



# GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc.



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 24

March – April 2012



Our first meeting of the year took place in the wonderful surroundings of Lou and Ardie Baker's residence at Landsborough. Congratulations must go to you both for providing such a splendid setting. It's not hard to see the effort that you have both put into making sure we enjoyed our afternoon wandering through your garden. Thank 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



Hello again,

It's great to see so many members turning up to meetings this year. Remember it is your club and all your suggestions and new ideas are greatly appreciated.

Speaking of suggestions – don't forget to write them in the book at the front table of each home meeting so that we can take note of your suggestions and put them to the members.

Our next meeting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 at James Drake's home, 99 Dixon Avenue in Maleny at 2.00pm. Please note this will be a **NO SMOKING** venue.

Please bring your mugs for afternoon tea and chairs.

Before we know it, it will be time to decide on the Management Team for 2012 – 2013. Please consider taking on a role so that this club can continue.

KAREN BINSTEAD  
President  
Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc.

Postal Address: PO Box 1095, Maleny QLD 4552  
Phone: (07) 5494 3677  
Fax: (07) 5494 3688  
Email: [sales@topnotchbusiness.com.au](mailto:sales@topnotchbusiness.com.au)

## SHERYL'S BUS TRIP EXTRAVANGZA DATE CLAIMER

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012

Saturday: Visit 2 very large Bromeliad Nurseries. Staying at Ballina overnight.

Sunday: Visit 2 private gardens on the return trip. Cost approximately \$100.00. Meals are still being arranged.

Sheryl will discuss the trip at Sunday's meeting but assures me that these are places you would not normally see and she needs the support of all us members as a lot of time and effort has been put into the planning of this excursion

### 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)



# What's cooking at the Baker's



I don't think you will find much better surroundings than these to spend an afternoon conversing with other bromeliad lovers and catching up on the latest news and gossip from within the wonderful world of bromeliads. Lou and Ardie, thank you for opening up your home once again for us to enjoy.



Here are a few photos to show those members who, for whatever reason, could not be with us on the day, what they missed out on seeing and being able to meander through at their leisure.





# Advanced Plant of the Month - February



**1<sup>st</sup> Len Waite's  
*Cryptanthus Bowl***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sheryl Waite's *Neoregelia Groucho***



**3<sup>rd</sup> Lou Baker's  
*Neoregelia Painted Delight***

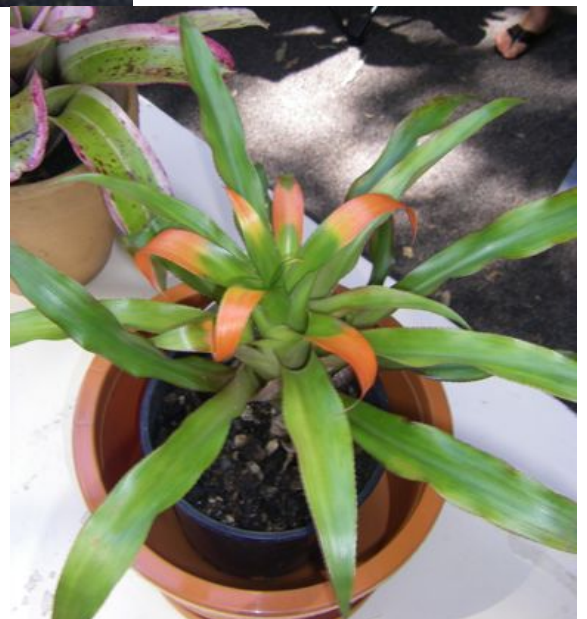
# Novice Plant of the Month - February



**1<sup>st</sup> Ardie Baker's**  
**Vriesea Philippo-Coburgii**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Pennell's**  
**Neoregelia Shell Dance**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Watkins' Pitcairnia andreaana**



# Advanced Plant of the Month - March



**1<sup>st</sup> Lou Baker's Neoregelia Enchantment**

# Novice Plant of the Month - March



**Equal 1<sup>st</sup> Jeanette Robinson's  
Tillandsia Multiucaulis**

**Equal 1<sup>st</sup> Pat Pennell's  
Neoregelia Hybrid on a log**

# Going Potty with Pat

Pat Pennell kindly filled in as guest speaker for our March meeting and kept members enthralled with her talk on arranging bromeliads in suitable pots so that the colour and make of the pot compliments a particular bromeliad plant and it's flower.



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





# What's On When

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012** Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. monthly meeting. James Drake's residence 99 Dixon Ave Maleny 2.00pm. Please bring your own mug for afternoon tea and a chair  
Please remember that the Drake residence is a "Smoke Free" zone.

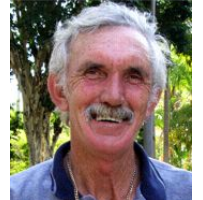
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012** Bromeliad Spectacular. From 8.30 am. Community Hall Millwell Rd Maroochydore Admission\$3.00, Spectacular Display, Plant Sales, Monster raffle, Refreshments, Bromeliad workshops. Children free. Presented by Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society. Enquiries Carol Stewart, 54453488.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April.** Bribie Island Orchid Society present their Silver Anniversary Orchid and Foliage Show. Starting 9.00 am, Where:- Bribie Island High School, 1st Ave Bribie Island. Admission: \$4.00. Something for everyone. Bromeliads, African Violets, Peters Glen Shadehouses, Gingers, Sausage Sizzle, Anthuriums, Daylillies,  
And of course, Orchids.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> - Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2013. Register your interest now by emailing us at [coolbroms@bsnz.org](mailto: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](mailto:waterspj@ihug.co.nz)

## Waitey's Words of Wisdom



- (1) The end of April is coming upon us very soon, by this time you should have taken all available pups off and planted. This is so they will hopefully have roots and be happily growing by the time the cold gets to us. Don't be tempted to take them off to small or they will struggle to handle winter.
- (2) Last years flood and this years constant wet are certainly trying times for all gardeners. The most important factor to combat the wet is good drainage. Do what you can to prevent your plants from standing in water constantly, we have lost several plants that were almost fully grown, possibly from crown rot and of course it affected the best of the bunch. A lot of the Bromeliads have really seemed to enjoy the wet so there are some positives with the negatives.
- 3) Fertilizer: Me being known for being a little heavy handed on this subject has really caught up with me this season. The lack of light to colour up the plants doesn't help much. (I've got two Neoregelia Gold Lotto that are about 18 inches high and not much colour. I won't tell you what Sheryl had to say on this one.) Sometimes less is more. I will report back later on what this does to the offshoots from these two plants.
- 4) Dyckias: These are a subject I don't mind adding my thoughts on. With all the wet we are having at this present time, they seem to be thriving, maybe these prickly little devils can handle a lot more water than we first thought. I read in one of the bromeliad books where a grower waters every day in Summer it says that it stops most of the dieback on the tips of the leaves.(Food for thought.)

Good luck with the challenges from the wet and happy growing.

Till next month,  
Waitev.

Printed with the assistance of Andrew Powell M.P. State Member for Glasshouse



## Something New.

# Plant of the Month Photograph Competition

### How to enter



- It's easy.
- Just take a photo of your favourite bromeliad.
- Download it to your computer.
- Email the photo to [bobwatkins69@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bobwatkins69@yahoo.com.au) with the subject heading "Bromeliad Photo Competition". Add a note giving the name of the plant and who you are.
- Each photo will be given a number and added to a PowerPoint presentation. At every home meeting they will all be shown to the members present who will then vote for their particular plant.
- After the votes are counted, the place getters will be announced and the owner of each plant will be revealed.
- The bromeliad must be yours. Not one you have seen somewhere and "borrowed" for the competition.**

•This competition has been started because not all our bromeliads flower or look their best on the first Sunday of each month and by submitting a photograph when it is at it's best you at least have a chance of showing it to all us other bromeliad nuts and getting some well deserved recognition for your efforts.

If you haven't got a digital camera or a computer give us a call and we'll arrange to come and take a photo for you



Come on give it a go. The more the merrier.



**THE GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
MEETING FOR MAY WILL BE HELD AT THE MARY  
MACKILLOP CENTRE, PEACHESTER - KILCOY  
ROAD BEERWAH @ 2.00.PM.**



*Editorial Committee: Bob Watkins. Pat Pennell.*

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

**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.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2011 PLANT OF THE MONTH PLACEGETTERS



## Advanced

1st Lou Baker \$50 Bunnings Voucher



2nd Len Waite \$20 Bunnings Voucher

## Novice

1st: Vanessa Pilarski



\$50 Bunnings Voucher

Tie for 2nd: Pat Pennell & Ardie Baker



\$20 Bunnings Voucher each





This time we will have a look at the Bromeliad *Billbergia* genus. The *billbergia* was named after Gustave Billbergia Swedish botanist. *Billbergias* are native to eastern Brazil, Mexico and Central America in the main, but have been found in Peru and Argentina. There are over fifty recognised species, and several hundred registered hybrids. *Billbergias* will grow in the ground and will quickly develop in to large clumps within a few years. They are often a common sight in shady corners in many older sub-tropical/tropical gardens. Many *billbergias* though, will grow best under much more light. They also need to be “starved” of nutrient if you wish to bring out the best colour in the coloured-leaved *billbergias*. (if you fertilise *billbergias* as you would with other bromeliads, then their leaves will become “lanky” and green). They are epiphytes, and in their natural habitat are found usually in large clumps growing in good light.

These plants often grow in clumps, whether on trees or in pots. Growers will grow this genus successfully in 125 to 140mm pot. *Billbergias* were among the first bromeliads to be hybridised, mainly because they are easy to flower and their floral parts are easily seen and manipulated. Consequently many of those now grown are hybrids.

*Billbergias* often have beautiful, but short-lived (7 to 14 days) inflorescences. Consequently, many people concentrate on growing the coloured-leaved *billbergias*.



The *Billbergia amoena* ‘Red form’ (pictured) is a fairly large and attractive *billbergia* with pink and spotted cream leaves when grown in good light. The upright flower spikes have a shocking pink bracts and green flowers with bright blue tips. It is very prolific and can cover larger areas quickly via its underground stolons. When grown in a pot it will soon outgrow the pot with the fine roots attaching to the outside of the pot to support the new growth, as would occur growing in a tree. The *Billbergia amoena* ‘Red’ has glorious glossy red leaves. New pups arise from relatively long stolons and often grow much higher than the parent plant. This unusual characteristic means it can grow as a climber. The spikes are pendulous, sometimes hanging below the base of the plant and are usually very glamorous.

You will be able to see more beautiful Bromeliads at the 2012 Sustainability & Garden Expo on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of the Society will be held at James Drake 99 Dixon Av. Maleny on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 at 2.00 pm. Please bring a your own cup for afternoon tea & a chair, everything else will be provided.

**N.B.** This property is a **SMOKE FREE ZONE**. For more information contact President: Karen Binstead 07 54943677  
Email sales@topnotchbusiness.com.au or Secretary: Margaret McLean 07 5496 9601

