



GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



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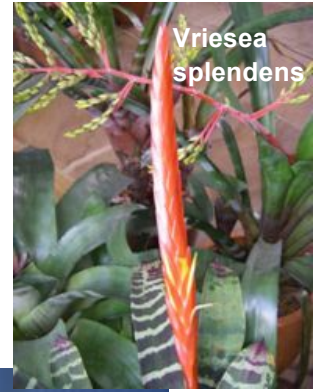
January – February 2012



Aechmea
'Friederike'



Tillandsia
wagneriana



Vriesea
splendens

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Aechmea 'Del Mar'

Here are some of the plants that have flowered at my place over the Christmas break and I thought I would share them with the members to enjoy as I have been.

Bob Watkins



Aechmea
'J C Superstar'



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



Hello All,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year with family and friends. I know David and I did with our new granddaughter Adia (5 months old now) in Wollongong.

Thank you to all those members who attended the Christmas lunch at the Landsborough Pub. Just think only 11 months to go before we can do it all over again.

Congratulations to those members who won the 'door prizes' that were purchased from Bob Watkins.

Well, here we go again with our meetings and having interesting guest speakers and visiting fabulous gardens and Expos.

We are always on the lookout for new and interesting guest speakers. If you know of anyone, please contact Sheryl Waite so that she can contact them.

We need to grow our club with new members. Please invite your friends or neighbours along to one of our meetings. It would be great to get more Bromeliad enthusiast's involved in our club and new ideas for what we can do at our monthly get-togethers.

Remember that this is your newsletter, so if you have anything that the rest of the members may be interested in, please forward information to Bob Watkins for inclusion.

There will be a Management Committee meeting (1.00pm) prior to the general meeting (2.00pm) on Sunday 5th February at Ardie and Lou Baker's home. Please bring a chair or you may be sitting on the ground.

Oh, and don't forget to bring something along for the raffle, your plants for sale, bromeliad pups to swap and any problem plants (but please keep separate so other plants do get affected) so that our resident expert can help solve the problem.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

KAREN BINSTEAD

President

Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc.

Postal Address: PO Box 1095, Maleny QLD 4552

Phone: (07) 5494 3677

Fax: (07) 5494 3688

Mobile: 0418 227 469

Email: sales@topnotchbusiness.com.au

Management Committee Officers

President: Karen Binstead **Vice President:** Mark Pearce. **Secretary:** Margaret McLean. **Treasurer:** Ardie Baker

Committee Members

Immediate Past President. Len Waite. **Media liaison & P. R. Officer** Bob McLean

Newsletter Editor: Bob Watkins. **Librarian:** James Drake. **Raffles:** Kaye Notman.

Plant of the Month: Ann Cormack. **Trip Coordinator:** Sheryl Waite. Pat Pennell (interim)

Catering Team: Ardie Baker & Belinda Tilton.

2011 Christmas Party Snaps





Something Nice Came into My Life

The end of November 2011 saw the emergence of a flower bud on Stanhopea Wardii. This grew out at an alarming size and rate, to explode into the most unusual orchid in my collection. With colours of cream, spots of reddy brown & deep orangey brown in the back throat, it resembles 6 dancers all suspended under the basket.

Pat Pennell





I have been looking from my office window over the past month trying to decide on the plant I was going to share with you this time. I had hoped it was going to be *Aechmea Extensa* which in autumn, I set some pups to make an *Aechmea* Christmas Tree but the flowers have not all come out yet so I will share this with you next year. Another very striking plant, which I will share with you is *Bromeliad Alcantarea regina*. The *Alcantarea* genus was once a part of the *Vriesea* genus, with long strappy soft leaves. This genus had only a small number of species, the genus now has between 27 in the species listing on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Bromeliad Photo Index and 15 cultivars. The *Alcantarea* genus all comes from eastern Brazil and are mostly very large plants. These plants usually grow in well drained soil in perched high on rocky cliffs. This spectacular genus have been in demand as feature plants in any garden with a little bit of space. The plants will mostly grow to one meter in diameter, with the flower reaching over two meters. This genus is easy to propagate from seed or the pups set around the base of the mother plant. The *Alcantarea* will grow in full sun or semi shade, in full sun the plant will show its best colour. They enjoy a good feed and a drink to develop the plant into a real show piece, this plant will enjoy a little more nitrogen (N) than other Broms but will still require a high potassium (K) to maintain the colour in the plant.

Photo 1 : *Alcantarea regina* with the flower set in.

Photo 2: The flower set now open.



Contributors to this issue: Pat Pennell. Bob McLean. Karen Binstead. Margaret McLean. Len Waite. Bob Watkins

Editorial Committee: Bob Watkins. Pat Pennell.

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

To get in touch phone: Margaret McLean on 54969601 or Bob Watkins on 0418 782 538

What's On When

Sunday 5th February 2012 Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. meeting.

Ardie & Lou Baker's residence 7 Gwen Court. Landsborough.

Committee meeting 1.00pm. General meeting 2.00pm.

Guest speaker: Len Waite offering advice on Bromeliads and Tillandsias.

Saturday 18th February 2012. Community Centre Hall. Millwell Road. Maroochydore.
(Behind Sunshine Plaza)

1.30pm for 2.00pm start. The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. has invited Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc members to attend their monthly meeting and hear their guest speaker Chris Larsen imparting his knowledge of and offering advice on Tillandsias. Chris lives in Melbourne and is lucky enough to be employed in a specialist nursery with a huge range of Tillandsias at his fingertips. He is one of the foremost Tillandsia specialists in Australia. His interest in Tillandsias started in the early eighties after spotting them in a cactus book. For the past 20 years, Chris has been working for Paradisia Nurseries and their retail arm *Collectors Corner* in Melbourne that specialize in Tillandsias and other Bromeliads amongst other plants. In the late 90's Chris dreamt up a format that was adopted as *Till Nuts*, in the hope of improving communication between the most passionate Tillandsia collectors across Australia. Although small in numbers within the bromeliad community, *Till Nuts* probably have a greater number of nutters on a percentage basis. Even though Tillandsias make up a large portion of his 9 to 5 job, they still remain a hobby to Chris.

Friday & Saturday 2nd & 3rd March 2012. 8.00.am to 4.00.pm both days.

Queensland International Orchid Fair. Free Admission. Pine Rivers PCYC. Baker St. Bray Park. Leading Queensland Nurseries, specialist plant sellers, books, bromeliads & collectables.

Saturday 3rd March 8.30 am to 3.00 pm & Sunday 4th March 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Noosa Bicentennial Hall, Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach.

Noosa Bromeliad Market Combined Growers Market. Free Admission. Exciting new releases. Extensive display featuring mature quality flowering and colourful Bromeliads on sale.

Hundreds of varieties. Heavy shade to full sun.

For further information phone 0403 193 069.

Sunday 4th March 2012 Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. monthly meeting. Mary McKillop Centre Beerwah- Peachester Rd. Beerwah 2.00pm.

Saturday 10th March 8.00 am to 3.00 pm. Sunday 11th March 9.00.am to 2.00.pm

Bromeliad Extravaganza Autumn Sale. Buy direct from the growers. Free Admission.

500 + varieties for sale. NEW RELEASES. For more information phone Nigel 5485 3800.

Sunday 20th May 2012. Sunshine Coast Hinterland Sustainability & Garden Expo. With a joint focus on Sustainability, Gardening, Health & Wellbeing and Fresh Local Produce, the Expo will be firing on all cylinders in 2012. The new and improved Turner Park, Beerwah, which now features a new bridge linking the two sides of the showground, will really open up the park to the flow of visitors on the day.

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

Waitey's Words of Wisdom



(1) First, we have to make up our minds if we are growing to beautify our gardens, we are collectors, or want to be a commercial grower. Growing for your own garden is by far the easiest path to take. You can pick only the best of the best and let someone else worry about starting from scratch. If you are a collector you may have to gain some extra knowledge to protect your investments. The other option would be commercial. I would prefer not to discuss this option other than say hang on for a bumpy ride.

(2) One of the questions I get asked more times than anything else is, "Where do I put this plant when I get it home?" Without knowing the exact conditions of a strangers property, my advice is generally, if it is a soft plant, Guzmania, Vriesea, Nidularium, etc, as much light as possible without direct sun. As for the rest Aechmeas, Neoregelias, Canistrums, etc, as much sun as possible without burning. Morning sun is much kinder to bromeliads than a west facing aspect.

(3) Another question I am frequently asked is, "How often do I water my plants?" This is a tough question to answer with just a general comment on paper as this depends on the type of plant and the mix used by the grower you purchase from. The time of year also has a lot of influence on the answer. My common answer is to treat your bromeliad as you would any other plant in your garden and when you water, give a complete drink, saturate the plant and then let it almost let it dry out before watering again. Commonsense should prevail.

(4) Pests are not a major problem with bromeliads, with a little care they can easily be controlled. I guess flyspeck scale and soft scale are the biggest dilemma. Everybody tends to use something a little different when it comes to spraying poisons. This is probably best discussed at your study group or meetings. You can help the situation naturally by giving your bromeliads room to get fresh air circulation around them. There are natural remedies available also that are very effective. I am always happy to discuss whatever problems you may have one on one if you need a little more clarity on a subject and if I can't help, I will find you someone who can.

I would just like to say a big thank you to everybody for their kind words of encouragement and for their help over the last couple of months while I have been undergoing my medical treatment. It has certainly helped Sheryl and myself work our way through the more trying times that we have had to face knowing we have such great support from you all.

From where I'm sitting, 2012 is definitely looking a lot better than the latter part of 2011.

Cheers
Waitey.



**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.