



BROMELETTER

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

bromeliad.org.au



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

ISSN 2208-0465 (Online)

Vol 57 No 3 - May/June 2019.



Paradox Nursery and Gardens

Autumn Show 11/12 May

Sat 9 – 4 Sun 10 - 3

Federation Pavilion Castle Hill Showgrounds

Please bring a box

Material for Bromeletter - address to: **editor@bromeliad.org.au**

All other correspondence to:

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

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*Photo Front Cover (and P8)
Paradox Nursery -
Photo by Ray Henderson,*

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Ron Farrugia
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Ian Hook

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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 December 1, 2018:

Opening cash at bank	\$ 13 303.43
Income:	1 253.20
Expenses	<u>2 180.86</u>

Bank Statement as at December 31, 2018:

\$ 12 375.77

Operating Account to March 1 2019

Opening cash at bank	\$ 12 375.77
Income:	1 214.10
Expenses	<u>4 136.23</u>

Closing cash at bank March 31, 2019

\$ 9 453.64

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.



REMINDER

Don't forget
a mug



Annual subscriptions fell due 1.1.19 a renewal form is available on the website. If still unfinancial after our Autumn Show, names will be removed from our list.

May 11,12 - AUTUMN SHOW (No monthly meeting)

Sat 9 -4 ; Sun 10 - 3. Federation Pavilion

June 8th - Meeting - Federation Pavilion

Sales begin around 11.00. Meeting starts 12 noon.

Plant of the Month Competition March 2019

Open

- 1st *Tillandsia brachycaulos*
 2nd *Tillandsia* 'Eric Knobloch'
 3rd *Billbergia* 'Moon Tiger'

Helga Nitschke
 Helga Nitschke
 Elizabeth Mudricski

& Members' Choice

- 1st *Billbergia* 'Moon Tiger'
 2nd *Tillandsia brachycaulos*
 3rd *Aechmea chantinii*

Elizabeth Mudriczki
 Helga Nitschke
 Michael Ferenczi



Clockwise from top left:
Tillandsia
Brachycaulos;

Billbergia '
 Moon Tiger';

Tillandsia
 'Eric Knobloch'

Aechmea chantinii



Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

- 1st ' 'The Cradle'
 2nd 'Tectorum'

Janet Kuan
 Audrey Williams
 (photos next page)

Plant of the Month Competition**March 2019** (cont.)**Novice**

- 1st *Tillandsia* 'Tropiflora'
 2nd *Tillandsia* brachycaulos
 3rd *Vriesea* racinae

Harold Kuan
 Harold Kuan
 Harold Kuan

& Members' Choice

- 1st *Tillandsia* brachycaulos
 2nd *Vriesea* 'Megan'
 3rd *Tillandsia* 'Tropiflora'

Harold Kuan
 Elaine Fletcher
 Harold Kuan

Tillandsia 'Tropiflora'*Tillandsia* brachycaulos*Vriesea* racinae*Vriesea* 'Megan'

'Tectorum'



'The Cradle'



March Meeting Discussion

Joy Clark showed us several colonies of mini neoregelia, which were obtained several years ago from Queensland. The names on them were more of a 'description' rather than a registered name e.g. 'Black & Tan', they are very attractive plants, however, finding a name is very difficult indeed, especially taking into account the different growing conditions between NSW and Queensland.

A Demonstration followed of how to separate clumps of plants with short stolons (the 'stem' between the mother and the pup). Plants such as *Vriesea* and *Tillandsia*s, often have an almost non-existent stolon, with the pup hugging tight within leaf axils, not only near the base of the plant but often higher up.

Ian demonstrated how to tear the lower leaves by splitting them then pulling the halves horizontally and away from the 'core' of the plant. Then



showed us how to

carefully tear away the

pup from the mother's stem taking a small part of it, which contains 'juvenile' roots within the old stem for the new pup.

Kerry, not having the physical strength in her arthritic wrists and fingers, showed the use of a gyprock 'hole-saw' (from the hardware shop) to cut away a small section of the stem with the juvenile roots still inside.



Tillandsia pups are, similarly, often growing tight against the mother plant. Some species, such as *Tillandsia secunda* and *Tillandsia somnians*, are **pseudoviviparous** having plantlets grow along the stem of the very long inflorescence.

Clumping tillandsias face us with the problem of trying to break away a pup which might be still slightly too immature, breaking the meristem (bulbous part at the base of a plant from which roots and leaves grow). The tip of the blade of the hole-saw can be used to prise the pup from its mother usually bringing with it the juvenile roots. Pups **WILL** grow without these juvenile roots, but take a little longer to grow new roots.

T.somnians



BROMBUS TOUR TO THE CENTRAL COAST

Text by Joy Clark , with comments by Christine Johnston and Elaine Fletcher

Photographs by Astrid Bradshaw, Christine and Joy

It was a damp start for our bus trip, but 44 happy Bromeliad enthusiasts set out, determined to have a good day. Fortunately the rain did cease for our first stop at the picturesque Mount Penang Parklands.



'Lovely walk, easy for every-one'



'Fascinated by bottle trees and huge lotus ponds'



combination of water features and landscaped areas.

Boarding time saw the return of drizzly weather which continued in part for our next stop at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens. Many made a bee line for the spectacular bromeliad gardens and weren't disappointed. They were well set out and in my opinion the highlight of the gardens, but then I'm a biased Bromeliad grower.



Orchid House Hunter BG

The "Hexham Grey" mosquitoes were a bit "bothersome" and kept us going at a good pace. Thank goodness for Aerogard!



'The mosquitoes were in enough numbers and big enough to carry you off'

'There were large areas of native palms and ferns. The Orchid Houses and Bromeliad Gardens were nicely set out.'

We enjoyed a scrumptious Devonshire Tea then wandered around the different sections of the park enjoying the ambiance of the

BROMBUS TOUR TO THE CENTRAL COAST (cont)

After an enjoyable lunch at Doyalson RSL we headed for our final destination, Paradox Nursery in Glenning Valley owned by Ray Henderson. Paradox Nursery has landscaped gardens sprawled around a lush area of palms and tropical plants. Prominent are small and large bromeliads on the lawns around the house. Ray is to be congratulated on what must be a mammoth task in keeping his garden looking magnificent. There were many purchases and happy members with prized possession by the end of our visit. Thank you Ray for welcoming our members on this visit. A quick cuppa and raffle and we were off on our way home after an enjoyable day spent with good friends doing what we all love, admiring plants, especially bromeliads.



Gardens are spectacular and beautifully set out. Lovely large bromeliads and succulents.



Plant of the Month Competition April 2019



Open

- 1st *Tillandsia crocata*
 2nd *Tillandsia 'Imbil'*
 3rd *Tillandsia stricta*

Judge's Choice.

- Helga Nitschke
 Harold Kuan
 Helga Nitschke

Open

- 1st *Tillandsia stricta*
 2nd *Tillandsia crocata*
 3rd *Tillandsia 'Imbil'*

Members' Choice

- Helga Nitschke
 Helga Nitschke
 Harold Kuan



MDAC

- 1st 'The Easter Garden' Janet Kuan
 2nd 'Golden' Carolyn Bunnell
 3rd 'Tillandsia on Wood' Ian Hook
 (2nd, 3rd next page)

Plant of the Month Competition April 2019 cont.**Judge's & Members Choice****Novice**

1st
2nd
3rd

Tillandsia complanata
Neoregelia 'Casoba'
Tillandsia fasciculata 'Front Cover'

Harold Kuan
Sari Kilpinen-Hughes
Harold Kuan



Clockwise from top left:

Tillandsia complanata

Neoregelia 'Casoba'

'Golden'

'Tillandsia on Wood'

***Tillandsia fasciculata* 'Front Cover'**

A Little Bromeliad History - Part 2 sourced by Helen Clewett

Back to Curtis's Botanical Magazine now. From 1857 is the plate of the newly described *Puya virescens* Hooker. A specimen came from a Belgian garden tagged as a *Puya* sp. and William Hooker left it in that genus, much later it was transferred to *Guzmania*. It is an epiphytic bromeliad endemic to the central coast of Venezuela. Still later in time, in 1905, we arrive at the illustration of *Aechmea lavandulacea* C. H. Wright. It was made after a plant found on Grenada, one of the Windward Islands in the Caribbean. A citation from the description: "The species is very distinct and is characterized by the distichous arrangement of the panicle-branches and flowers. The broad lavender-coloured margins of the bracteoles, resembling in colour the flowers of some species of *Statice*, candied all over with white scurf, harmonize



Aechmea lavandulacea



Puya virescens

with the deep violet petals, and thus avoid that sharp contrast in colour so often found in the inflorescence of plants of this order". The differences are given between this species and *A. pubescens*, *A. lingulata* and *A. dichlamydea*. However in 1896 Carl Mez had described a similar plant under the name *Aechmea smithiorum* and *A. lavandulacea* is now treated as a synonym of that one. There has been an article on *A. smithiorum* discussing its misidentification in the past in the BSI Journal (Luther 1995). From 1910 is the plate of *Neoglaziovia concolor* C. H. Wright, also newly described. It looks very much like *Neoglaziovia variegata*, see the article about that species in the BSI Journal (de Paula and Guarçoni 2007). The text with the plate reads: "The bromeliad here figured is a native of the northern portion of the State of Bahia in Brazil, where it is known as the Makim-beira; *Dyckia glaziovii* but treated by Mez, perhaps here it



Neoglaziovia concolor

A Little Bromeliad History - Part 2 (cont)

grows in association with the Caroá, a very nearly allied plant referred by Baker as *Dyckia glaziovii* but treated by Mez, perhaps more satisfactorily, as a member of a distinct genus *Neoglaziova*. From the Caroá (*N. variegata*) the Makimbeira (*N. concolor*) differs in its shorter stature and in having its leaves uniformly white-lepidote, the younger parts are indeed almost woolly; the leaves of *N. variegata* are glabrous or only very minutely lepidote, and when fresh are conspicuously marked with lighter transverse bars which in dried specimens become obscure or disappear entirely. The leaves of both species furnish fibre; that of the Caroá is well known and comes chiefly from the Queimadas District: it is made into ropes for binding packages of tobacco. These ropes have a break-ing strain of 3 tons to the square inch; they are, however, very sensitive to attack by alkalis. The fiber of the Makimbeira is less well known and is of a softer and poorer quality". The plant flowered at Kew in 1909 after six years, it was slow growing. Many plates from Curtis's Botanical magazine were used for the illustrations in **A monograph of the Trochilidae, or family of humming-birds**, often with some adaptations. This work on birds was written by **John Gould** with drawings by Gould and lithography by H.C. Richter, published in 5 volumes from 1849-1861 with a supplement in 1887 by R.Bowdler Sharpe. Below are some examples. from Curtis's Botanical magazine were used for the illustrations in **A monograph of the Trochilidae, or family of humming-birds**, often with some adaptations. This work on birds was written by **John Gould** with drawings by Gould and lithography by H.C. Richter, published in 5 volumes from 1849-1861 with a supplement in 1887 by R.Bowdler Sharpe. Below are some examples. Several other magazines and works published in the form of a series followed in the wake of Curtis's Botanical Magazine. In 1815 **Sydenham Edwards** started **The Botanical Register**. The text on the title-page of the first volume reads that it "consisted of coloured figures of exotic plants cultivated in British gardens, with their history and mode of treatment". Initially the text was by John Ker-Gawler, later by John Lindley. For the volumes 15-33 the magazine was titled **Edwards's Botanical Register**. Edwards made many drawings for the coloured copper engravings in the first 15 volumes but he was not an engraver himself. Drawing the illustration and making the actual print (via engraving or lithography) was often done by different persons. When publication of Edwards's Botanical Register ceased in 1847, a total of 2702 plates had



Billbergia iridifolia

A Little Bromeliad History - Part 2 (cont)

been published, including 20 bromeliads. An important article in The Botanical Register is the one connected to plate 1068 of *Billbergia iridifolia* in volume 13. John Lindley - the first professor of botany at University College London in 1829 and Brit-

ain's pioneer orchidologist - gives here a synopsis of the bromeliad genera known at the time: Aechmea, Ananas, Billbergia, Bonaparteia, Bromelia, Caraguata, Guzmania, Pitcairnia, Pourretia and Tillandsia. The bromeliads formed in his words "a family of plants interesting from their beauty or singularity but of which the systematic arrangement has not been carefully studied". *Billbergia iridifolia* originating from Brazil was described several years earlier in the genus Bromelia. The specimen used to make the drawing was sent from Rio de Janeiro by William Harrison. The next illustration that I selected from this publication depicts a plant provisionally described as a pale-flowered variety (y. pallida) of *Tillandsia flexuosa* Swartz. Lindley writes that "*Tillandsia flexuosa* must

either be a very variable plant, or more species than one are already included in it by those who have described the wild subject". He didn't see the flowering plant after which the drawing was made himself, but judged that in foliage and form of parts it resembled the specimens in the Banksian Herbarium. We now know this plant under the name of *Tillandsia utriculata*, the description by Linnaeus dates from 1753. This epiphyte has a distribution from the south of the United States to Venezuela. One more new species described by Lindley was *Puya heterophylla*. Later this species was classified in the genus Pitcairnia by Austrian botanist Johann Beer. The plant was imported from Mexico in 1838 and was found "most remarkable as bearing two different kinds of leaves, short brown spiny and long green lanceolate". It was after this characteristic feature called "heterophylly", later encountered in other Pitcairnia's too, that the species was named.

The plant is epiphytic in moist forests but also saxicolous on dry cliffs and is very widespread, ranging from Mexico to Peru.



Tillandsia flexuosa



Pitcairnia heterophylla
published as
Puya heterophylla

What is a mule ?

by Derek Butcher July 2009

From FNCBSG Feb 2019

In the Journal of The Brom Soc International 55(2): 54-6. 2005 I wrote about bigeneric plants being mules but nobody took me up on the challenge in writing. I did receive anecdotal evidence but I was after something more 'scientific'. The latest problem shows I must go into print again.

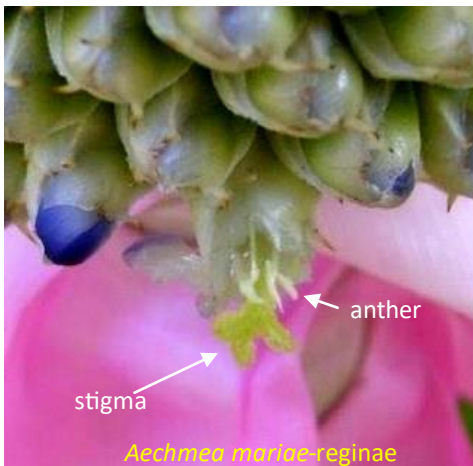
First let us look at the scenario. We know that an animal Mule or Hinny can have either non-functional male or non-functional female parts. In Bromeliaceae, things are a bit more complicated because most plants are monoecious (both sexes in the same floral bed!).

But there are exceptions. Let us take *Catopsis* which Lyman Smith treated as either monoecious or dioecious (functionally separate sexes) but Palaci has shown us that some species can be trioecious (monoecious and dioecious!). This had me asking questions which have so far gone unanswered. If the seed producer was dioecious would the seedlings be 50/50 male/female or 1/3 : 1/3 : 1/3 male/female/perfect? Let us also look at *Aechmea mariae-reginae* which is said to be dioecious and yet in the mid 1800's it seems a 'perfect' plant was painted and described! This is the sort of thing hybridists should be noting and commenting on.



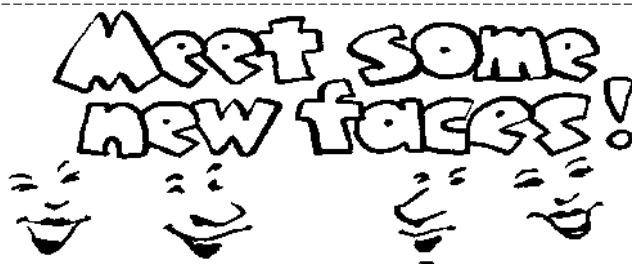
Aechmea mariae-reginae

Let us now look at bigenerics. We know that a generic hybrid has a lower pollen count which means that in the wild there is a greater chance of back-crossing with parental species in the vicinity. This does not happen with human intervention! A bigeneric hybrid would have even less pollen count and in many cases the sex parts are deformed. BUT are they functional either as ovule producers or pollen producers? This is also an area where hybridists seem shy to divulge findings. I have a feeling that even with a very low pollen count, fertilization can take place by backcrossing with parents involved in the same nothogenus.



Aechmea mariae-reginae

cont p16



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

Astrid Bradshaw, George Bradshaw, Pamela Marlow

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 (Single/Family):	Australia	A\$25
Overseas Membership:	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.

Back to reality. In May 2009 when at PineGrove Nursery in northern New South Wales, I was shown a plant that had *Neoregelia* 'Lila' x *Neoregelia* 'Medusa' on the label with the quaint note that this plant had bigeneric traits – AND it did. There was no intention of the hybridist Allan Ladd, to register his creation although willing to put plants on to the market. This attitude is prevalent amongst hybridists around the world, not just Australia, but a problem for the Cultivar Registrar. Many times has a discarded hybrid been considered a good plant and grown by many Bromeliad growers and had to be 'grandfathered' into the system. Anyway, I was called in to adjudicate on a problem plant where the locals considered foreign pollen could well have been involved. The inflorescence was strongly compound. Why was it so?

Luckily there was also a N. 'Scarlet Charlotte' x N. 'Medusa' which meant that the common denominator was N. 'Medusa' and luckily there was a plant of this name handy for me to butcher the inflorescence. I must now mention there are two sorts of *Neoregelia* 'Medusa' – one by Hendrix which has spines and one sold by Deroose that does not have spines. The plant was typical *Neoregelia* but the alleged non-spined form. It had the leaf deformity of '**piping**'

you often see in the spineless *Aechmea fasciata* whose origin is shrouded in mystery, which suggested it was involved somewhere.

This called for investigation: First Dennis Cathcart was able to advise that in their experience at Tropiflora this hybrid, when used as a parent, most times produced spineless progeny but never with compound inflorescence. The only real downside was the cracks and piping of the leaves which is exactly the problem with the spineless *Aechmea fasciata*. I suggested the possible involvement of this at bigeneric level to Reginald Deroose and his view was it was highly unlikely because, in his experience, bigenerics had malformed genitalia and could not be easily used in any further hybridising program. He said that they



had first obtained the spineless 'Meyendorffii' from Germany from the Orchid people, Gunther Gemmel. Because the Orchid hybrid system is based on greges obtained from the quoting of true parentage I was optimistic in getting some positive reply. Alas, they do not keep records from that long ago. So we are left to conjecture. Was this oddity caused by mutation at seed level, mutation as a mericlone, or just plain sporting, or a hybrid with a compound inflorescence Neoregelia, OR WAS it a bigeneric and then backcrossed. Because Neoregelia does contain both compound and simple inflorescence species I tried to get some opinion from Neoregelia taxonomists. We know that some Aechmea species can flower either simple or compound so why not Neoregelia. No one was prepared to make a comment.

Clearly Neoregelia 'Medusa' (Deroose) has genes that link to piping and entire leaves, but where does the compound inflorescence come from. Because of the typical xNeomea inflorescence we are calling: (Neoregelia 'Lila' x Neoregelia 'Medusa') = xNeomea 'Mad Allan' (unreg) (N. 'Scarlet Charlotte' x N. 'Medusa') = xNeomea 'Scarlet Ladd' (unreg). Hybridist, Allan Ladd and named by Ross Little.

By looking at the photos, both plants would be grown purely on the grounds of curiosity and would not constitute being in general circulation under the ICNCP rules. As such they will not be formally registered but strange happenings such as this should always be recorded.

If anyone is aware of similar happenings would you please advise the Registrar – Geoff Lawn – so that corrections can be made to the records. Are there any other 'hidden' xNeomea out there ?



Ed: After 10 years of selections the colour has improved greatly since 2009. BUT is it worth registering and what as, Neoregelia or Neomea or?? The naming of this hybrid 'Mad Allan' comes from the hybridiser going mad at the suggestion of foreign pollen being involved, not his suggested parents.

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 BACK!.

(member price) \$20.00



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 **some** of the **most recently** added seed to our Seed Bank. For a
full list please go to bromeliad.org.au

<i>Puya mirabilis</i>	24.07.18	Ross Hutton
<i>T. pruinosa</i>	26.11.18	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
<i>T. fasciculata</i> type (less than 30cm)	02.12.18	Kerry McNicol
<i>T. fasciculata</i> (pink multi-spike)	04.12.18	Jan Townsend
<i>Racinae fraseri</i>	18.02.19	Eileen Killingly

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

- 11th & 12th May** - **BSA Autumn Show** - No meeting this month
- 17th -19th May** - **Orchids Out West** - Display & Sales. Clarendon NSW.
- 8th June** - **BSA Meeting** - Federation Pavilion
- 13th July** - **BSA Meeting** - Federation Pavilion
- Hunter Region Botanic Gardens** Orchid Fair 10.00a.m.
- 28th July** - **Hills District Orchids** - Open DayWindsor Road Northmead
- 10th August** - **BSA Meeting** - Watch this space

Full details at www.bromeliads.org.au



Mini Bromeliad Fair

10th August - Federation Pavilion

Castle Hill Showgrounds

Normal meeting suspended, Sales interspersed by
talks on bromeliads by
Peter Tristram

Free entry – and bring a box

There will be normal member sales and hourly raffle prizes as well as Peter's plants, which include rare and unusual Tillandsias, colourful Neos and spectacular Vrieseas.
Tea and coffee available.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

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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P.O. BOX 340, 2112
Ryde NSW
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