lots of green and intermediate foliage colours. Unless the seedlings are grown hard, with lots of sun and minimal nutrient, they will look very similar until they are at least half a meter high. As commercial nurseries tend to push their plants along with shade, fertiliser and water, customers may be disappointed when their purchase turns out to be colour they were not expecting.

The Alcantarea will grow in almost any soil although they prefer free-draining soil. Applications of fertiliser will certainly get them growing faster and bigger, but a reduction in leaf colour may result with too much nitrogen. They are completely resistant to salt spray, wind, they are cold hardy and will cope with several frosts in a season. This plant will grow well in full sun to providing the colour contrast in the leaf to provide a magnificent show.

Contribution by Bob McLean

For The Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc

The Bromeliad plant has a cycle of life that provides beautiful foliage, a dramatic bloom, and efficient reproduction.

Bromeliads are native to American Tropics. The well-known pineapple is the fruit of a plant in the Bromeliad family. This plant is adaptable to indoor and outdoor environments and is related to Spanish moss. When Bromeliads are in their native environment they get their nutrients from the air and rain. These Bromeliad plants develop a special root structure so that it can attach itself to tree trunks, branches, and even rocks. These Bromeliads are known as saxicolous. Many types of Bromeliads are terrestrial and grow in the ground like most plants do. Surprisingly each type of Bromeliad can switch places and adapt to its new environment!

Bromeliads can provide beautiful blooms. Mostly they are cultivated for indoors but grow well outdoors in warm and humid environments. The plant only blooms once in its lifetime, but with the variation in leaves, the Bromeliad is still a good choice for home décor and gardens. It is easy to grow and hardy.

In the plant family, Bromeliaceae, there is a wide range of variety in the shape, colour and size of the plants. The appearance of species in an individual genus can have drastic differences. Bromeliad plants that are cultivated for indoor environments often have the following common appearance traits: no stems, central flower spike, strap-shaped leaves, leathery texture, and arched leaves arranged in a rosette.

Bromeliad care is easy. Air circulation and humidity assure the Bromeliad plant will flourish in a home.

A Bromeliad bloom can be one of a wide variety of colours. When a Bromeliad plant is preparing to bloom, the leaves on the upper part of the plant will also change colour, intensifying the appearance of the Bromeliad bloom. This will only occur once in the life of a Bromeliad. Once it blooms the plant will focus on producing the next generation of Bromeliads and "pup" will begin to sprout up around the plant. The types of Bromeliad plant that are commonly grown will only produce one flower at a time. Once a plant is mature enough to start blooming, it can be encouraged to bloom by doing the following: properly fertilized, watered regularly, adequate light, warmth (a lamp nearby may help), and, add a small amount of Epsom salts to soil (for the magnesium).

Some plants may still resist blooming. One last thing to try is to put the plant in a plastic bag for about a week with a ripe apple. The apple will emit ethylene gas and this will trigger blooming. During this time keep the plant and bag out of direct sunlight.

Bob helps people with [Bromeliad Plant](#) by writing articles about [Bromeliads Care](#) and other related topics.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Bob_Schmuck