



BROMELETTER

***THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.***

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**Deadlines for articles: 15th of February, April, June,
August, October and December, To allow for pub-
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September, November and January.**

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**The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia
Inc.,**

P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.

Please Note

**BROMELIADS will be on sale at the Club
from 12.30 p.m. before the monthly meeting.**

MEETING VENUE AND TIME

**SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE
BURWOOD R. S. L. CLUB,
Cnr. Shaftesbury Road and Clifton Avenue, Burwood.
Meetings commence at 1.00 p.m.
in the First Floor Conference Rooms/Auditorium.**

MEETINGS PROGRAM

May 9th- Show & Tell; Sales; Raffle; Competitions
June 13th- Show & Tell; Sales; Raffle; Competitions.

EVENTS CALENDAR

10/11/12 July 2015.QLD Garden Expo. Nambour Showground.

Sadly due to ill health, our valued Vice President, **Robyn Firth** has reluctantly tendered her resignation from the committee, as club VP. Robyn has been an integral part of the club for many years and is a major reason for the success of the recent Bromeliad Conference. She had worked hard as Vice President and these shoes will be hard to fill.

A replacement will be considered at future committee meetings.
Our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a speedy recovery go with you, Robyn, and we look forward to seeing you around Spring Show time.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details regarding our :

Operating Account to April 30, 2015:

Brought Forward	\$48,846.81
Plus Income:	58,971.51
Less expenses	62,629.76
Bank Statement as at 30/042015	\$ 45,188.56

Operating Account to May 31, 2015:

Brought Forward	\$ 45,188.56
Plus Income:	58,971.51
Less expenses	62,629.76
Bank Statement as at 31/03/2015	\$45,188.56

Please note: these totals include Conference receipts and expenses.

May2015

Plant of the Month Competition

Open

Judge's Choice.

1st	Orthophytum 'Warren Loose'	Joy Clark
2nd	Tillandsia oesteriana	Michael Ferenczi
3rd	Tillandsia capitata hybrid	Kerry McNicol

Open

Members' Choice

1st	Orthophytum 'Warren Loose'	Joy Clark
2nd	Tillandsia oesteriana	Michael Ferenczi
=2nd	Tillandsia fasciculata	Kerry McNicol
3rd	Neoregelia 'Sam Smith'	Kerry McNicol
=3rd	Tillandsia 'Phoenix'	Joy Clark

Novice

Judge's Choice

1st	Neoregelia lilliputiana	Warril Evans
2nd	xNeostropsis B-Fire	Ian Hook
3rd	Neoregelia Lambert's Pride	John Schembri

Novice

Members' Choice

1st	Neoregelia lilliputiana	Warril Evans
2nd	Neoregelia Lambert's Pride	John Schembri
3rd	Neoregelia Red Waif	John Schembri

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st	Tilly Cups	Joy Clark
2nd	Tillandsia	Ian Hook
3rd	Hieroglyphica	Julie Evans

Show & Tell -- May

Werner Raff: Shared a 'tip' found on the back of an old brom journal of Margaret Draddy's: 'Apply aloe-vera to cut leaves to minimise damage and marking.'

Helga Nitschke: Helga required an ID for one of her plants (p10) ITerry felt this could be Neo camorimiana.

Terry Davis: Showed a flowering plant of T. duratii var saxitilis. This is different to T.duratii var duratii as the bracts of flowers flare out from the main stem, whereas T. duratii duratii stay close to the stem. Also in flower, T.comarapaensis, T.Roma, T.concolor x T.brachycaulos and the reverse cross T.brachycaulos x T. concolor, all originally from Ken Woods. It is interesting to see the difference in crosses when they are reversed.

Kerry McNicol: Queried labels on a two plants, both Till. ahriza, one quite a bit larger than the other, the smaller one having a flower spike. It was agreed that T. ahriza is a small plant not perfumed. The larger may be T. retrorsa (one of the streptocarpa complex) especially if it IS perfumed, or, just to confuse matters more, either could be a hybrid!

Orthophytum 'Warren Loose'



Plant of the Month - May

Tillandsia oesteriana



Tillandsia capitata hybrid



Tillandsia fasciculata



Neo. Sam Smith



Tillandsia 'Phoenix'

Neoregelia lilliputiana

xNeostropsis B-Fire



Neoregelia Lambert's Pride



Tilly Cups

Artistic



Tillandsia

Hieroglyphica



**Vr. 'Highway Beauty' (*platynema* (NOT *bituminosa*)
x *saundersii*) and *Vriesea* 'RoRo' (*saundersii* x
platynema)**

Revisited by Derek Butcher, April 2012

(Reprinted in part from article in FNCBSG May 2012– Ross Little)

This problem has been bugging me since 2001 when Peter Huddy thought he had solved the problem of two variegated *Vrieseas* that had been imported to Australia under parentage formula from the USA.

We know that parentage formulae are often reversed and that forms of variegation do vary. In 2011 *Vriesea* 'Shiraz' was registered:

***Vriesea* 'Shiraz'**

Hybridist unknown, named by Peter Huddy, SA, Australia. Named in 1995.
(*platynema* x *saundersii*)

Plant 60cm diam, flowering to 90cm high. Has never shown signs of variegation in 20 years cultivation in SA.

Although this has the reverse parentage to that reported for the variegated 'RoRo' there appears to be great similarity and thus similar origins.

Reg Doc by M Butcher 11/2011.

The only way to answer this problem was to try find someone in the USA who was still growing plants called *V. bituminosa* x *saundersii* (variegated) and this was Michael Kiehl of Michael's Bromeliads in Florida. Michael promised to send me a photo of the plant in flower and did so in March this year.

We now have photos of all plants involved in this saga. They have a red floral bract, yellowish sepals and light green petals. All have discolor leaves.

The problem seems to be on what was considered to be *V. bituminosa* when the hybrid was done many years ago. If we look at *Flora Neotropica* by Smith & Downs 1977 we will see that even the botanists had problems with identity involving *V. platynema* whereas, these days, most of us know how to identify *V. bituminosa* with its brownish petals (see Foster's painting of his *V. bituminosa* for another problem regarding colour.)

The most likely scenario is that first we had *platynema* x *saundersii* (now called 'Shiraz') which sported variegation but some had different variegation and some bright individual felt one had '*bituminosa*' in it not '*platynema*' - and even reversed the parentage.

We should continue to use the names 'Shiraz', 'Highway Beauty', 'Highway' (non-variegated 'Highway Beauty') and 'RoRo' because so many are growing plants under these names (as well as *saundersii* x *platynema* AND *platynema* x *saundersii* plus or minus the notation 'variegated AND

bituminosa !) but remember we are dealing in all probability with the same hybrid. In our experience the plant in Adelaide called 'RoRo' has a more stable variegation pattern but then this could be different in a different climate. All have the *V. saundersii* spotting of the leaves at some time in various intensities in their life to flowering.

'Highway Beauty' was named from a plant in Adelaide, South Australia because it had so-called '*bituminosa*' in its parentage. This particular clone is still here but I would doubt that an offset actually escaped from here. The only logical solution is that growers in Australia and/or the USA were growing variegated plants with '*bituminosa*' somewhere in the formula on the label and automatically assumed it must be 'Highway Beauty'. We know this happened in New Zealand where Peter Waters maintains their 'Highway Beauty' does not link to *V. bituminosa*.

This is yet another example of non-action by the hybridist and while we now have a tenuous solution it is a muddled one. (See photos p10)

For more on this subject go to bromeliad.org.au click Detective then **DD0412**



xCryptbergia now xBiltanthus

abridged

by Derek Butcher. J.Brom.Soc. 62(4): 173-176. 2012

'Some may say they have never heard of this nothogenus and yet it has been around since 1947 but nobody alerted the Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar. Recently Alan Herndon of Florida and myself have been discussing the advantage of having many of the old catalogues in digital form and perhaps be part of the BSI archives. These days it is easy to do via a scanner and pdf. Ever since the Bromeliad Cultivar Register was published in 1998 I have pondered over the references quoted because I never believed I would ever be able to actually see these when they were old catalogues. When they referred to botanical publications I was able to research and translate many only to find in some cases wrong information had been interpreted and in others it only referred to a plant being in a certain exhibition and thus worthless!

My contribution to the cause was mainly catalogues from Australia whereas Alan was able to supply some of Roehrs Catalogues from New Jersey, USA. We have grown *Neoregelia* 'Roehr's Best' for many years in Australia so I was curious to find out something about its origins. We did not

IMPORTING MADE EASIER

*References taken from work done by **Bob Reilly***

(XIII Australasian Conference Proceedings, Brisbane 2005; notification to Tillnuts June 2015)

As most of are aware, importing bromeliads into Australia is both expensive and not without a good deal of 'Red Tape'. Even when these two problems are surmounted, there is the possible loss of expensive and treasured plants incurred during the quarantine process, altogether making most of us put importing into the 'too hard' basket.

The area where most healthy plant deaths occurred, was after being treated with methyl bromide gas. This gas is often toxic to plant (as well as the 'critters' it is meant to kill). It is much heavier than air and can remain trapped deep within the plants leaves. Plants should be totally immersed in water as soon as possible after treatment and hung upside-down to drain. Then the process repeated at least once more, as this gas is soluble in water and will continue to do damage.

A recent notification from Bob Reilly follows

'As some of you will know, I have been working with AQIS for some years to improve our ability to import bromeliads.

One issue has been the limited availability of an alternative quarantine treatment to fumigation, under certain circumstances. The alternative treatment is dipping in an insecticide, which is less severe on imported plants, than fumigation.

Recently, the dipping list has been significantly expanded—it is now solely at a genus, rather than a genus/species, level.

This should make it easier to import a variety of bromeliads. Also, the list of bromeliads that can be imported as seeds was expanded in January 2015. Regards Bob Reilly'

Added to this in a note from Chris Larson is the Genus list which now do not need to be 'gassed' unless there is evidence of disease or insect infestation.

Aechmea spp; Alcantarea spp; Cryptanthusspp; Canistropsis spp; Dyckiaspp; Guzmania spp; Hechtia spp; Neoregelia spp; Nidularium spp; Racinaea spp; Tillandsia spp; Vriesea spp; Werauhia spp.

Importing is still in my 'too hard' basket, and I continue to be grateful to those driven and energetic addicts who go to the considerable effort to do so.

Vale

Keith Ryde

13th June 1929 - 3rd May 2015



Keith was born in Condoblin in 1929 and his father's work took the family around central NSW . On leaving school, Keith chose banking as a career, which lasted for the following 42 years. Keith met Ruby at a dance in 1955 and they married in 1956. The house they built in Hitter Ave, Bass Hill, was their one and only home. Keith is survived by his wife Ruby and children Stephen and Samantha.

Keith was a keen sports person, he particularly loved rugby league, tennis, cricket and golf. Keith spent 8 years in the Naval Reserve. Once his sporting days were over he became an keen spectator. Although an avid Rabbitoh's fan, he maintained a 50+ membership at Canterbury Bankstown Rugby League club, after joining as a young man, when the club met in a tin shed at opposite his work at Belmore.

Keith was an active member of the Labor Party and in retirement found more time for volunteering at his local branch, and for his other passion, bromeliads. Keith and Ruby joined The Bromeliad Society of Australia in 1976 and played a big part in the 'growing' of both this society and the Brom Society of NSW. In 1980 Keith was elected president, taking his turn and helping the club on its way. He was made a life member of the club in 2000. Both he and Ruby trekked to South America united in following their passion for Bromeliads.

Both Keith and Ruby were extremely important in getting the '**Growing Bromeliads**' book first organised and published, not only with knowledgeable content but particularly, financially. Keith held many other positions including vice president, committee member and even auditor in more recent years

It is a great loss to not only his family, but to his vastly extended 'Bromeliad Family' from all over Australia and around the world where he was held in great esteem by his fellow lovers of Bromeliads. We will always have a smile on our faces when we think of Keith, a thorough gentleman who always had one suggestion or another by way of helping or contributing in whatever way he could, but also perhaps, we will have the twinkling of a tear in our eye.

Neo camorimiana. ?



T brachycaulos xT.

Show & Tell—May

T Roma



T duratii var saxitilis



T. dratii v. duratii



T. concolor x T brachycaulos

T. ahriza ?



T.comarapaensis,

Photos From article p 6,7



Vr. Roro albo-marginated



Vr Highway Beauty



Vr RoRo inflorescence



Vr RoRon variegated

xCryptbergia now xBiltanthus



xBiltanthus Goodale
Photo by Grace Goode



xBiltanthus beuckeri was
xCryptbergia Mead
Photo by Derek Butcher



xBiltanthus Topaz
Photo by Terry



xBiltanthus Red Burst
Photo by Ken Woods

Step by Step Removal of Pups from Foliage

Vriesea By Ross Little *FNCBSG Aug 2012*

A good sturdy knife or saw is required such as a hole saw.



Pups in upper leaf axils are easily accessed if the lower leaves are removed.



For difficult to remove leaves, split and pull to either side to expose the pups.



Ease the pup away from the axis of the plant to expose the hinge point.



Cut downwards and slightly in towards the base of the parent plant



A clean cut, this should be allowed to dry/callous over now before potting.



Vale Ken Woods

6th July 1930 - 20th June 2015



Once again we are bidding farewell to a much loved member of our Society. Ken was born in Gladesville in 1930. He met Pat during the 1950s and they were married in September 1951. They began their married life together and raised a family in Moree. Ken is survived by his wife Pat, four children Garry, Jenny, Rob & Paul and their families.

Ken was a hardworking, committed and passionate in both his work and personal life. During his working life he worked tirelessly for Southern Cross Machinery, Davey Pumps and Finsbury Pumps. He earned a solid reputation of being a thorough professional and dedicated to surging forward in the irrigation industry.

Fortunately for us, during the 1980s, Ken's passions turned to Bromeliad growing, and then more specifically to Tillandsia growing and hybridising. He was BSA president for many years and was one of the first accredited Bromeliad judges in Australia, often judging at BSA, BSNSW and Royal Easter Show competitions and displays. Ken was awarded Life Membership for his contribution to the society.

He was dubbed 'Mr Tillandsia' by his fellow enthusiasts. He was well liked and respected by all who knew him, through his 'hobby'. This may be best summed up through the words of Chris Larson:

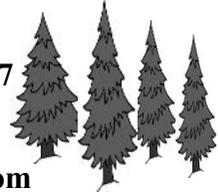
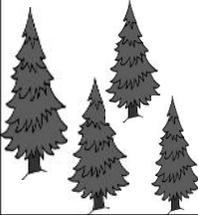
'... though he was a regular attendee at bromeliad functions in Sydney as recently as the Bromsmatta conference even though his health wasn't the best. He was still collecting tills – though not on his previous scale. Ken was also one of the original 'nutters' that met in Albury for the first time, all those years ago. He... was the seed bank guy of the BSA. As a Sydney-sider he had a lot of knowledge of tillandsias originating from the Sydney region but his contacts did not stop there – as he was a true 'nutter', sourcing tills wherever he could. He was also a very keen seed grower, distributing seed to tillandsia growers all over Australia via the BSA seed bank.'

Whenever we see a tillandsia those of us who knew him, will also think of Ken and the considerable contribution he has made to our society and the world of bromeliads generally.

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Plant of the Month	Terence Davis
Show Registrar	Terence Davis
Show Co-ordinator/s	Ian Hook; Terence Davis
Purchasing Officer	Robyn Firth
Show Display	Joy Clark

LITERATURE

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Growing Bromeliads - 3rd. Edition.	Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.	\$10.00
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden.	Andrew Steens	\$35.00 Now \$20.00
Bromeliads, A Cultural Manual. (Rev. Edition 2007)	BSI	\$5.00
Bromeliads- The Connoisseur's Guide, 2007.	Andrew Steens	\$20.00

LITERATURE:- For Mail Order delivery cost, please contact:

librarian@bromeliad.org.au

Or write to:

P.O. Box 340, Ryde. 2112

For the full list of Literature for sale, go to

<http://www.bromeliad.org.au/Contacts/BSALibrarian.htm>

find this plant but did find out that its spelling should be 'Roehrs's Best'.

Anyway, my wife, Margaret, was looking over my shoulder and said "What is a Biltanthus?"

First I contacted Jason Grant who was one of the authors of 'An Annotated catalogue of generic names of the Bromeliaceae' in Selbyana 19(1): 1998 and he said 'Argh'. I contacted the IPNI (International Plant Names Index) and they said 'Valid'!

This was what all the fuss was about, because under ICBN (International Code of Botanical Nomenclature) Rules, the first validly-published new bigeneric genus name must be accepted.

"*Biltanthus beuckeri* (*Billbergia* and *Cryptanthus* hybrid) green mottled bronze, narrow pointed foliage.

Now for the name changes that will affect you when writing labels or writing articles. The first one is undoubtedly **x*Cryptbergia* 'Mead'** which will become **x*Biltanthus* 'Beucker'** because 'beuckeri' was the first name used! Are we talking about the same plant? I think so, because by the name it would suggest one of the parents was *Cryptanthus beuckeri* and the favourite *Billbergia* of Theodore Mead was *Billbergia nutans*.

Other changes are

x*Cryptbergia* 'Curly Locks' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Curly Locks'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Fantasy' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Fantasy'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Goodale' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Goodale'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Hazel Quilhot' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Hazel Quihot'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Hombre' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Hombre'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Pinkie' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Pinkie'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Pinkinskie' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Pinkinskie'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Red Burst' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Red Burst'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Resplendent' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Resplendent'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Tiger Eye' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Tiger Eye'**

x*Cryptbergia* 'Topaz' now **x*Biltanthus* 'Topaz'**

Breaking News – Paul Butler of Florida who is doing a biography of Theodore L Mead has just sent me a copy of a page from Mead's notebooks dated April 1926. We read;

B. nutans x *C. beuckeri* germinated and survived

(*B. nutans* x *B. zebrine*) x *C. beuckeri* germinated and survived

The only problem here is to decide which of the two crossings survived to become *xBiltanthus* 'Beucker'.

You may also note that *Billbergia nutans* x *B. zebrine* has never been registered and I wonder whether this is the origin of 'Theodore L Mead' when you consider what would distinguish it from *Billbergia nutans* x *B. decora*, the said parents of *B. Windii*'.

(Photos p11. If you have photos of any of the above, please contact our President, ianhook1@bigpond.com to use photos on the BSA website, with permission)

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*June
Prize Winners*



Vr. Saundersii hyb



Till. disticha



Ae. Fatso F2
(K Mc)



Orthophytum Gold Dust



Ae. Fatso F2 (C B)



Vr. Purple Cockatoo



Neo. Rosy Mom



Neo. Predator



Boxed



Fishing



It started as a Pimple



My Little Babies



Bill. Foster's Striate

June 2015

Plant of the Month Competition

Open

1st	Vriesea saundersii hyb (RoRo?)	Kerry McNicol
2nd	Till. disticha	Michael Ferenczi
3rd	Aechmea Fatso F2	Kerry McNicol

Open

1st	Orthophytum Gold Dust	Joy Clark
2nd	Vriesea saundersii hyb (RoRo?)	Kerry McNicol
3rd	Aechmea Fatso F2	Caroline Bunnell

Novice

1st	Vriesea Purple Cockatoo	Ian Hook
2nd	Neo, Rosy Morn	John Schembri
3rd	Neo. Predator	Elaine Fletcher

Novice

1st	Neo, Rosy Morn	John Schembri
2nd	Neo. Predator	Elaine Fletcher
3rd	Vriesea Purple Cockatoo	Ian Hook

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st	Boxed	Joy Clark
2nd	Fishing	Warril Evans
3rd	My Little Babies	John Schembri
=3rd	It Started as a Pimple	Kerry McNicol

Show & Tell

John Schembri: brought in a variegated plant for identification. It was agreed that the plant was *Billbergia Foster's Striate*. He enquired about the 'blotching' on the leaves, which can be due to both heat and cold stress. It is often tricky to find exactly the right spot for some plants, so John will have to experiment with some relocation of plants.

Kerry McNicol: asked if anyone could tell the difference between Vr. Highway Beauty & Vr. RoRo, as both can be either variegated or albo-margined. Some discussion ensued with all agreeing that nobody knew that there really was a difference, so it will continue to be called Vr saundersii hyb (?).

Terry Davis & **Carolyn Bunnell**, brought in some *Tillandsia queroensis* & *usneoides*, respectively for members to add to their collections.

Ian Hook: spoke of the many uses of *T. usneoides*



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We continue to attract new members into the Society and would like to welcome our most recent enthusiasts:

***Dylan Morrissey, Selga Boothby, Ken & Carol Anderson, Ken Bradley,
Niran Srisombat & Heather Ford***

have recently joined our group. If you would like to become a Member, please see details below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Renewal due January 1st for membership year January to December.

Membership: Australia A\$20

Overseas Membership: Asia/Pacific Zone A\$30. Rest of the World A\$35.

New Membership requires a \$5 joining fee, plus Annual Subscription.

(Those joining after October 1st are covered for the following year.)

Note: Un-financial members must add \$5 rejoining fee when re-applying for membership.

Members will become 'un-financial' if renewals have not been received by the end of our Autumn Show (Bromsmatta in 2015)

MAIL ORDER PAYMENTS BY MASTERCARD/VISA.

(Subject to A\$10.00 minimum.)

Members using Mastercard or Visa mail order facility should provide the following details, printed clearly in block letters, on a separate sheet of paper:-

- Name and address of **MEMBER.**
- **TYPE** of card (e.g. Visa, Mastercard)
- **CARDHOLDER** name details, as shown on card.
- Mastercard/Visa number and expiry date.
- **CARDHOLDER** signature (essential).
- Payment details (membership renewal, book purchase, postage, etc.) with \$A amounts for each item.



SEED BANK

Thanks go to all those who have donated seed.

Seeds cost 50¢ per packet for Members and Seed Bank supporters (plus postage) or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other enquiries:

Enquiries for seeds should be directed to

Terry Davis

(02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809

Below is the list of **most recently** added seed to our Seed Bank.

For the full list please go to ***bromeliad.org.au***

<i>Alc. imperialis</i> (not rubra)	Oct '14	Jorgen Jakobsen
<i>Alc. imperialis rubra</i>	10/11/14	Laurie Dorfer
<i>Vr. racinae</i>	20/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>Dy. niederleinii</i>	20/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>N. kautskyi</i>	21/12/14	Terry Davis
<i>T. Dylan</i>	29/12/14	Bob Hudson
<i>T. moronensis</i>	29/12/14	Bob Hudson
<i>T. flavobracteata</i>	24/12/14	Bob Hudson
<i>T. australis</i>	24/12/14	Gordon Slack
<i>T. schiedeana</i> Major (large form)	26/01/15	Werner Raff
<i>Tillandsia myosura</i>	02/07/15	Terry Davis

Life Members:

Grace Goode O.A.M
Bill Morris
Ruby Rye

Eugene Morris
Ron Farrugia
Graham McFarlane

BSA Website

www.bromeliad.org.au
 president@bromeliad.org.au
 President Ian's Mobile:
 0408 202 269

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

**PRINT
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PP246537/00007



***If undelivered, return to:
Bromeliad Society of Australia
P.O. BOX 340, 2112
Ryde NSW
BROMELETTER
Print Post Approval
No. PP100001193.***