



GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Volume 4 Issue 19

June—July 2011



May 29th saw the Glasshouse Country Sustainability & Garden Expo at the Beerwah Community Hall. Although the crowds were down from last year, accolades for our bromeliad display were plentiful from the people that did attend. Once again members supported our venture by manning the barricades, selling raffle tickets and assisting with plant sales. Thank you all. A special thank you must go to Greg and Narelle Aizlewood for donating one of their plant stands that formed the major component of our first prize. Congratulations to David Weil from Mooloolah for winning first prize in our raffle. We have it on good authority David is a novice with bromeliads but like the rest of us and going on the plants he won, it won't take long before he is addicted like the rest of us.



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



Hi everyone,

It is with some regret this will be my last Presidents report.

Thank you to the members who gave me the chance to hold this position for a little while.

I would firstly like to thank the committee for their commitment, they make things run smoothly when storms are brewing.

There are also many helpers who do things on the side who are never noticed. The ones who open their gardens, the people who run and put up displays for the expo etc and the people who put up signs, set up the hall and clean up afterwards. Lets not forget about our tea ladies, our popular vote and raffles people, they make our club a pleasure to be involved with.

Thank you one and all, it is a pleasure to be involved with you.

It has been an interesting year with the flood making life very difficult for most of us. Finally things are becoming normal once again.

There has been some excellent highlights over the past year. The new equipment we now own as this allows us the freedom to change things at the last minute before newsletters go out and to display your plants in front of a much wider audience. It also makes things easier for guest speakers and allows Bobby the chance to show off his expertise with the equipment.

The Expo which at this time is probably our highlight of the year, its our chance to show the public the beauty of Bromeliads.

This year Mark and Donna opened their garden to the public as part of the Expo which was a great success thank you guys. I would like to see this continue as an annual event to help showcase our club.

At the a.g.m. put plenty of thought into who you elect as this will shape your club for the future. Lastly I would to say a big thank you to Bob Brereton who stepped in my position every time I went a.w.o.l.

Thank you everyone it has been a pleasure to work with you.

Len Waite.

P.S. Sheryl and myself will still be just as committed to this club as ever, you cant get rid of us that easy.



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.

MARK AND DONNA'S



On 5th June, as part of the Glasshouse Country Festival, Mark and Donna Pearce held an open garden at their Beerburrum residence. What a great presentation. If anybody that visited had misgivings about growing bromeliads before they saw Mark and Donna's place they would have certainly left with a positive frame of mind. Congratulations Mark and Donna, you have done yourselves proud. The renovations/extensions you have done since our last visit are a credit to you both.

Editorial Committee: Bob Watkins. Pat Pennell.

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

Plant of the Month - July

ADVANCED



1st Sheryl Waite's Vriesea Oh La La



2nd Lou Baker's Neoregelia Concentrica



3rd Len Waite's Vriesea Talbot Green Gherkin

NOVICE



1st Ardie Baker's Aechmea Weilbachii

Tillandsioideae: Air Plants and Beyond

Of the three bromeliad subfamilies, the Tillandsioideae is considered the most highly evolved. With only nine genera, fewest of all the Bromeliaceae, it nonetheless contains the most species. Living almost exclusively as epiphytes (or lithophytes) they are the most widespread of all bromeliads. Filling almost every niche, members of the Tillandsioideae can be found growing as twig epiphytes, as lithophytes, on desert sands and in wet forests. From one end of the subfamily to the other, the differences in morphology are nothing short of astounding, from rootless, to vining, to tank-type, fasciculate to cascading, monocarpic to colony forming.

While some members of the Tillandsioideae have become staples in the plant trade, this is largely limited to those considered 'facultative epiphytes' able to be grown potted in cultivation. The vastly more interesting epiphytic forms are still largely relegated to the novelty trade and to hard-core fanciers. Their epiphytic ways that make them so appealing are also the characteristic that makes them problematic for hobbyists. What is more fascinating than a beautiful flowering plant that seemingly lives on air, dwelling on twigs or even power lines?

For some gardeners the very idea of growing plants that don't live in pots is overwhelming, but to those of us who know and love them, all the challenges are worth the effort.



Guzmania donnell-smithii,
Fortuna,
Panama



Mezőbromelia capitulifera Ecuador



Tillandsia multicaulis and *T. butzii* in Costa Rica



Racineae undulifolia Condor Mountains, Ecuador



Werauhia kuperiana, Fortuna, Panama

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What's On When

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

4th 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 Chermshire 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

**Expo Raffle First prize winner
David Weil**



Lens Timely Tips

(1) This is a good time of year to get some colour in your softer Bromeliad foliage like Vrieseas etc. Put them out where they will get the first few hours of the gentle winter sun.

(2) It's also a good time to re-pot mini Neos. Try not to disturb too much of the mix around the root system .Give them a little fertilizer and shift to a slightly larger pot. Then if possible put them out into lots of sun until Ekka time.

(3) Tips on popular vote presentation 1. Container or pot to be correct size and shape. 2. Pot to be clean and free of blemishes. 3. The plant to be free of dust and debris such as leaves etc. 4. The plant to be in centre of pot and just below the rim. 5. Remove damaged leaves or trim if not practical to do this. 6. Your plant should be as close to maturity as possible. 7. Lets fill the popular vote tables with lots of perfectly presented plants. 8. Most of all enjoy what you do.

Cheers Waitey



To the members , Glasshouse Bromeliad Society. Thank you for your expression of sympathy. Your thoughtfulness meant so much at this difficult time.



*We were very much comforted by your kind thoughts at the passing of our son and brother.
Kay Notman and Tracey McMinn*

MEETING DATES

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

September 4th 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.

To Get In Touch: Phone Pat Tennant on 54941761 or Bob Watkins on 0418 782538



It is time to have a chat about the largest genera in the Bromeliad family, and one of the most well known. The Tillandsia has over 1000 species and cultivars. The majority of the species are epiphytes, and mostly xerophytic epiphytes. These are characterised by their greyish silver-coloured foliage, due to the numerous fuzzy scales which cover the surface of the leaves. The leaves are often contorted into bizarre shapes. These plants have no tank to hold water and many produce little if any root system. The other group are the tank-forming types, which usually have quite soft foliage in comparison to the xerophytic types with most of these coming from Central America. Tillandsias are the real survivors that can handle some fertiliser, as a foliate application. Xeric tillandsias are the supreme OLIGOTROPHS (i.e. nutrient scavengers). In nature, they receive little in the way of nutrients; however, they make maximum use of those nutrients that are available. This does not mean a generous fertiliser program is useless.

The Tillandsia is a bromeliad that can complement any indoor or outdoor garden display. The fluorence can be pinks, blue, yellow and of course the range of green and silver-grey foliage which is an all year display.

We will have a look at a Tillandsia aeranthos with its silver-grey-green leaves and it is a small plant 10 cm high with about 20 fine, narrow, green leaves, covered with greyish scales, which form a neat rosette and is quite stiff. The leaves keep developing in spirals, eventually forming long stems which curve according to light and gravity. The striking flower, bracts are bright reddish purple, petals are violet blue. The flower of the beautiful plant will provide floral display three to four months from when the flower spike appears until the last of the flowers has wilted. These curious but lovely plants are commonly called the carnation of the sky in their native countries where they are quite widespread. This is a hardy plant which can take frost and other adverse conditions and is strictly epiphytic.



Hey- Why didn't somebody tell me this sooner!!!!

It's the shampoo I use in the shower

When I wash my hair the shampoo runs down my whole body.

Printed very clearly on the shampoo label it reads, "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY"

I've gotten rid of the shampoo and I'm going to start using Trix dishwashing detergent.

It's label reads, " DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE" Problem Solved!

It sure pays to read the label.