



GLASSHOUSE GOUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 28

November - December 2012



*Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year*



Our Christmas party lunch at the Beerwah Hotel
Good Friends. Good Food. Good Drinks and a wonderful time had
by all.



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



Christmas Greetings to everyone....Here's wishing you all, Health, Happiness & enjoyment of the festive season, also with your Bromeliads. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



Pat Pennell



Management Committee Officers

President: Pat Pennell **Vice President:** Len Waite. **Secretary:** Keith Pennell. **Treasurer:** Ardie Baker
Newsletter Editor: Bob Watkins

Committee Members

Immediate Past President. Karen Binstead. **Media liaison, P. R. Officer** Bob Watkins & Bob McLean
Librarian: James Drake. **Raffles:** Kaye Notman. **Plant of the Month Organiser:** Margaret McLean.
Guest Speaker & Trip Coordinator: To Be Announced. **Catering:** Belinda Tilton. **Plant Steward:** Len Waite

Advanced Plant of the Month November



1st Sheryl Waite's Neoregelia Talbot Splash.

2nd Len Waite's Neoregelia Talbot Sands.



3rd Vanessa Pilarski's Vriesea Guttata

Novice Plant of the Month November



1st Ardie Baker's Neoregelia Bob & Grace

2nd David Binstead's Guzmania hybrid



3rd Pat Pennell's Neoregelia Annik



Broms By Bob



Merry Christmas and a happy New Year



The dry spring has not affected the more hardy bromeliads. We have been expecting the *Aechmea nudicaulis* the flower anytime. This plant is perfect as Christmas decoration with its red, green, and yellow tip of brilliance among the deep green foliage with the sharp spines that trim the leaves. We have so much colour at present, with reds, yellows, burgundy and the green leaves trimmed with cream or pink, they may also be banded or speckled. The one that stands out most of all is the *Aechmea nudicaulis*. These plants should be in flower for several weeks and in full bloom for Christmas. Two years ago we built the form of a tree from 100mm PVC pipe and fittings, to form a trunk and several limbs, each limb was the holder for a plant. One mother plant with an offset, (a pup). Last summer we only were gifted with two flowers, this year we have many flower to decorate our Bromeliad Christmas tree.

This *Aechmea* species is one of the most widespread bromeliads in the Americas, found in almost every region, usually as an epiphyte, which made it perfect for our Christmas tree. This tough tubular plant with prominent spines bordering mottled green leaves. The

cylindrical upright, fire-engine red and yellow flower spikes present in mid-to late summer, this year they are almost on time and are clearly visible from a distance. The yellow spikes turn from yellow to a pale shade of greenish yellow, while the red envelope retains its striking red. This plant can take relatively harsh conditions, and doesn't have much root system when grown in soil, so is best grown as an epiphyte or over rocks, and looks spectacular when fashioned into a Christmas tree. This species grown happily in a tree, a stump or a post and when the plants are placed strategically to give the appearance of a decorated Christmas tree, with the red flowers and the yellow spikes to resemble Christmas lights. The sharp red and yellow inflorescence of the more widely grown forms never fails to attract attention from late spring to midsummer. The *Aechmea nudicaulis* has a wide habitat distribution and is extremely variable in size, foliage colour and inflorescence. It is also hardy, blooms regularly, and soon forms an interesting colony. You will enjoy the year round contribution this species will provide in your garden. We will be looking forward to the summer of 2013 for greater spectacle.

The Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society contributes to Bromeliad Society of Australia web site, www.bromeliad.org.au you can visit the Club News tab to view the regular newsletters from around the country. You can also visit the Photo Index, where you can look at the Genera and then go to the Species to view plant photos. You can now do your own research while enjoying the beauty of these plants.

For more information please contact President Pat Pennell: 5438 7375



To get in touch phone: Keith Pennell on 5438 or Bob Watkins on 0418 782 538

Printed with the kind assistance of Andrew Powell M. P. STATE MEMBER FOR GLASSHOUSE

What's On When



Sunday 3rd February 2013. Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society.
Monthly meeting. Mary MacKillop Centre. Peachester – Beerwah Road.
Beerwah. 2.00. pm.



Guest Speakers will be John and Jenny Caitlin. Mark the date in your diary.

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

Well that's it for another year from myself and the rest of the newsletter team.

On their behalf may I wish everybody a happy and enjoyable Christmas and we hope to see you all in the new year.



Thanks

Bob Watkins



Contributors to this issue. Len Waite. Bob McLean. Pat Pennell. Bob Watkins.

Editorial Committee: Bob Watkins. Pat Pennell.

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

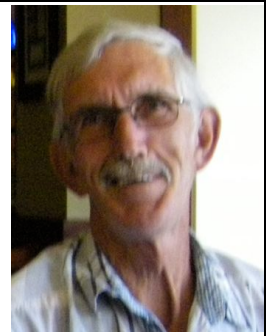


**Potting mix is still available in 25L bags for \$4.00.
Contact Lou and Ardie Baker on 54948426**



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.

Lens Timely Tips



(1) All Winter we can't wait for spring and summer to arrive. Then all of a sudden, they're here, along with new challenges. The dry weather along with the heat causes bleaching, so long as it is not burnt this will grow out as the plant becomes acclimatized to the new hot conditions. Some plants will have to be shifted into safer places in the garden. Trial and error, it's meant to try our patience or maybe persistence.

(2) Watering. This should be done early in the day before the heat is too hot for the leaves to handle and when you do more is better than less. A light spray is not good enough. It's a bit like us being out in the desert, we need to be fully hydrated to handle the heat, so do our plants. The watering can be done late in the day in the warmer months.

(3) Every pup that is big enough should be planted by now, (mine aren't all done) if not, get them done a.s.a.p so that they are growing and healthy by wintertime.

(4) All of us have plants that are looking alright for now. Ask yourself, how long have they been in this mix? Will they last another season? If you have the time they might just need shifting up a size. Try not to loose too much of the mix when repotting and they will never know they have been given a new home. Maybe they will happily last a few more years.

Sheryl says from the background, "Don't forget your other plants, even cacti and succulents need repotting from time to time." She also says go easy on the fertilizer.

Enough for this year. Have a wonderful Christmas and a brilliant New Year everybody.

Happy growing.

Cheers Len and Sheryl.

