

# **BROMELETTER**

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

bromeliad.org.au

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Vol 56 No 3 - May / June 2018.

APRIL MEETING: Sepating pups from nonstoloniferous bromeliads (Vrieseas, Alcants)

MAY MEETING: Guest speaker -Judy Horton

Photo:

Tillandsia

leiboldiana 'Median'





BROMELETTER is published bi-monthly at Sydney by The Bromeliad Society of Australia Incorporated.

Deadlines for articles:15th of February, April, June, August,
October and December, To allow for publishing in the first
week of March, May, July,
September, November and January.

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<u>Material for Bromeletter</u> - address to: **editor@bromeliad.org.au**All other correspondence to:

The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc., P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.

### **OFFICE BEARERS**

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Plant of the Month / Show Registrar Terence Davis

Show Co-ordinator/s Ian Hook / Terence Davis

Show Display Joy Clark
Publicity Officer Di Tulloch

# Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details

Operating Account to 1st February, 2018:

 Opening cash at bank
 \$ 29 478.85

 Income:
 1 559.65

 Expenses
 2 439.92

 Bank Statement as at 28th February 2018
 \$ 28 593.58

Operating Account to 1st March 2018

 Opening cash at bank
 \$ 28 593.58

 Income:
 1 012.95

 Expenses
 2 201.38

 Closing cash at bank 31st March, 2018
 \$ 27 405.15

# **WEBSITES**

Bromeliads in Australia http://bromeliad.org.au Encyc of Bromeliads http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/

BSI Cultivar Register http://registry.bsi.org/ Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies http://fcbs.org/

Bromeliario Imperialis http://imperialia.com.br/

Facebook users: search for the group 'Planet Bromeliad' & associated 'Planets & Moons' sub-groups for Bromeliad Enthusiasts.

\*All <u>meetings</u> are on the <u>2nd Saturday of each month</u>, Federation Pavilion Castle Hill Showground

Don't forget a mug

<sup>\*</sup> BROMELIAD SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA Spring Show 22/23 September

# Plant of the Month Competition March 2018

1st Till. crocata Carolyn Bunnell 2nd Till. crocata Bruce Munro 3rd Neo pauciflora Lydia Hope

Members' Choice

1st Till. crocata Bruce Munro
2nd Till. crocata Carolyn Bunnell
3rd Neo pauciflora Lydia Hope

# Novice Judge's & Members' Choice

1st Aechmea recurvata 'Aztec Gold Pamela Munro

## Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st 'Tango to my Tillandsias' Pauline Blanch



Clockwise from top left:

T crocata - C Bunnell

T crocata - B Munro

Neo pauciflora - L Hope



Below:

Ae. recurvata

'Aztec Gold' 
Pamela Munro



Right:
'Tango to my
Tillandsias'
Pauline Blanch



# Autumn Show Competition Photos 2018



Reserve Champion: Neoregelia 'Lady Leonie'



Aechmea nudicaulis var aequalis









# Autumn Show Results

Dat of A	Class		_	Class	
Pot of A	<u>ecnmea</u> 'Xvante'	lan Hook	Pot o	f other Genera	
2nd		Kerry McNicol	1st	Quesnelia 'Tim Ploy	vman'
3rd		Kerry McNicol			zabeth Mudrisczki
Dillhousi	a Cuasiman		2nd	Quesnelia 'Tim Ploy	vman' Don Firth
1st	<u>a <b>Specimen</b></u> 'Hallelujah'	Carolyn Bunnell	3rd	Wallisia cyanea	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	'Moon Tiger'	Jan Townsend	Pot o	f Intergeneric	
3rd	'Beadleman'	Jan Townsend	1st	xNeomea unnamed	Kerry McNicol
Pot of C	ryptanthus		2nd	xCanmea 'Majo'	Kerry McNicol
1st	'Blood Red'	Lydia Hope	3rd	xHohenmea 'Ninja	Princess'
2nd	'White Lace'	Lydia Hope		,.	Jan Townsend
3rd	'lt'	Lydia Hope	Mour	nted Bromeliad	Juli Townsena
	l: 6 ·				ia wan a anwalia
	lia Species	lov Clark	ıst	Aechmea nuducaul	•
1st 2nd	<i>dungsian</i> a Marie	Joy Clark Carolyn Bunnell			John Schembri
3rd	lilliputiana	Lydia Hope	2nd	Neoregelia 'Cheers'	' John Schembri
5.4	mpatrarra	Lydia Hope	3rd	Neoregelia 'Quoll'	John Schembri
Neorege	lia - Miniature		Terre	strial Bromeliad	
1st	ampullacea	Carolyn Bunnell	1st	Deuterochonia brev	vifolia
2 n d	X olens	lov Clark	130		abeth Mudrisczki
2nd	'Little Faith' X lilliputiana	Joy Clark	3I		
3rd	'Chit Chat'	Joy Clark	2nd	Cryptanthus 'Elaine	_
Jiu		Joy Clark	3rd	Cryptanthus 'What'	Kerry McNicol
Class Pot of Neoregelia Hybrid		Artistic Arrangement			
1st	'Lady Leonie'	Carolyn Bunnell	1st	'Trio of Orthophyur	n'
2nd	smithii x 'Cheer			C	hristine Johnson
3rd	'Peggy Bailey'	Kerry McNicol	2nd	'On the Cliff Face'	Harold Kuan
		•	3rd	'Frogs on a Log'	Joy Clark
	a Specimen	Canalus Dusas all			Joy Clark
1st 2nd	duratii 'Dimmit's Taler	Carolyn Bunnell nt' Kerry McNicol	Novic		11 1112
3rd	maurayana	Elizabeth	1st	Tillandsia 'Imbil'	Harold Kuan
Mudriczi			2nd	Tillandsia 'Cotton Ca	•
Tillands	ia Colony				Harold Kuan
1st	'Eric Knoblock'	Kerry Mcnicol	3rd	Neoregelia 'Candy	Cane'
2nd	'Borumba'	Kerry Mcnicol			Mark Belot
<u>Vriesea</u>			GRAN	ID CHAMPION	
1st	'Pedro'	Kerry McNicol	Tilla	ndsia duratii	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	'Snakeskin'	Joe Micallef			<b>,</b>
3rd	'Pedro'	Don Firth	RESE	RVE CHAMPION	
Falloga	Maria anta d Duan	l' - d	Neore	egelia 'Lady Leonie	Carolyn Bunnell
1st	Variegated Bron	<u>nenad</u> lly' Carolyn Bunnell		,	
2nd		- cobugii variegat-	SPECI	ES AWARD	
ed			Nec	oregelia dungsiana	Joy Clark
		Kerry McNicol			,
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Blus		<u>NOV</u> I	CE CHAMPION	
		Carolyn Bunnell		andsia 'Imbil'	Harold Kuan
				<del></del>	

Competition Photos

Billbergia 'Hallelujah'



Billbergia 'Moon Tiger'



Cryptanthus 'Blood Red'















Q

Neoregelia 'Little Faith'



**Competition Photos** 





Neoregelia smithii x Cheers



Neoregelia 'Peggy Bailey'



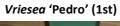
Tillandsia 'Dimmit's Talent'



Tillandsia maurayana

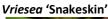


Tillandsia'
Eric Knoblock'





*Tillandsia* 'Borumba'





Vriesea 'Pedro' (3rd)



# Spiders, Scale or Beneficial Mites

From FNCBSG January 2018

In August 2017 Geoff Lawn was asked by a grower in Western Australia: "I was wondering if you have ever come across a possible pest that almost looks like scale but isn't scale? I know that sounds strange so will explain in more detail. Perfectly round pure white things approx. 1.5 - 2mm in size. Feels and almost looks like spider web. I have noticed an abundance of really small spiders that are so small that you wouldn't notice them unless looking for them with a small cream/white patch on the abdomen seem to be always near these white spots. I did come across an article that I will send to you that says it is a predatory mite and the photo and text of the article sound exactly like what I have. Whatever it is

it doesn't seem to feed on the plants or do any damage at all and can even be found on the edge of pots. They feel flat but when they hatch out it gets a slight raised area and a pin hole sized opening where it has emerged out. I have noticed they are more prolific in the warmer months. Like I say no damage to plants just doesn't look nice. I did a trial spray with Confidor and while no more spots turned up in that section the sacs still hatched.

They also just wipe off easily or hose off but seem to get into awkward places".



The following is the article sent:

# Weekend Gardener, issue 179, 2005, Auckland New Zealand

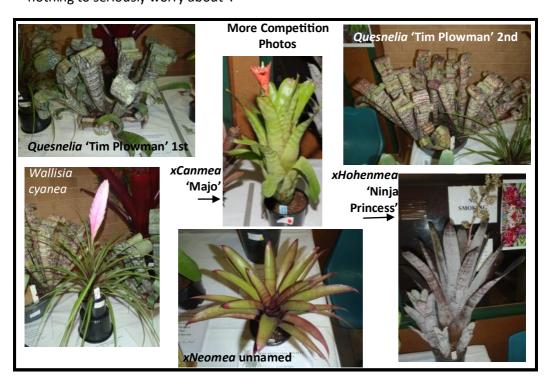
**Q:** Some of my Bromeliads have what look like scale on them, but it's only on the upper surface of the leaves.

**A:** The spots on your sample certainly did resemble scale, but as they were only on the upper surface and there was no sign of young scales I had them checked out at HortResearch. It turns out they are the empty egg sacs of a predatory mite, probably a species of Anystis, which are known as whirligig mites. They are a good bug to have in the garden as they hunt down and eat some mites which are plant pests. If you scrape off the empty egg sacs you'll find there is a pale spot underneath where light hasn't been getting through to the leaf surface, given time that should colour up as chlorophyll returns and photosynthesis becomes active again.

**Geoff Lawn:** "I hadn't seen this white rounded egg sac around Perth until four months ago when there were a few sacs on several Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector' I bought from a late W.A. Brom. Soc. member's estate. I recognised them from when I visited the Olive Branch Nursery (Brisbane) four years ago and again recently just after the Sunnybroms



Conference at Caloundra. I did ask Olive about them but she thought they were harmless egg sacs (which they are) from some insect. They are easily brushed away or picked off (possibly by birds too if in the open) and never leave a permanent mark (in my experience). I have only ever seen it on Neoregelias, never on pots and as you say, more in the warmer months. The sacs are never clumped but rather well-spaced and I never saw any more than about six sacs per plant, usually easily visible, but there again, I wasn't about to inspect every leaf axil of maybe 50,000 Neoregelias! Confidor is systemic so wouldn't kill the pupae in sacs which are not at the sapsucking stage -- if they have such a phase (sounds unlikely). I googled Anystis and it seems they predate on other mite species. I saw also a reference that they were introduced to W.A. from France way back to biologically control agricultural / pastoral mite pests. Your photo and the article from the New Zealand garden magazine opened my eyes but I'm glad we have nothing to seriously worry about".



# <u>Graham Macfarlaíne</u>

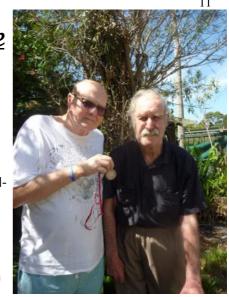
# Recipient of the RHS Medal 2017

Presented to Graham by Alan Mathew & Christine Johnson.

Some weeks ago, Christine Johnson and myself visited Graham at his home in Mascot to present him with the Royal Horticultural Medal on behalf of the Bromeliad Society of Australia.

I have recently seen Graham again to write this potted history.

Graham was born in Dunedin New Zealand in 1935 where he attended an agricultural



school and later obtained a Diploma of Horticulture from Canterbury Agricultural College. Always shy, he first became interested in plants on trips to the Dunedin Botanical Gardens where he first met Bromeliads in the hot house there.

He was always fascinated by plant names and cultivation enjoying the variation and unusualness of many plants and spent many days bushwalking.

He first worked at Christchurch Botanical Gardens until 1962 when, in search of warmer climes, he travelled to Australia where he worked in Parks and Gardens in Adelaide, Townsville and finally in Sydney where he spent 30 years with Woollahra Council before retiring in 2006.

While in Australia he carried on with weekends in the bush, noticing similarities between Australian and South African flora always researching, naming and cultivation of plants within a range of geographical regions.

He became a member of various societies including the Western Suburbs Orchid Society, The Cactus and Succulent Society, The Lapidary Club and The Bromeliad Society of Australia which he joined in the mid 1980s.

While with the BSA he became the Librarian, a position he held for many years until the Society moved its meetings to Castle Hill where the tyranny of distance forced him to relinquish the position. I remember him sitting quietly at the back of the room taking everything in but not talking much, a very quiet and self contained man.

He now lives alone accompanied by that prodigious memory and the RHS medal which he truly deserves for the many years he has dedicated to Parks, Gardens, Orchids and Bromeliads in both Australia and New Zealand.



More Comp **Photos** 















# Tillandsia leiboldiana and its Variations

by Derek Butcher Oct 2017



There is yet another variegated plant that is grown in collections but has no formal name. It would be nice to have named it after the first person who had this mutation but alas. We can only assume that it occurred in the USA but is not on the current. lists of the larger US nurseries. There are references in the 1980's to a pendant inflorescence form but this seems to have gone out of fashion. There are also references to a spotted leaf form that was known as var guttata until Harry Luther considered it unnecessary in DeRebus I 1994, p29. You rarely see this spotted form in cultivation and nobody has considered that it might need a cultivar name.

Variegation could only have occurred fairly recently because it is not on Nat DeLeon's list in 1985. Searches of catalogues as held in the BCR do not reveal any clues either and yet if you search 'Google' anyone would think the quasiname Tillandsia leiboldiana "variegate" was very common. To me it is very rare and is another example of selection by horticulturists without recording its existence. If we read about *Tillandsia leiboldiana* in Smith & Downs Monograph we will see that it was a favourite plant with taxonomists in the 1800's with the number of names given but now treated as synonyms and none refer to variegation. In fact we read "Leaves many in a crateriform rosette, 1-3 dm long; concolourous



green or spotted" and "All doubtful cases are referred to this the typical variety subject to later correction. The difference of coloration of the leaf-blade has not shown any significance yet, but it could correspond to habitat as in *Vriesea sintenisii* (Baker) Smith & Pittendrigh or geography as in *Tillandsia spiculosa* Grisebach."

While checking with Australian nurseryman Ross Little for his views on a problem nobody has written about before, this was his comment: The "spotted" form is not so 'rare' in our east coast collections just not as prized as some of its fancier counterparts.

Unfortunately we have to say the same for the "pendant" form. The variegated form came to Australia via Peter Tristram ex Chester Skotak around 1990. It has had its ups and downs regards popularity too but all three still sell reasonably well among avid collectors.

Breeder Chester Skotak in Costa Rica has advised that this plant may have originated in Europe. Unfortunately European leads haven't shed any further light on the problem.

The best solution seems to be to treat these 3 culti-





vated forms as 'Leiboldiana Median',
'Leiboldiana Pendant', and 'Leiboldiana
Spotted' and register them in the BCR. This
way you can check whether you have your
own special form of *Tillandsia leiboldiana*or whether it is being grown by others.
These attributes seem to be unique but if
you have a quantity of plants with a combination of such, then you may consider
them worthy of a new cultivar name. Investigations have not revealed the origins of
the variegated plant but if you are aware of
any leads please advise.

### A Question asked by many growers:

### (FNCBSG January 20180

'What's the gel stuff at the base of some of my Bromeliads. One mystery I haven't solved is a gelatinous semi-solid "goo" which settles at the stem base of usually Neo. concentrica or it's hybrids, always in Winter only. I thought at first it must be snail egg sacs or their slimy trail but I don't have any snails at my place?'

A: Many Bromeliads are of the tank type water holding variety, this environment supports many life forms, mainly frogs and insects. The droppings from these animals and corpses also decaying leaf litter assists in feeding the plants. The following quote taken from: Bromeliads by Walter Richter, "Epiphytic Bromels constitute an immense swamp in which animal and vegetable waste products are dissolved by the enzymes in the leaves. The process involves the jelly - like substance exuded by the inner faces of the sheaths. As a rule, putrefaction occurs only when there is too much pollution. Normally the leaves absorb the end product of the organic waste by way of their scales. The water in the funnels remains fairly clean and, in dire need, potable." (drinkable)





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

Robert Bartley, Malcolm & Margaret Best, Sari Kilpinen-Hughes, Jen Fox and Margaret Rizkallah.

If you would like to become a Member, please see details below.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Renewal is due 1st January for membership

year January to December.

Annual Membership:

Overseas Membership:

Australia

A\$25

Asia/Pacific Zone

A\$40.

Rest of the World

A\$45.

New Membership requires a \$5 joining fee, plus Annual Subscription. (Those joining after our spring Show 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

# 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 (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.
- A 3% surcharge for this service will be made.





**More Competition Photos** 





# Murphy's Law of Bromeliads.

(This has been reprinted many times over the years, it's origins are unknown)
In the beginning there were the Universal Laws - principles that attempted to define some aspects of reality. But soon man realised the errors of his ways and people like Edsel Murphy began to write laws which reflect the real world. A world dominated not by nature, but by inanimate objects and capricious human behaviour. Below are a few "Laws" by Murphy and his friends as they applied to bromeliads:-

### Murphy's Law:

The limb always falls on the most perfect bromeliad the day before a show.

**Buttered Side Down Law:** Any plant knocked from a shelf will fall so as to do the most possible damage to itself and all the plants below it.

**Hybridizer's Hypothesis:** The most undesirable traits of the parents always manifest themselves in the hybrid, 2 years later.

**Tsk Tsk Laws:** No matter what your bromeliads do, there is always someone who knew they would.

**Green Thumb Postulate:** Experience gained is directly proportional to bromeliads ruined. **Show Chairman's Law:** Nothing is impossible for the person who doesn't have to do it.

Parkinson's Law: Bromeliad collections expand to exceed the space available.

**Placement Principle:** Placement chairmen always place show plants with the fault in the most visible place.

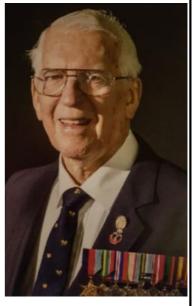
**Phyllotron Law:** Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of light, temperature and humidity, the bromeliad will do as it damn well pleases.

# Vale Eugene Morris.

22nd September 1925 - 23rd March 2018

Editor Bromeletter: 1998 - 2015

It is with a great deal of sadness that I inform you all of the passing of our great friend Eugene Morris. Most readers of Bromeletter will remember him as long term Editor, and those of us who could make it to the meetings at Burwood, will remember him seated, always in the front row, taking notes and taping the proceedings of all the monthly meetings between 1998 and 2015 - 18years! Very occasionally he would buy a plant that took his fancy and, on even fewer occasions, would bring in a plant for Show & Tell or even the completion table. Always wearing his broad smile which made everyone feel welcome and at ease. When I took over from Eugene in 2016 as edi-



tor, he said that he took it on, in the beginning, mainly to 'keep himself active', and felt he could do it for a 'couple of years! He would keep up the 'Concord Senior Citizen's Newsletter for a little longer though!' Eugene served in the RAN during WWII, helping finalise the 'clean –up' after the bombing of Japan. He insisted 'it was all that irradiation that kept him so healthy'.

Eugene entered Redleaf Manor in early March where he would receive a little more care than at home, not wanting to be a worry to his three (grown) children. He passed away in late March. All who knew Eugene will remember a happy, helpful, intelligent, **gentle** man.

# A note from the Editor re *Grace Goode OAM*

A week or so ago I received this information from Peter Cook, secretary of the Gold Coast Bromeliad Society.

"Just a short note to advise that Grace had a fall some weeks ago and as a result broke her arm and jaw. Following a short hospital stay she was placed into a respite centre at Twin Waters where she can receive constant care. Naturally she wants to go home but this is unlikely given her present health condition. "

We at BSA, along with many others, wish her well in her recovery.

### **LITERATURE** for Sale

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

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRICE
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden	Andrew Steens	\$20.00
Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007)	BSI	\$ 6.00
Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias	Margaret Paterson	\$25.00
Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree	John Catlan	\$10.00
Bromeliad Cultivation Notes	Lyn Hudson	\$10.00

**Growing Bromeliads— 3rd Ed. by BSA** is out of stock. Reprinting negotiations are under way. *Watch this space! (still)* 



# **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 seed to our Seed Bank. For a full list please go to

# bromeliad.org.au

, Puya mirabilis	24/09/17	вор імасіаў		
Dyckia 'Little Red Devil' F2	Jan 2018	Terry Davis		
selfed (almost black with white spines)				
Neo. kautskyi	Jan 2018	Terry Davis		
Quesnelia 'Farro'	11/02/18	Kerry McNicol		
Tillandsia ionantha (Guatamalan form)	20/04/18	Terry Davis		

Seed has been moving quickly, especially the more recent additions.

SO if you have seed to donate please send it in, or bring it to our next meeting.

### What's ON

- **12 May 2018 BSA Meeting -** Separating non-stoloniferous pups from within leaf axils, dealing with grass pups on Alcantareas & Vrieseas.
- 9 June 2018 BSA Meeting speaker Judy Horton
- 13,14,15 July 2018 Nambour Garden Festival , Nambour Qld.
- 14 July 2018 BSA Meeting speaker George Oehm Native orchids
- 18th 22 July 21st Australasian Orchid Conference. See the Diary on our website for details

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BROMELIADS - a large colourful range of Bromeliads, both species and hybrids of many genera. Includes a very large range of Tillandsias. A mail order list of Tillandsias is available upon request.

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Book 2. Crypt., Til., Vr., etc. Books available on-line at www.bromeliad-hvbrids.com

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