



GLASSHOUSE GOUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 25

May-June 2012



JAMES IS AS HAPPY AS A DUCK ON A POND

Our April meeting took place in the wonderful surroundings of James Drake's residence at beautiful downtown Maleny.

James was keen to have members visit his property and offer their advice on how to landscape his grounds, which are undergoing a complete refurbishment.

Judging by the amount of effort he and his family have put into the project to date the finished product will be something to behold.



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



Welcome to another month with the Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society.

We are always looking for new ideas, great guest speakers and suggestions of other gardening venues that we should go and see.

Please put your ideas in the “suggestion” book that is always placed at the raffle table at our home meetings.

I would also ask you to all to please start thinking seriously of your role in the Club come the AGM. Let’s share the positions on the Board around. Don’t be bashful. If you think you have a quality that will assist in the running of the club please put your hand up.

Don’t forget the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Sustainability & Garden Expo at Turner Park in Beerwah on Sunday 27th May 2012. I’m assured this years event will be bigger and better than ever and I ask anyone who has the time to spare if they could help with the setting up of the display on Saturday 26th at 3.00.pm and to also devote a couple of hours helping with the sale of raffle tickets and plants on Sunday.

If you ever want to go on an exciting weekend away and learn more about bromeliads, please book a place on the bus trip to Ballina that Sheryl Waite is organising for the 20th & 21st of October. After hearing Sheryl talk about it at the last meeting I think it will be a trip to remember, but be quick, places are filling fast.

See you at the next meeting at Paul and Margaret’s

Karen

Bromeliad Photograph of the Month - May

Jeanette Robertson’s



Billbergia ‘Jenny’s Delight’

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: Belinda Tilton. Pat Pennell.

Advanced Plant of the Month - April



1st: Len Waite with Neoregelia Absolutely Fabulous



2nd: Len Waite with Neoregelia Hailstorm

3rd: Sheryl Waite with Neoregelia Bishop



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

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

Novice Plant of the Month - April



1st: Bob Watkins with Neoregelia Tangarine

2nd: Pat Pennell with Vriesea Fosteriana CV - Red Dragon



3rd: James Drake with Cryptanthus Mannii

Wandering around James' Place



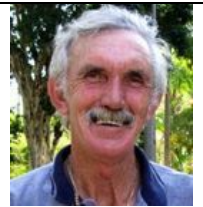
I was intrigued when I saw this 'plant' in James' front garden and just had to take a photo to show the members, like me, that didn't know, this is where Easter Eggs come from.

It's an Easter Egg tree.

James' children were nurturing it so well there was a magnificent crop of little eggs hanging off it as the picture shows.

Keep up the good work kids





(1) The cooler weather is upon us.

In an ideal world we should have finished planting all our pups by now. Of course we never seem to do so but we will attempt to do the best we can with what time we have got.

Only take pups off that are of a good size and leave the small ones on their mothers, they will fare much better through the winter with their mums looking them.

If you take Vrieseas off and are a little nervous about them coping, my way to counter this is to put a small amount of mix in the bottom of a pot and stand the offset in it until you see roots actually forming. This will work with any offsets you're not sure will cope with the cold.

Sheryl & I are way behind with our propagation but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

(2) Staying with the subject of colder weather. Watering is a very important component, we need to make sure our plants have enough moisture to cope as a dry plant will burn much more easily.

Water in the mornings not at night, so the plants have the chance to dry their leaves for nighttime and cope with any extreme cold.

Hanging baskets will dry out much faster than others, so pay particular attention to these, particularly if these have been planted for a long time, as they do not have as much water retention as the mix gets older.

(3) As most of you would know, fertilizing in winter is almost a waste of time especially if you use osmocote etc to nourish your babies, but surely if you foliar fertilize on the warm barmy days through winter there must be some advantages for your bromeliads. I would welcome feedback on this subject from our more experienced growers or experts.

By the way, don't bother to foliar feed your Cryptanthus as they don't take nutrients in through their leaves only via the root system.

(4) Bus trips seem to very difficult to get enough people to go on at the moment, this is one of the best ways to see how other enthusiasts grow their broms and use them in gardens.

You get the chance to talk one on one with experts in their particular field and there is also time to socialise, which we seldom get, as almost always business takes up most of the time we have. Most of all we will learn something new and different.

See you on the bus

Cheers
Waitey.

Contributors to this issue: Bob McLean. Len Waite. Bob Watkins

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

What's On When

Sunday 27th 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. We will be manning the barricades again this year with our bromeliad display and the stall selling bromeliads and raffle tickets. ALL members are asked to donate some of their time assisting on the stall as this is the club's main revenue raiser each year. If you have plants to sell please bring them along on the day and devote a couple of hours to publicising the bromeliad club.

Sunday 3rd June 2012. At 2.00.pm. Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. monthly meeting at the Suncoast Water Gardens. Paul Lancaster and Margaret Vita's residence, 283 Fraser Road Beerwah.

SHERYL'S BUS TRIP EXTRAVANGZA DATE CLAIMER

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st 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 needs the support of all us members as a lot of time and effort has been put into the planning of this excursion

Broms By Bob



I have been contributing to this segment for over two years and in this contribution I would like to take the time to give the everyone a little history of the society.

The Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. (formerly Glasshouse Country Friends of Bromeliads Group) was formed in October 2004 and was incorporated in June 2006. We meet on the first Sunday of each month (January excepted) at 2.00pm.

Although most of the Society's meetings are held at the Mary MacKillop Centre, 160 Peachester Road, Beerwah, some meetings are held at member's homes. The Society's objectives are to promote Bromeliad knowledge for interested persons in the Glasshouse Mountains area, although some members come from Brisbane, Bribie Island and Maleny.

Membership is open to all interested persons and the Society's membership fee is currently \$10 pp or \$15 family per year.

Guest Speakers are present at most meetings and trips are organised to Bromeliad Nurseries, displays and shows.

Pineapples are part of the Bromeliad family and it follows that most Bromeliads grow very well in our area. If you are interested in furthering your knowledge of this exotic plant, come and join the 50 or so members already enjoying the experience.

For more information contact our President Karen Binstead on 54943677 or Email sales@topnotchbusiness.com.au

Or our Secretary Margaret Mclean 07 5496 9601,

Advanced Plant of the Month - May



1st Sheryl Waite with Dyckia Dark Moon



2nd Bob McLean with Vriesea Phillipii Coburgii



3rd Len Waite with Billbergia "Mr. Cooper"



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



Novice Plant of the Month - May



1st Jeanette Robertson with Crypt. Arley



2nd Margaret McLean with Canistropsis Billbergiodes

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.