



# ***BROMELETTER***

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

***bromeliad.org.au***



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**Vol 58 No 1 January - February 2020**



**HAPPY**

**Our first 2020 meetings**

**11 th January - George Bell Building**

**8 th February - George Bell Building**

**NEW**

Please send articles for Bromeletter to **editor@bromeliad.org.au**  
and all other correspondence to:

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

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### **Time to renew your membership**

Fees are due 1st January 2020. Please inform us if you wish to receive your bromletter by **email** in pdf form.

Ensure you **update all details** when retuning your form. Membership forms may also be found at the bottom link of the home page at <http://www.bromeliad.org.au/>

### COMMITTEE 2019

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Vice President(1),	Kerry McNicol ( <a href="mailto:membsec@bromeliad.org.au">membsec@bromeliad.org.au</a> )	0439 998 049
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Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc	The Secretary, P.O. Box 28, Cairns. Qld. 4870
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**Ruby Ryde  
Bill Morris  
Ron Farrugia  
Graham McFarlane  
Ian Hook**

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Book Sales & Librarian	Ian Hook
Member Secretary & Purchasing Officer	Kerry McNicol
Catering	Helga Nitschke
Raffle Sales	Peter Fitzgerald
Pots, Labels etc Sales	Ron Farrugia
Plant of the Month / Show Registrar	Terence Davis
Show Display	Joy Clark
Publicity Officer	Di Tulloch
Show coordinators	Ian Hook / Terence Davis

*Photo Front  
Cover*

*Neoregelia  
'Orange crush'*

Harold Kuan

**What's On in 2020**

**11th January**

George Bell Building

**8th February**

George Bell Building - **AGM**

**7th March**

Federation Pavilion—Talk

**NB this is the 1st Saturday of the month**

**11th April**

Federation Pavilion

**9th and 10th May Our Autumn Show** - Federation Pavilion

10-5 pm and 10-3 pm

**Please volunteer as we need lots of helpers to make our show a  
success.**

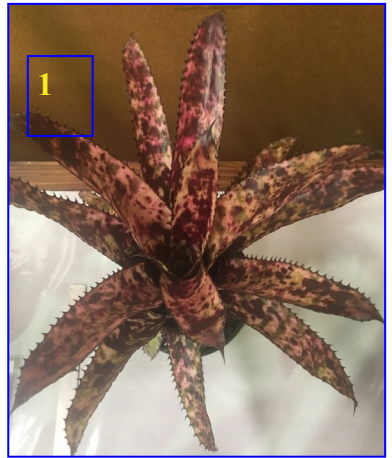
**For full year calendar and other Bromeliad events visit**

**<http://www.bromeliad.org.au/DIARY/Diary.pdf>**

## *Spring Show October*

### Class - Pot of Aechmea

- |            |                             |                              |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Ae. orlandiana              | Carolyn Bunnell<br>(photo 1) |
| <b>2nd</b> | Ae. nudicalis var. aequalis | Carolyn Bunnell              |
| <b>3rd</b> | Ae. 'Black Wine'            | Harold Kuan                  |



### Class - Bilbergia specimen

- |            |                    |                 |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1st</b> | 'Domingos Martins' | Carolyn Bunnell |
| <b>2nd</b> | 'Grand Finale'     | Kerry McNicol   |
| <b>3rd</b> | 'Kip'              | Carolyn Bunnell |

### Class - Billbergia Colony

- |            |                      |                              |
|------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | 'Moon Tiger'         | Carolyn Bunnell<br>(photo 7) |
| <b>2nd</b> | 'Bubblz'             | Sari Kilpenin-Hughes         |
| <b>3rd</b> | Sari Kilpenin-Hughes | Philip La                    |

### Class - Miniature Neoregelia

- |            |                      |                              |
|------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | N. 'Shamrock'        | Kerry McNicol                |
| <b>2nd</b> | N. olens cv. 'Marie' | Carolyn Bunnell              |
| <b>3rd</b> | N. olens hybrid      | Carolyn Bunnell<br>(photo 3) |



### Class - Neoregelia Species

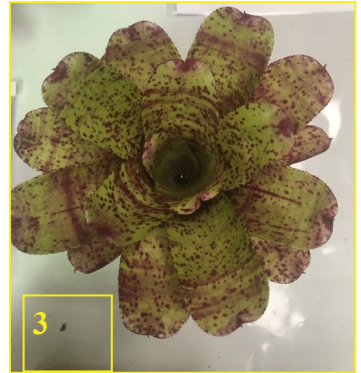
- 1st** N. olens cv. 'Marie'

Carolyn Bunnell  
(photo 4)



### Class - Pot of Neoregelia Hybrid

- 1st** N. 'Medusa' Helga Nitschke  
( page 6 , photo 3)
- 2nd** N. 'Shamrock' Carolyn Bunnell
- 3rd** N. 'Ominous' Kerry McNicol



### Class - Nidularium/Canistropsis

- 1st** Nid. innocentii var. innocentii Carolyn Bunnell
- 2nd** Nid. angustifolium Ian Hook



- 3rd** Nid. 'Ruby Lee' variegated  
Ian Hook

### Class - Tillandsia Specimen

- 1st** T. 'Graceful' Harold Kuan (photo 7)
- 2nd** T. 'Eric the Red' Carolyn Bunnell
- 3rd** 'Magic Blue' Harold Kuan

### Class - Tillandsia Colony

- 1st** T. ortgiesiana Harold Kuan
- 2nd** T. 'Califano Too' Carolyn Bunnell
- 3rd** T. ionantha 'Mexican' Carolyn Bunnell

### Class - Vriesea

- 1st** Vriesea racinae Carolyn Bunnell  
(photo 5)
- 2nd** Vriesea platynema x saundersii Helga Nitschke
- 3rd** Vriesea gigantean Helga Nitschke



### Class - Foliage / Variegated Bromeliad

1st	'Blushing Zebra'	Carolyn Bunnell (photo 1)
2nd	'Blueberry Tiger'	Sari Kilpenin-Hughes
3rd	'Rumba'	Carolyn Bunnell

### Class - Pot of Other Genera

1st	<i>Quesnelia marmorata</i> 'Tim Plowman'	Elizabeth Mudriczki
2nd	<i>Canistrum trianulare</i>	Kerry McNicol

### Class - Pot of Intergeneric

1st	x <i>Sincoregelia</i> 'Galactic Warrior'	Kerry McNicol
-----	--	---------------

### Class - Pot of Cryptanthus

1st	<i>C. bivittatus</i>	Ian Hook (photo 2)
2nd	<i>C. 'Pickel'</i>	Ian Hook



## Class - Terrestrial Bromeliad

- 1st** Dyckia fosteriana  
**2nd** Deuterochonia brevifolia  
**3rd** Dyckia

Harold Kuan  
 Elizabeth Mudriczki  
 Helga Nitschke

## Class - Artistic Arrangement

- 1st** "Yes Yes Yes" Carolyn Bunnell ( photo 1)  
**2nd** "The Inspiration" Janet Kuan ( photo 2)  
**3rd** "Tills on Wood" Ian Hook ( photo 3)





### Class - Grand Champion of Show

*Tillandsia ortgiesiana*

Hartold Kuan ( photo 1)

### Class - Reserve Champion

*Nidularium innocentii* var. *innocentii*

Carolyn Bunnell

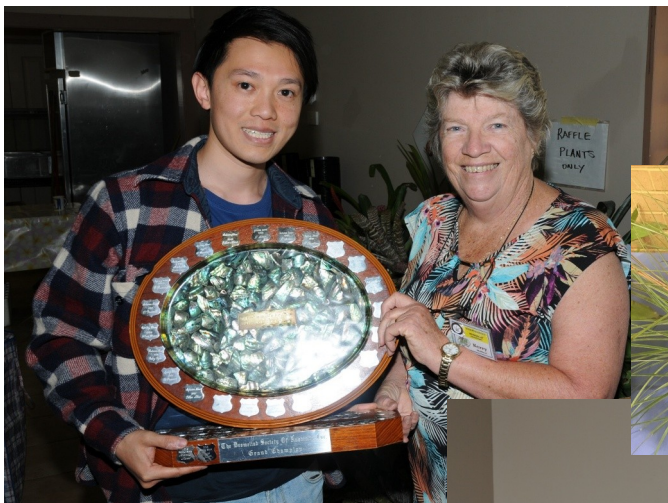
( page 4, photo 4)

### Class - Species Award

*Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman'

Elizabeth Mudriczki

( photo 3)



1



3





**Plant sale tables**

### **Report from Treasurer Alan Mathew - October 2019**

#### **Operating Account to 1st October 2019**

Opening cash at bank

\$15,910.39

Income:

\$17,938.63

Expenses:

\$9,617.43

#### **Bank Statement as at 31st October 2019**

**Closing balance**

**\$24,231.59**

#### **Bank Balances at 30th June 2019**

CBA cheque account

**\$24,231.59**

Gateway Credit Union - Savings ( 816839510

\$207.79

Gateway Credit Union - Term Deposit ( 331191277)

\$41,272.14

Gateway Credit Union - Term Deposit ( 331191278)

\$53,193.27

**\$118,904.79**



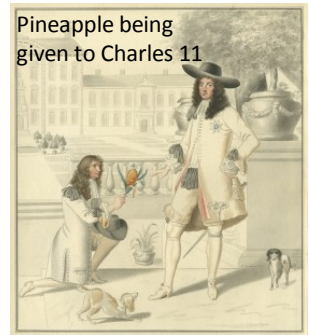
## A brief history of *Ananas comosus*

Source: Bromeliana Vol. 54 No.8.

In 1493, Columbus's men came across the pineapple fruit on the Caribbean Island of Guadeloupe. On return to the royal court, the new, sweet fruit was an instant hit, as fresh fruit

and sugar were expensive and rare commodities.

In 1555 Andre Thenet, a monk, sent a pineapple to Europe from the West Indies. The first pineapples arrived in England in 1657 and were sent to Oliver Cromwell. In 1668, King Charles II served pineapples at a royal banquet for the French Minister, Colbert, but due to the long trip from the West Indies the pineapples had spoiled and the guests did not like their taste. Dr Samuel Johnson's 1755 explanation of the origin of the fruit name was: From the middle ages to the C15th the pine cone was regularly used in designs and in heraldry. Because it resembled the pine cone, the fruit of the *Ananas* became known as a 'Pineapple'.



The first European to raise a pineapple was perhaps Agneta Block, a Dutch plant enthusiast near Leiden, who propagated from seed sent from South America, on her estate at Vijerhof around 1687 and celebrated by having her portrait painted with the pineapple (above left). Block was only just ahead of several other prominent Dutch horticulturists including Jan Commelin, at Amsterdam's botanical garden, Caspar Fagel at De Leeuwenhorst, and Pieter de la Court, also near Leiden, who grew *Ananas* under glass in a greenhouse with heating. In 1720 an *Ananas comosus* was grown, flowered and fruited in a pineapple stove house in Richmond, Surrey by Sir Matthew Decker's gardener Henry Telende (also a Dutchman). In 1732 in a 'pine apple stove house' near Edinburgh, Scotland a pineapple was grown. Interest became so intense that erecting specifically designed hothouses, called 'pinehouses' or 'pineries' became one of the pastimes of the wealthy. In 1769, Adam Taylor, in his 'Treatise On The *Ananas*', called the pineapple 'The King of Fruits' said production of pineapples "has become the test of good gardening". The pineapple had become the rage of London aristocracy and every important dinner or banquet usually had an elaborate pyramid centerpiece of mixed fruits





Pineapple bedpost

and sweetmeats topped with a pineapple. The guests would eat other fruits and goodies but leave the pineapple untouched so it could be used again. It was so expensive that no one would dare ask the butler to cut this fruit or they might never be invited again. Some confectioners hired out a pineapple for the night and the 'candying' method developed, a 10 week process involving many changes of syrup.

Popularity continued and Wedgwood produced pineapple patterned ceramics in large quantities (1759 to 1764). By the end of the century it was firmly established as a decorative feature symbolizing wealth and hospitality. Pineapples were

carved on furniture, mirrors, glassware, fabrics, silver urns, teapots, flatware and sugar bowls. The practice spread to the West Indies and to the United States where it was carved on bedposts, chairs and lintels.

### Scotland's Folly

Known as Scotland's folly and the most bizarre building in Scotland, Dunmore House (photo right) was built in 1761 by John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore. The ground floor hothouse for growing pineapples and other plants, was topped with a 40



feet high carved, stone pineapple. Over time the estate fell into ruins and was abandoned. The 'Pineapple Lot', including the folly, walled garden, woodlands and small lake, was purchased in 1974 by the Countess of Perth, given to the National Trust for Scotland then leased to the Landmark Trust, who restored the building.



### Symbolism

By the middle of the 19th century, the symbolism of the pineapple was extended beyond the garden and hospitality. In 1841, Hooper wrote in 'The Lady's Book' that the gift of a pineapple between lovers signified

**'you are perfect'.**

## Back to the Plant

The edible pineapple, *Ananas comosus*, has now lost its genus status and become a cultivar called *Ananas 'Comosus'*, as for 200 years this plant has been clonally selected, crossed and recrossed so it is impossible to get an accurate description of the original plant.

The pineapple is a multiple fruit; each flower in the inflorescence produces a fruit, but these mature into a single mass in which each flower has produced a true fruit. After flowering the mass is called an infructescence. Pineapple plants grow well in greenhouses, but when grown indoors do not get enough light to flower naturally. When pineapples are mature enough to bloom, their DNA programs them to produce ethylene gas that shuts down leaf production and initiates growth of inflorescence tissue. During the 17th century wealthy owners of estates put wood-burning stoves to heat their glasshouses for the benefit of their tropical pineapple plants. This, they thought, was responsible for the occasional flowering they achieved. Little did they know that it was the smoke from the burning of the wood that caused the plants to set buds since a chemical component of smoke is ethylene gas.

Over the past hundred years horticultural techniques for producing commercial pineapples have advanced with clones that are compact (so grow more pineapples), easy to handle (leaves without spines) and are consistently sweet and juicy ( eg Golden Pineapple). Ornamental pineapple plants have been produced such as the variegated, spineless *Ananas 'Ivory Coast'*.

## November Meeting

Mark Belot WOWED us with a few of his new acquisitions from his recent trip to GoldenBroms, the most recent Australasian Bromeliad Conference held on the Gold Coast. Several of our members attended and all agreed that it was well worth the trip, having met up with old and new friends, learned quite a deal from the various speakers, and of course, made some very pleasing purchases.



Kerry showed two pups that had been removed which had a great deal of scurf on them which is very easily damaged without careful handling, and can mar the look of your plant. Care is needed as ***THIS SCURF DOES NOT GROW BACK.***



Damaged scurf on *Neoregelia* 'Birdrock' (left)



Care needs to be taken when handling heavily scurfed plants such as *Aechmea fasciata* (right)

## Our Guest speaker - November Meeting

Our guest speaker was Kathy Potter from FATS (Frog and Tadpole Study Group: <https://www.fats.org.au/>). A large group crowded into the George Bell Pavilion (our 'home away from home') to hear Kathy present a most informative talk on frogs in our area. With 3 main contenders and information on habitat, conservation and developing safe havens for species we may find in our backyards.



All who attended found the discussion very informative and interesting.

Thankyou Kathy



**Striped Marsh Frog**  
*Limnodynastes peronii*



**Dwarf Tree Frog**  
*Litoria fallax*



**Peron's Tree Frog**  
*Litoria peronii*



## Scurf - Trichomes

Source -BROMELIACEAE SEPT/OCT 2007;The Biology of Bromeliads- David H. Benzing; Brown, M.L. (1972) Bromeliad Trichomes, J. Brom Soc. Vol. XXII(5), Sep/Oct, 1972

The grayish, fuzzy texture on many bromeliads is called scurf, a structure by which epiphytic bromeliads draw moisture and nutrition from the air.

The epidermis of many plants grows attachments consisting of one or more cells and taking many different forms. These attachments are called trichomes, derived from the Greek **'hairy'**. The trichomes we are most familiar with are those which give plants a downy or furry appearance.

Artemisia and the many other plants which grow under hot, arid conditions are covered with 'hair' which protects against the glare of the sun, shelters against drying out in the wind and perhaps helps to keep predators at bay.

A more aggressive defence is mounted by the stinging nettle. Under the slightest pressure the tips of its stiff trichomes break off, forming virtual hypodermic needles which inject the hapless intruder with its venom. Trichomes can be utilised to help a plant climb, i.e. tendrils.



One of the most interesting and successful adaptations to a nutrition starved environment is the development of trichomes in the sundews. These exude a sticky nectar to attract insects, which are then trapped and digested.

Bromeliad trichomes are complex cellular structures somewhat similar to an umbrella with a short 'shaft' of stalk cells and a 'screen' being a disc-shaped shield. Not only does each bromeliad have its own unique trichome, but the trichomes on the upper (adaxial) side of the leaf are different from those on the lower (abaxial) side of the trichomes and have multiple functions including :-

- facilitating the absorption of water and nutrients (from decaying matter), much as roots do
- reducing water loss by overlapping trichome caps that densely cover leaf surfaces and effectively reduce transpiration from stomatal pores
- helping to reflect sunlight and provide insulation against sudden large changes in temperature as the trichomes are thick-walled and air-filled.



Trichomes may be symmetrical about the stem cells or strongly asymmetric. If the shield edges turn up, the leaf surface will be rough as in *T. ionantha*. The disc may be more fully developed on one side, producing a fuzzy



surface eg *T. crocata*. Extreme development is found in the hair-like extensions of the trichomes of *T. tectorum*.

Tillandsias (and other bromeliads) which grow in a shady, humid environment have fewer trichomes than those exposed to full sun, and are green.

Depending on the amount of sun exposure to which the plants have adapted, the density and extensions of the trichomes cause the leaves to appear grey, silver, or white. The cells of the extensions are hollow, so that they reflect light (up to 45%) and form a good insulating barrier. When the leaf is wet, the cells fill with water and reflect very little light; and the leaf appears green. The trichomes channel water very quickly through the stalk cells into the leaf interior but prevent water (water vapour) from escaping. With good air circulation, the trichomes quickly dry out again and the plant regains its normal grey to silver lustre. (Note that not all

bromeliad trichomes are hydrophilic as described above. In some species, the trichomes are distinctly hydrophobic and these show no change in appearance when 'wetted'.)

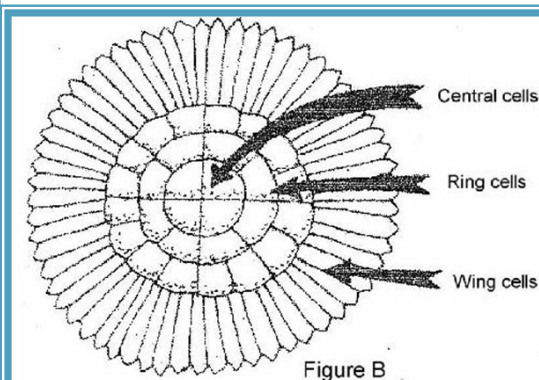


Fig.B, shows the anatomy of a *tillandsia* trichome where the shield would lie fairly flat against the epidermis so that the leaf is smooth, perhaps with a slightly velvety touch as with *Tillandsia xerographica*.

As a consequence of the rapid absorption of moisture by the trichomes, bromeliads and in particular the extreme epiphytes, respond to foliar fertilisation.

Bromeliad trichomes have evolved in distinct patterns that are sufficiently distinctive to be useful in plant identification at least to the sub-family taxon.

## *Plant of the Month November 2019*

### Open Judge's Choice

1st	Tillandsia 'Eric the Red' (photo no 1)	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	xNeomea 'Shooting Star' (photo no 2)	Harold Kuan
3rd	Tillandsia fuchsii forma gracillis (photo no 3)	Helga Nitschke

### Open Member's Choice

1st	Tillandsia 'Eric the Red' (photo no 1)	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	xNeomea 'Shooting Star' (photo no 2)	Harold Kuan
3rd	Tillandsia fuchsii forma gracillis (photo no 3)	Helga Nitschke

### Novice Judge's Choice

1st	Dyckia 'Comfortably Numb' hybrid (photo no 4)	Harold Kuan
2nd	Neoregelia 'Blushing Tiger' (photo no 5)	Harold Kuan
3rd	Neoregelia 'Orange Crush' (photo no 6)	Harold Kuan

### Novice Member's Choice

1st	Dyckia 'Comfortably Numb' hybrid (photo no 4)	Harold Kuan
2nd	Neoregelia 'Orange Crush' (photo no 6)	Harold Kuan
3rd	Neoregelia 'Blushing Tiger' (photo no 5)	Harold Kuan

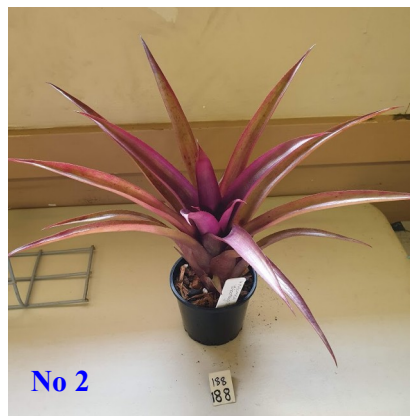
### Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

1st	'The Shining Torch' (photo no 7)	Janet Kuan
2nd	'Vow & Declare' (photo no 8)	C. Bunnell

**No 4**

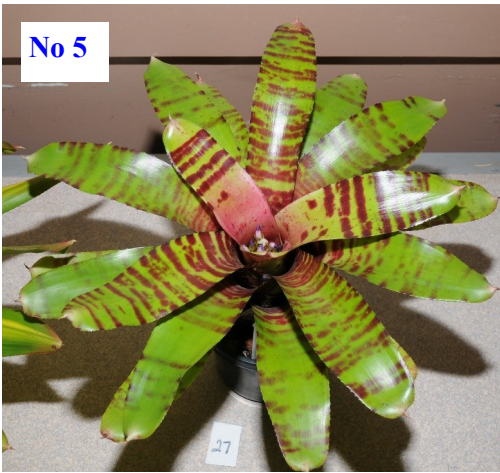


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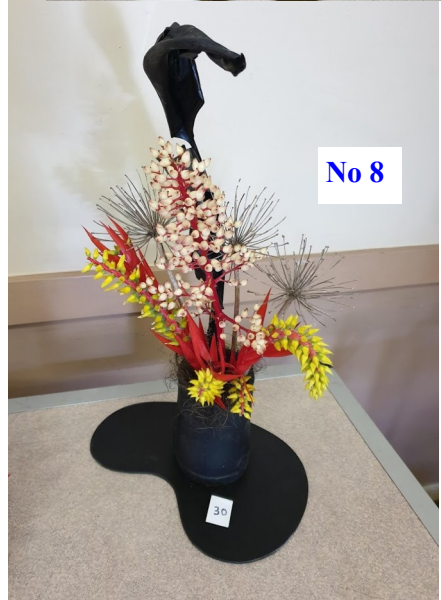
No 5



No 6



No 8



No 7



No 1



No 3



## *Aechmea seideliana*

by Derek Butcher July 2019

In the 1980's I received a plant under this name from Marj McNamara and when it flowered I dissected it to try to link to the protologue. The only difference was blue petals instead of white. I saw no reason to change the name. In this case we do not know the source of Marj's plant in Brazil. Was it a seed pod?

This year Vic Przetocki (WA) flowered his *A. seideliana* and queried why it had blue petals instead of white. Because we look at cultivars somewhat differently these days it has been decided that it is better to give this plant the cultivar name 'Seidel Blue' so its story can be told. Not only does it refer to the colours of the petals but a mistake in identity. In my article ***Aechmea 'Aussie Ruby'*** (excerpt below) we had two problems which we tried to solve by using a cultivar name and a species name of *A. seideliana*. In hindsight it was a wrong decision because we knew nothing about the origins of the species plant or where it had been found in the wild.



***Aechmea 'Aussie Ruby'*** by Derek Butcher in Bromeleetter 33(4):13. 1995

Now to the second part which also revolves around Ruby Ryde. Those of you who have Baensch's 'Blooming Bromeliads' would have immediately noticed the mistake on page 69 where an alleged *Aechmea seideliana* is pictured. Those who read 'Bromeleetter' will know that the 'true' plant is in Australia, albeit with bluish red petals compared to white in the original description. The illustrated plant is a vigorous form of *A. warasii*.....

Back to Ruby who had a plant also raised from seed allegedly from Seidel which was more robust than the *Aechmea seideliana* and had a large inflorescence. This plant raised the temperature in Adelaide with yours truly saying it was a hybrid and Len Colgan maintaining it was a species. Eventually Len could stand it no longer and six months ago sent pieces to Elton Leme in Brazil.....Elton had never seen such a plant and could only assume it was a hybrid. However, seed raising from this plant has produced fairly consistent progeny. In the meantime, I believe it should be given a Cultivar name because it is distinct, it is an attractive plant, and what better name than *Aechmea 'Ruby'*. (Now called 'Aussie Ruby' because there is already a 'Ruby' in existence in the USA) This will identify the plant and also indicate its source for future reference. I am enclosing a line drawing of *A. seideliana* which seems related to *A. piment-velosoi* to remind you of the plant that should have been in Baensch's book. It will also give you an idea of the form of *Aechmea 'Ruby'* which is a large form. The leaves are longer and wider. The inflorescence is 10cm long and 5cm diameter compared to 6cm and 2cm. It is 60 flowered compared to up to 20. The ovary and base of the sepal yellow compared to whitish pink. The top portion of the sepal still carmine red and petals bluish red.

There are similar plants being grown in Australia where one main difference is that A. 'Seidel Blue' has reddish ovaries and A. 'Aussie Ruby' has yellowish ovaries. Plants are in cultivation that are in between which suggests that they are in a grex and it up to you to see where you think they may fit.

### **Additionally from Ian**

**The first 2 photos on our website (<http://www.bromeliad.org.au/pictures/Aechmea/AussieRuby.htm> ) are possibly 'Mary Brett', they are circulating in Sydney with the name 'Wild Ruby'.**

## **Using Coir Fibre**

Source: Bromcairns 2019, no 4

Growing media is a vital component in growing broms in pots. For best results trial new blends and mixes in your growing media. One material to consider is 'Coir' which is coir



fibre pith or coconut fibre derived from the husk of the coconut, the fruit of the coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*. Each palm can produce in excess of 100 coconut fruits per year and the largest areas of production are in Sri Lanka and India. Coir is a 'peat like' by-product from the processing of coconut husks. This fibrous material is taken from between the hard, internal shell and the outer coat of a coconut, then washed, soaked and compressed. Coir chips are obtained by cutting the coconut husk into small graded pieces.

Coir is a homogenous material composed of millions of capillary micro-sponges. The individual fibre cells are narrow and hollow with thick walls made of cellulose and lignin. The naturally aerated structure of the coir fibre holds up to eight times its weight in water, while its fibrous nature allows moisture to easily drain. Coir has a pH of 5.7 to 6.5, is 100% natural, lightweight, with excellent wetting and rewetting capacity and good drainage capabilities. In capillary watering, the coir assists in redistributing water throughout the container.

The coarse fibre maintains its shape and resists compaction while the high lignin content means the growing media will be longer lasting, hold more water and will not shrink from the sides of the container as it dries out. A blend or mix with 10 – 20% coir provides all the benefits of coir. Coir comes in compressed blocks or bales, use by adding water and physically breaking up the compacted fibres before adding to growing mix.



## *Plant of the Month December 2019*

### Open Judge's Choice

1st	Tillandsia ionantha (photo no 1)	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	Tillandsia 'Graceful' (photo no 2)	Harold Kuan
3rd	Tillandsia 'Naundorff' (photo no 3)	Kerry McNicol

### Open Member's Choice

Equal	Neoregelia 'Bevvie'	Kerry McNicol
1st	Tillandsia streptocarpa	Ron Farrugia
Equal	Tillandsia 'Graceful' (photo no 2)	Harold Kuan
2nd	Tillandsia 'Naundorff' (photo no 3)	Kerry McNicol
	Tillandsia tectorum	Audrey Williams
Equal	Tillandsia ionantha (photo no 1)	Carolyn Bunnell
3rd	Tillandsia magnusiana	Bruce Munro

### Novice Judge's Choice

1st	Catopsis subulata (photo no 8)	Chris Cheetham
2nd	Tillandsia confertiflora (photo no 9)	Chris Cheetham
3rd	Tillandsia filifolia (photo no 10)	Chris Cheetham

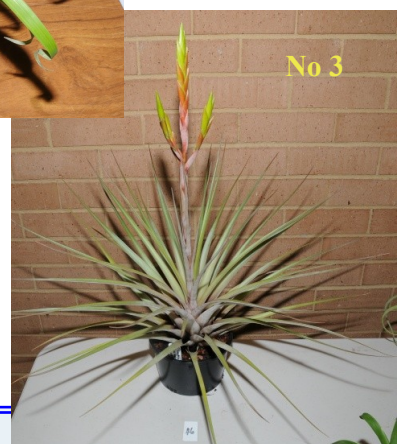
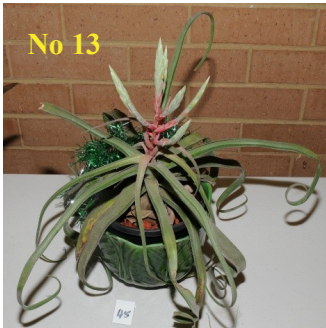


## Novice    Member's Choice

1st	Tillandsia filifolia    (photo no 10)	Chris Cheetham
2nd	x Sincoregelia Lymanii	Ian Hook
3rd	Tillandsia confertiflora    (photo no 9) x Sincoregelia Lymanii Billbergia 'Hallelujah'	Chris Cheetham Ian Hook Pamela Munro

## Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

1st	'Twinkle, Twinkle Tillandsia' (photo no 11)	Larissa Victoria
2nd	'Joy To The World' (photo no 12)	Janet Kuan
3rd	'Flowering For Christmas' (photo no 13)	Christine Johnson



**REMINDER**

**Pay your annual  
membership fees now**

## December Meeting

### Removing pups by various methods

Ian and Kerry demonstrated the removal of pups from a number of species using slightly different techniques, since different species produce pups in a variety of places.

The advantage of removing pups from the mother plant is twofold. The mother plant may go on to produce more pups, rather than die if left amongst the new plants, and secondly the pups don't get distorted as they grow.

Some bromeliads produce pups within their base leaves, so they are harder to remove and often it seems destroying the parent plant is the only option. For these it's important to remove the pup along with a part of the parent meristem. Firstly take out of the pot, keep label where it won't get lost. Take off enough axial (base) leaves to expose the pup base. In some broms these outer leaves are very tough and hard to remove by simply pulling down, and if forced may damage the parent base. To remove these tougher leaves cut a small slit near the base of the leaf, then rip up to the tip. Then take each half and pull down and out and the leaf will come away. Once the pup is visible use a saw to cut down between parent and pup; or cut slits either side of pup and gently prize away. Leave pup to air for a few days to dry off, so the cut section calluses over. If planting directly into soil, don't water much for the first few days.



**Carefully cutting pup away from parent plant with a saw.**



In Dyckia bromeliads the pups are found right under the leaf canopy, they are small and delicate. Remove all outer dead leaves slowly, and in turn until the pups are exposed. Dyckia pups usually develop their own root system which intertwine with the roots of the parent plant, so the next step is easier when the soil is dry. Hold base of pup then gently and patiently wiggle it until it comes loose.

Dyckia pups must have their root system intact to survive.





**Large Vriesea clump with outer leaves  
Removed, prior to removing pups.**



**Vriesea clump with several pups removed to  
form a balanced looking colony.**

When splitting up large clumps like Vrieseas, always take out the outward facing pups first, then the inner ones. Aim at achieving a balanced shape if you intend to leave several plants together to form a colony.

Often there are smaller pups inside the clump, if these are too small they should be left on the parent plant until they are at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the parent height.

When replanting the parent, removing a section of the existing root ball (member suggestions given -  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$ ) allows for fresh new potting mix to be added.

Alternatively you can increase the size of the pot you use to repot. The primary role of roots in bromeliads is stability, once the roots have stabilised the plant they take on the feeding role. Plant stability can be achieved by placing rocks or skewer sticks around the newly potted plant, until it is stable.

## Show and Tell

Joy Clarke bought in a clump of bromeliads which were moved to a protected spot during the winter. Before she could move it back when spring came, a black bird had woven a tightly packed nest, using twigs and the Spanish Moss tillandsia. It's good to know the nest creates moisture and humidity and the bromeliad continues to grow and is not harmed.



## Congratulations to all our winners



Winner of the Monthly Open competition  
Kerry McNicol



Harold Kuan, winner of the Monthly  
Novice competition, receiving the  
"Marjory McNamara perpetual  
trophy"



All in the family



Margaret Draddy Artistic  
Competition winner Janet Kuan

**NB** These awards are separate from the Annual Show competitions, and the annual Show Novice winner can still compete as a Novice in the monthly competitions

### WEBSITES

Bromeliads in Australia

<http://bromeliad.org.au>

Encyc of Bromeliads

<http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/>

BSI Cultivar Register

<http://registry.bsi.org/>

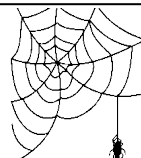
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

<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.*





This year has been a good one for attracting new members into our Society. We would like to welcome our most recent bromeliad enthusiasts:

Jodi & Todd Keane, Merolyn & Rennie Coombs  
 Craig Cameron, Joan Hayes, Jonathan Gasperson  
 Charles & Fiona Taylor  
 Scott Sherwood, Starr Cartledge

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

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

<b>Annual Membership</b> (Single/Family):	<b>Australia</b>	<b>A\$25</b>
<b>Overseas Membership:</b>	<b>Asia/Pacific Zone</b>	<b>A\$40.</b>
	<b>Rest of the World</b>	<b>A\$45.</b>

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.

### 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.)

## Take advantage of the variety of stock in our Seed Bank.

### SEED BANK

Al. extensa	27.11.19	Terry Davis
Al. imperialis rubra	15.10.19	Terry Davis
Pseudalcantarea viridiflora (red under leaf)	23.10.19	Terry Davis
Puya mirabilis	24.07.18	Ross Hutton
Neoregelia kautskii	3.10.19	Terry Davis
Vriesea saundersii	25.8.19	Michael Drury
T. xerographica	22.9.19	Bob Hudson
T. butzii	10.19	Alfonso Trudu
T. butzii	15.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
T. gardneri	4.9.19	Terry Davis
T. loliacea	5.10.19	Steve Molnar
T. funkiana	7.10.19	Steve Molnar
T. polystachia – white flower	4.12.19	Terry Davis
T. paucifolia	7.10.19	Steve Molnar
T. xiphioides Olejnik	No date	Stan Olejnik
T. capillaris was incana	23.10.19	Terry Davis
T. setacea	29.10.19	Terry Davis
T. magnusiana	22.12.19	Terry Davis
T. ionantha stricta?	12.19	Greg Aizlewood
T. ionantha	7.10.19	Steve Molnar
T. ionantha	12.19	Greg Aizlewood
T. ionantha	15.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
T. ionantha	19.12.19	Terry Davis
T. loliacea	12.19	Greg Aizlewood
T. variabilis	12.19	Greg Aizlewood
T. plagiotropica	14.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
T. rhomboidea	14.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
T. Kalambachii	14.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
T. cristagallii or tricolor?? undescribed	14.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
T. kallambachii?? or mooreana??	15.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
T. cristagallii or tricolor?? Undescribed	15.12.19	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson

**All enquiries to Terry Davis - (02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809**

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

Full list on [bromeliad.org.au](http://bromeliad.org.au)

### Report from Treasurer Alan Mathew for November 2019

Opening balance at bank 1.11.19	\$24,231.59
Income:	\$1,094.80
Less Expenses:	\$3,228.66
<b>Closing cash balance at bank 30.11.19</b>	<b><u>\$22,097.73</u></b>

## LITERATURE for Sale

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

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>PRICE</b>
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
<b>Growing Bromeliads – 3rd Ed. by BSA IS BACK!</b>		\$20.00 (member price)

### ***COLLECTORS' CORNER***

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Book 2. Crypt., Til., Vr., etc.

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