



GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Volume 4 Issue 18

~~April~~ May 2011

June



Vice President Bob Brereton hosted our April meeting in the absence of President Len Waite who, accompanied by his wife Sheryl, was attending the bromeliad conference in Darwin. Bob obliged members by acting as our guest speaker for the month and gave a very informative talk on the *Vriesea* species. Going on the plants he used as his specimens and the photos Bob provided to emphasise parts of his talk, everybody was enlightened by his knowledge and understanding of the species.

Our May meeting was held at Vanessa and Ross Pilarski's residence at Peachester. Vanessa enthralled the members with her description of how she and Ross have developed the property since they purchased it some years ago. We were also treated to Vanessa enlightening us about how she became addicted to / by bromeliads.

President Len Waite gave members an interesting account of his and wife Sheryl's trip to Darwin. Pat Pennell, who also attended the Broms on Arafura conference has kindly loaned her copy of the conference publication from which we will be able to glean an abundance of information regarding bromeliads, to share with members in coming newsletters.

Welcome to the latest change we have made to the newsletter. Hopefully this will become the way we will receive our updates in the future. I would envisage once I have presented this format to the committee for their approval it will become reality.

What I hope to achieve is for our newsletter to be emailed out to everybody that has a computer and an email address prior to our monthly meetings. For the people that don't have a computer don't worry, we will still print a few copies for you.



Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society would like to thank the State Member for
Glasshouse ANDREW POWELL M.P. for his assistance in the printing of this
publication

Presidents Message



Well, after a small absence you have to put up with me again.

Thank you to my committee and our vice president Bob, who took care of my duties while I was away. It was done so well that I hear that we weren't missed at all.

Our absence consisted of a trip to Darwin that I personally, will never forget, it included the 2011 Darwin Bromeliad Conference. I won't go into much detail about this here, but I will have a full report and photos to come at a later date.

The last meeting was held at Vanessa Pilarski's garden, what a beautiful corner of the Sunshine Coast Peachester is. Vanessa's garden does a lot to improve the surrounding area. Those of you who missed it failed to see a garden that has been constructed with a lot of thought, effort and love. It is a credit to her and husband Ross.

The next project on our list is the Glasshouse Country Sustainability & Garden Expo at Beerwah on Sunday 29th May. Things are well under way as far as planning goes. Just keep in mind 'many hands make light work'. Volunteers will be required on the day to help with chores, a little time or a lot whichever you prefer.

The raffle that we have for that day goes a long way to provide funds for the day to day running of our society.

Please get behind our display and make it a beauty. Let's have class not just quantity.

The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society had their Spectacular on the weekend of our last meeting. Before I left to attend our meeting, many of the sellers donated plants for our raffle on the day. A big thank you to those involved.

Finally, It's good to have my two feet firmly planted back on the ground.

Cheers, Len Waite.

Management Committee Officers

President: Len Waite. **Vice President:** Bob Brereton. **Secretary:** Pat Tennant.
Treasurer: Geoff Tilton

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.
Catering Team: Ardie Baker & Belinda Tilton.

Plant of the Month - April

ADVANCED



1st Lou Baker's *Guzmania Willmicii*

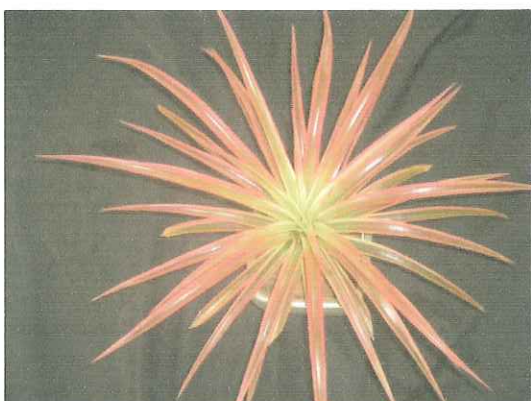


2nd Bob McLean's *Unnamed Vriesea Hybrid*

NOVICE



1st Vanessa Pilarski's *Aechmea Recuvata*



2nd Pat Pennell's
Neophytum Gallactic Warrior



3rd James Drake's *Dyckia Suntan*

Editorial Committee: *Bob Watkins. Pat Pennell.*

Any contributions can be emailed to:- bobwatkins69@yahoo.com.au

Plant of the Month ~ May

ADVANCED

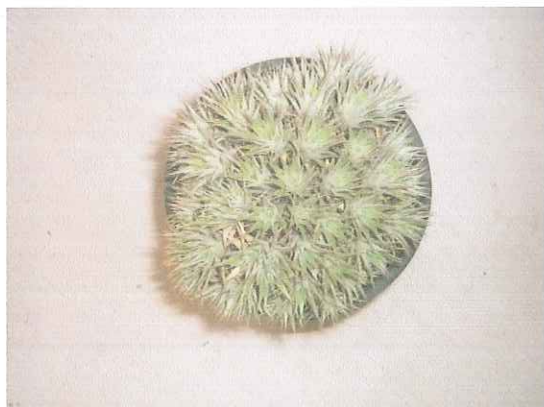


1st Lou Baker's Guzmania Hybrid

NOVICE



1st Vanessa Pilarski's Tillandsia Log



**2nd Vanessa Pilarski's Deuterocohnia
'brevifolia'**



**3rd Ardie Baker's Neoregelia
Inferno x Caroline**



Recent months have been a delight to be in the garden observing various plants presenting their beauty and colour. The *Portea petropolitana* var. *extensa*, caught my eye when driving down the street in early November. It was growing in a neighbour's native trees and had this huge flower spike growing out of the foliage. Obviously the bromeliad plant from which it had shot up was set under the tree and the flower spike had projected up to at least three meters, to present the glorious spray of flower buds. The reddish pink stem and limbs, tipped with violet and purple flower buds. This plant has now lost its beauty but the same plant in our garden is still in flower, the only difference is one is in full sun and the other is in 70% shade. The plant in our garden did not set flower until Christmas and will still be holding its colour until the beginning of winter.

The *Portea* genus is small with only nine species but it is spectacular. *Porteas* are all native to coastal Brazil where they grow on sand and rocks, usually in full sun. They are almost all large plants, and combined with their toughness and appearance, they are very well suited to large-scale landscaping. In habit, *Portea* are terrestrial and occasionally epiphytic. They are medium to large plants of spreading or upright rosette form, resembling the larger stately species of the genus *Aechmea*. The foliage is green or yellow-green, with prominent spines on the edges of the leaves. This spectacular plant, with large rosettes up to 1m high and wide, is the most commonly grown of all the *porteas*. The flower spikes as I described earlier are spectacular, reaching 1.5 meters or more, the 50cm long "spray" of flowers with purple petals and blue-green ovaries, is a sight to behold. The stem carries many beautiful flowers. After flowering, the masses of dark purple berries form to maintain the colourful display.

When in flower, a clump of this plant is a striking sight in any garden.



Portea petropolitana var *extensa* in Alma Park Zoo, Brisbane
photo by Ian Hook



photo by Ken Marks

To Get In Touch: Phone Pat Tennant on 54941761 or Bob Watkins on 0418 782 538

What's On When

5th June . 2011 . Open Garden Mark Pearce and Donna Winzar's residence 13 Acacia Avenue Beerburrum 9.00.am to 3.00.pm. **MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE ,OUR MONTHLY MEETING FOR JUNE IS CANCELLED INLIEU OF THIS OPEN GARDEN BEING HELD BY MARK AND DONNA.** Members are asked to attend and make time to assist them with the organisation of visitors to their garden. No doubt an "informal" meeting will be conducted as the day progresses.

4th & 5th June, 2011 . Queensland Week ORCHID and GARDENING EXPO.

Hosted by the Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc. Bribie Indoor Bowls Club First Avenue, Bribie Island.
25 Stalls including: Orchids, Rare Exotic and Tropical Indoor and Outdoor Plants. BROMELIADS. Succulents and Cordylines. Ferns Day Lilies and Hibiscus. Jewellery, Craft Stalls and Woodwork. Garden Accessories. Fruit and Vegetables. FREE ADMISSION. Morning /Afternoon Teas / Lunches Available.

Contact Coordinator Judy Carleton 34100789 Email: lynn@bribieislandorchidsociety.com

3rd July 2011 Monthly Meeting Mary McKillop Centre Peachester – Kilcoy Road Beerwah 2.00 pm.

7th August 2011 Monthly Meeting Jenny Cruice's residence 79 – 83 Chapman Drive Wamuran 2.00 pm.

5th September ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Geoff and Belinda Tilton's residence 160 Glenview Road Palmview. 2.00.pm.

Sat 10th & Sun 11th Sept 2011 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. Noosa Bicentennial Hall. Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach.
FREE ADMISSION Bring your camera. Information 0412 884 116

Fri 16th to Wed 21st September 2011. The Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. present their Annual Spring Shows. Centenary Heights School Hall. Ramsay & South Streets. Toowoomba. 8.30.am. to 5 pm.
Also our 2nd ever **BROMELIAD SHOW** at St. Pauls Lutheran Church Hall Phillip and James Streets Toowoomba. Fri 16th to Wed 21st Sept. 8.30.am to 5pm. Entry Fee \$3.00. Pensioners \$2.00. High School Students and children under 12 Free. Coaches catered for. For more information please contact Heather on 0414528875

Sat 15th October 8.00.am.- 3.00 pm. and Sun 16th October 9.00. – 2.00 pm. **BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA** Buy direct from the growers. Wavell Heights Community Hall 175 Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights, Brisbane.
SPRING SALE 2011. 500+ Varieties for sale. New releases. All display plants for sale.
Refreshments and lunch by Chermiside Guides. FREE ADMISSION.
For more information phone Nigel on 5485 3800.

AUCKLAND 2013 BROMELIAD CONFERENCE. Auckland New Zealand. Friday March 15th - Monday March 18th 2013. Register your interest now by emailing us at coolbroms@bsnz.org- just type in ' send us cool broms info' and we'll make sure you get all the latest conference news and all the 'early bird ' offers. The 'Cool Broms' bromeliad conference is being organised by the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand Inc. Auckland New Zealand.
Conference Convenor: Peter Waters, 22 Half Moon Rise, Half Moon Bay, Auckland 2012, New Zealand.
Email:- waterspj@ihug.co.nz



(1) Summer is gone, that's if anyone remembers it. Cooler weather is coming and it is still very wet, so I guess firstly, keep at old dead leaves on the bottom of your plants to stop rot occurring. Make sure pots are drying out and drainage holes aren't blocked. This will mainly aim at plants grown on the ground.

(2) Soft scale is still in bromeliad collections all round the country so don't relax as this pest is still rife. Possibly the reason for this is that all the wet weather we've had isn't letting the spray have time to take effect. Take the time when spraying to look at weather conditions and use all the safety precautions recommended.

(3) This month is your last chance to get offsets planted and making roots before the cold puts all them into slow motion mode. Cryptanthus mothers may have some big healthy pups on at this time of year, but with the cold coming soon, only take the big healthy ones off and leave the others until after winter. The reason being some of this genera are cold sensitive.

(4) Winter is time for us to reflect on what we have achieved over the past year. Now we need to make some sort of plan to satisfy what we want to achieve over the next twelve months.

Cheers for now Waitey.

MEETING DATES

June 5th Meeting cancelled to allow members to assist Mark and Donna with their open garden at 13 Acacia Ave Beerburum 9.00.am to 3.00.pm. All hands on deck please.

July 3rd Mary McKillop Centre Peachester Road Beerwah 2.00.pm.

August 7th Jenny Cruice's residence 79—83 Chapman Drive Wamuran 2.00.pm.

September 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Geoff and Belinda Tilton's residence 160 Glenview Road Palmview. 2.00.pm.



**Potting mix is still available in 25L bags for \$4.00.
Contact Lou and Ardie Baker on 54948426**



DISCLAIMER: This bi-monthly newsletter is intended to provide general information only for the members of the 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.