



# ***BROMELETTER***

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

***bromeliad.org.au***



BROMELETTER is published monthly by the

Bromeliad Society of Australia Incorporated during COVID restrictions

**ISSN 2208-0465 (Online) Vol 59 No 3 March 2021**



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.**

## CONTENTS

Management Details	Page 2,3,11,18,19
Member profile—Alan Mathew	4,5,6,7
Aechmea fasciata	8,9,10
Origin of some Bromeliad Genus Names	10
Charcoal	11
February Meeting—Show and Tell	12-16
Members Harold and Dave —Show and Tell	16,17,18
2020 Financial Report	18,19
Tillandsia complanata	20,21
This Months Hints	21
Seed List	22

## COMMITTEE

President	Ian Hook	(president@bromeliad.org.au)	0408 202 269
Vice President(1)	Kerry McNicol	(membsec@bromeliad.org.au)	0439 998 049
Vice President (2)	Joy Clark		0409 717 794
Secretary	Christine Johnson		02 95193105
Treasurer	Maureen Johns		0414 338 982
Assistant Treasurer	Sari Kilpinen—Hughes		0424 272 467
Public Officer	Bob Sharpley		0439 672 826
Editor	Larissa Victoria		0403 253 572
Member	Carolyn Bunnell		02 9649 5762
Member	Helga Nitschke		0447 955 562
Member	John Noonan		02 9627 5704
Member	Amal Eid		amalianne@yahoo.com.au

## OFFICE BEARERS

Book Sales & Librarian	Ian Hook
Member Secretary & Purchasing Officer	Kerry McNicol
Catering	Annamari Kilpinen
Assist Catering	Joy Clark
Raffle Sales	Peter Fitzgerald
Plant Sales	Ron Farrugia
Plant of the Month / Show Registrar	Terence Davis
Show coordinators	Ian Hook / T. Davis
Show Display	Joy Clark
Publicity Officer	Di Tulloch

**Photo Front  
Cover**

**Close up of  
Harold Kuan's  
*Tillandsia*  
'Kandanga'**

**Photo by Harold  
More on page 18**



Greetings BSA members,

Well, finally we were able to hold a meeting, after nearly a year. To maximise our attendee numbers Ian set up sales tables outside (photo left) and went to great lengths to ensure we complied with distancing rules. Thank you Ian for all the extra documentation, council correspondence, courses you participated in on our behalf, to make meetings possible. As you receive this

newsletter hopefully our meetings will now be regular and guidelines more relaxed, allowing more members to attend. Apart from catching up with people we haven't seen for a while, we held our AGM. There are changes in the committee and two new life members—congratulations to Terry Davis (page 14) and Carolyn Bunnell!

It is fitting that this month's member profile is of Alan Mathew, who presents his last report as treasurer. As Ian H. mentioned at the meeting "Bromeliads are not Alan's main interest, but people are". Alan has diligently, cheerfully and with great attention seen to all financial aspects of our society for 10 years. So once again, we send him our gratitude, praise and very best wishes.

In this issue we have a large 'show and tell' section, with ideas from our meeting and submissions from members.

Please keep contributions coming, as it makes our newsletters more diverse and interesting. The Bromelletter has come out monthly during COVID, and in 2021 will continue on a monthly basis until the April issue, when the frequency will be reviewed by the committee.

As always keep safe and happy bromeliad gardening .....from Larissa



### Life Members:

**Allan Beard**  
**Carolyn Bunnell**  
**Terence Davis**  
**Ron Farrugia**  
**Ian Hook**  
**Graham McFarlane**  
**Bill Morris**  
**David Scott**

**REMINDER**

All being well, our meetings will be held on the following dates in the Federation Building

**13th March, 10th April and 8th May**



## MEMBER PROFILE - Alan Mathew

Source: interview with A. Mathew. Photos: C. Muscat, L. Victoria

Alan grew up in a family of three boys in Leichhardt, in the days when a house could be purchased for £300 and repayments were £3 per week. Alan was the baby of the family with his brothers being 17 (**Photo left: with his middle brother**) and 19 years older than him. All family members had varying interests, his father kept canaries and chooks, mum loved flowers and grew cymbidium orchids, while his middle brother built a fernery. Alan

recalls it was filled with maidenhair and haresfoot ferns and had a pond with a turtle. Apart from these animals Alan had a dog called Smokey, who had a habit of digging up mum's orchids. Another story!!! Alan's view is that every child should have a cat or a dog and has had dogs and cats all his life. His last dog was a lovely Cocker Spaniel x Labrador and currently he has a ginger and white cat.

**HOW IT ALL STARTED** Just over 10 years ago, housemate Chris Muscat wanted to know more about broms and suggested they go to a Bromeliad Society meeting. Here Alan met up with Bryan Alchin, who he knew from playing bridge and was introduced to people like Robyn Firth, and Dawn Williams. Dawn was the current treasurer but was unwell, so Alan was invited (pressured/volunteered) into becoming the new treasurer. Of course nobody mentioned that there would be a Bromeliad Conference in 2015, which was a massive undertaking for a treasurer.

**Alan has resident Striped Marsh frogs in his pond. A sign of this healthy micro-environment is that the plants are growing well and cover the pond. So the pond is easy to miss if you don't know it's there. With so much of their habitat being destroyed by high rise and concrete paths this provides a perfect hideout for these lovely frogs. Consider a pond in your yard, it can be easily fitted into a corner and helps reduce the mosquito population in your broms.**



## ALAN'S MANY INTERESTS

Bromeliads are just one of many interests that Alan has, his primary interest is birds. He loves to identify birds in documentaries and on field trips and we were privileged to find out about his interest at our March meeting in 2020 just at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. (see Bromeletter 58, No3 - April 2020).



**Some of the lovely staghorns on the back trellis in Alan's back garden.**

Alan interests are many and varied.

- ◇ He loves cricket, although sadly he says that he was lousy at it.
- ◇ He loves to watch old movies particularly war movies with ships, and he would have joined the navy had it not been for some medical issues which disqualified him. Some of Alan's favourite movies are 'The Malta Story' with Alec Guinness (1953); 'The Battle of the River Plate' with Peter Finch (1956) and 'San Demetrio London' (1943).
- ◇ Bromeliads particularly neos and vrieseas, especially those with coloured and variegated leaves are his favourites. He also likes orchids.
- ◇ Horse riding, Alan describes himself as a reasonable rider, he learnt to ride on a cross draft horse and went riding regularly near Goulburn, with a fun group of riders.
- ◇ Playing bridge.
- ◇ Travel. Alan went on organised tours in Europe and he visited Burma on the way back. This was when China was first opening up to tourists. He went on bird and crab watching and he saw interesting species of migrating crabs as well as 'coconut' and 'blue crabs' and some very unusual birds, on Christmas Island. He visited Costa Rica while in the USA and this was the trip where he saw many bromeliads in their natural habitat. We have enjoyed some of his photos in past issues in 'In the Wild' section. Each trip was fun in its own way and appealed to Alan's different interests.



**A stunning Guzmania**



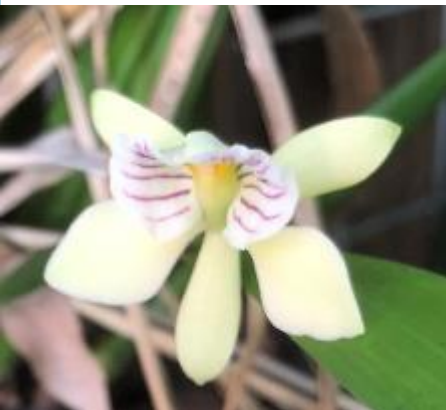
Alan says he's had a good life, he's travelled and had great fun and no disasters on all his trips. **(Photo right: Alan on one of his field trips)**. He has been self-employed as a tax agent which has given him freedom and flexibility. Despite having cancer for the last five years Alan feels that he's had good friends and good support during this time and he's very grateful for this.



Alan has a typical Newtown block, a small, narrow and long backyard. What makes this



space a delight is an off centre undulating path (photo above left) that winds past the pond with a sea of bromeliads on each side. There is an optimal use of space using trellises on fences and in the narrow



walkways on the side of the house for tillandsias and orchids (photo below right) .



**Above: One of Alan's many lovely orchids.**



Alan creates height using different methods, such as attaching broms to palm trees, using old tree ferns stumps to grow broms, suspending large clumps of tillandsia usneoides from tree



Above: Variegated pineapple

branches and his favourite, an *Aechmea caudata* growing in a tall terracotta pipe. (photo below left)



For extra protection from the sun

Alan uses an umbrella. (photo bottom left)





## AECHMEA FASCIATA

Source: I.Hook; BSA – D.Butcher; Bromeliad Newsletter, July 2004.

Photos: bromeliad.org, K.McNicol, L.Victoria, J. Townsend, Facebook-  
D.Crane, W.Wood, P. Coyle, M.Tohi.

In the wild *Aechmea fasciata* is found on trees in the mountain forests of southern Brazil, at elevations of 1,800 ft (540 m) to 4,000 ft (1,200 m) and in areas around Rio de Janeiro and the Distrito Federal in Buenos Aires. It is known for its beautifully proportioned vase-like form, wide greenish leaves barred with wide silver cross bands and its typical and very striking rose to candy-floss pink inflorescence, with blue flowers. The pink spike can last for up to six months or more.



Often referred to as '**Silver King**' or '**The Urn Plant**', this plant has been in demand since it was first named and was a great interest to botanists in the 1800s and was referred to by numerous synonyms. It was



first introduced into cultivation in Belgium in 1826 under the name of *Billbergia rhodocyanea*, and it was one of the first bromeliads to be seen there. In some areas of Belgium the plant is still known by that original name today. In 1828, Professor John Lindley, who was a professor of botany and a diligent administrator of the Horticultural Society of London (now the Royal Horticultural Society), renamed the plant *Billbergia rhodocyanea*, In 1830 it was called *Hohenbergia*

Above and below:  
*Aech. fasciata* 'Kiwii'



*Aech. fasciata* 'Sangria'

*fasciata*. In 1847 the French botanist Charles Lemaire described this same plant as *Billbergia rhodocyanea*, while ten years later in 1857 the Austrian botanist, Georg Beer, described it as *Hoplophytum fasciata*. Other names include *Aech. leopoldii*, *Aech. rhodocyanea* and *Quesnelia rhodocyanea*.







*Aech. fasciata* 'Rubra'

The name of *Aechmea fasciata* was used by Englishman Gilbert Baker, in 1879. Baker a botanist, well-known for his ability to correctly name many different plants. The word 'aechmea' is from the Latin 'aichme' meaning a point, in reference to the calices (calyx) or the outer protective covering or envelopes as they are called, of the flower.

*Aechmea fasciata*

flowered for the first time in Kew Gardens in England in 1878. Today, it is still the most widely cultivated decorative bromeliad in Europe, and is especially popular in Belgium. There are many variations of *Aechmea fasciata* but all have the large pink head of bracts, although the pink colour can vary. The blue flowers pop out between the bracts. *Aechmea fasciata* come in different sizes, with or without thorns, longer shorter and bigger/smaller flowers, wider/more scuffed



*Aech. fasciata* var *purpurea*



'Supreme' cultivar

leaves and even with variegated leaves, but all same basic colours. Cultivars include 'Aton', 'Auslese', 'Big Mama Fasciata',



'Supernova'

'Canvey Pink Surprise', 'Checkers', 'Mackerel', 'Morgana', 'Primera', 'Sangria', 'Silver King', 'DeLeon', 'Frost', 'Ghost', 'Ivory', 'Leucadia', 'Smoothie', 'Snaakse Ding', 'Stalker', 'Supernova' (photo right), 'White Head'.

Just looking at the various forms increases your 'wishlist'.

Two others that we do not see very often are 'Ivory' (photo right) and 'Red Spike'. The first has a pure white flower spike, and 'Red Spike' has a red spike instead of the usual pink.





- Clockwise from top left:
1. The spineless fasciata *Aechmea fasciata* 'Morgana' is patented;
  2. *Aech. fasciata* hybrid C. Skotak;
  3. *Aech fasciata* inflorescence;
  4. *Aech fasciata* 'Clara';
  5. *Aech fasciata* variegated.



## ORIGIN OF SOME BROMELIAD GENUS NAMES

Most bromeliad genera are named after persons, many honour Europeans and include:

Germans - Dyckia, Neoregelia, Hechtia, and Hohenbergia.

French - Chevaliera, Eduandrea, Neoglaziovia, and Pepinia.

Swedes - Billbergia, Lindmania, and Wittrockia.

Austrians - Barfussia.

Italians - Brocchinia.

English - Bakerantha, Connellia.

The majority of genera were named exclusively after men with only two recent exceptions, Racinaea and Ursulaea.

Botanists from other world regions who lend their name to currently recognised genera include:

Lymania and Lutheria (American), Lemeltonia (Brazil), Brewcaria (Venezuela).

## CHARCOAL

**Source: Reprinted from: Bromelletter Vol.27 No.5,1989, E. Williams. Photo downsouthparty.**

Charcoal is a common form of carbonized wood which has many good garden uses. An understanding of its properties and functions will be helpful in the correct application of it, especially to house plants.

Charcoal itself has no food value. Its most important use to plants lies in its ability to collect and conserve ammonia. This remarkable function is one of the marvels of science and nobody has been able to explain it. If pieces of charcoal are in the soil it will be found that roots will cling to it to absorb the collected ammonia.

When organic fertiliser begins to decompose, one of the first products given off by the bacteria is ammonia gas. This gas is extremely volatile and easily escapes but if a grain of charcoal lies next to a grain of fertiliser, it will absorb 80 times its own bulk in ammonia and will hold it for the use of the plant roots. It is the ammonia forming capacity of bone meal, fish meal, natural manure, compost and such organic fertiliser that we pay for and the gas should not be allowed to escape.

Charcoal has other equally valuable properties:

- It is the worlds most perfect purifier.
  - It acts as a continuous factory for the destruction of injurious acids.
  - Wherever evil organic gases are given off, charcoal will absorb the odour.
- A sprinkling of charcoal over the compost heap or over the freshly fertilised lawn will not only prevent odours but will conserve the ammonia.

For house/potted plants it has many good uses:

- It sweetens the soil.
- Saves fertiliser.
- Checks damping-off of seedlings.
- It affects the soil texture and quality and neutralises overly large doses of acid plant food.
- It encourages root growth of plants grown in water and helps to keep water fresh.





## FEBRUARY MEETING - SHOW AND TELL

**George Hardy** bought in a clump of *Till. mallemonitii*, which he first saw at Grace Goode's garden (QLD), where it was growing in bird netting, and so was provided shade to the broms below. At George's house it has found a home in his Lilly Pilly, where it gets good air flow and filtered sun. It needs to dry off in between watering, or it will die off. This is one of the fragrant tillandsias and has a heady scent when in flower. George broke up the clump and generously gifted segments to members. Thankyou George!



**Pam Munro** wanted to know how to separate the three pups from her parent *Sincoregelia 'Galatic Warrior'* (bought from Alan Beard), and whether the parent of this species dies off after flowering. Comments:

- this is an intergeneric cross
- if left in pot it will grow into large ball shape, which can look spectacular especially when hung high up
- will go green if not enough light
- doesn't like being too wet, but likes humidity
- the leaf tips will go brown if not enough water - stick you finger in the soil to see if too wet or too dry
- airflow is important but watch your particular area, if the wind is too strong it can dry out quickly; remember both airflow and good humidity is important for broms
- when you have no time to repot, wait for mother to die, cut her off at base and pups will grow to fill the space



Pam showed a clump of *Vriesea flammea* in a attractive basket shape ceramic pot, all were planted at the same time but only one has flowered. Why? Member comments:

- ◇ base usually purple with brown spots
- ◇ this one needs more light to stimulate flowering
- ◇ George H advised don't fertilise but give more light and wait patiently until next year i.e. when the fertiliser runs out after you have planted a pup is when the plant goes into flower production ....much discussion followed on fertilising or not fertilising broms.



## FEBRUARY MEETING - SHOW AND TELL

**Anna Ernest** - Bought in a **Neo. 'Shelldance'** (from the James Cotter deceased estate) with a large thick branching trunk and wanted advice on this. (2 photos right)

Comments:

- ◆ branches can be cut cut off like a cactus and all parts will grow well
- ◆ trunk can grow up to 20 pups per stem
- ◆ as previously discussed in meetings and articles Shelldance likes water and can stand in a saucer of water - so what is it that it needs - is it the humidity or the actual water?



Anna also bought in a tillandsia (photo left) as she was not sure which direction to hang it. Terry D advised it doesn't matter, tillandsias are very adaptable and will even grow if place upside down. Terry grows many of his tills in pots with very open mix. Sections maybe taken off anytime, but carefully so not to damage the grey scurf, as this is the moisture collecting mechanism.



**Kerry McNicol** - Showed a **Neo. 'Shelldance'** sport (photo bottom left) from John Catlan which she has had since 2015. John (now deceased) didn't register many of his hybrid plants but kept immaculate records with plant number, date and his initials JC.

Kerry showed a *Vriesea fosteriana* which had grown very tall and lanky and Kerry had removed 4 pups and was about

to throw out the mother, then noticed it had one more, so left it. However to her surprise this mother then went onto grow 4 more pup (photo right).



Unfortunately one pup was dislodged during the show and tell. Read how to treat these pups on page 16.

## THE SLAYER AT WORK



**Amal Eid** brought in a *Neo*.

'**Pete's Firecracker**', a variegated brom which over time had turned into a novar (no variegation). (photo top left)

Coming very well prepared Amal sought a Brom Slayer to do the deed. While most ducked for cover, one voice rang out "its

easy", so that was enough for the meeting to nominate TD to do the deed!

After sterilising the weapon with alcohol and sprinkling the inner tank with cinnamon, TD showed us how it was done.



**Sprinkle the centre with cinnamon**



**Twist this way**



**Then twist the other way**



**Back again for good measure**



**Ah, the plucked heart !**

Damaging / removing the heart or meristem stimulates the bromeliad to go into pup production. It is a useful technique to bypass the flowering stage in those broms that have been damaged or not growing the way they should. The heart or apical meristem produces hormones that suppress the growth of dormant buds. When you damage the apical meristem the supply of the inhibiting hormone ceases, so a new apical meristem is produced (ie the pup). Flowering also produces hormones that prevent apical meristem dominance and so pup production follows. Pups emerging from the remaining variegated side will tend to be variegated, so take out pups from the other sides and turn the variegated side to the light. Remember, should the centre of your bromeliad die, it should produce pups so don't throw it out. **The benefits of cinnamon can be found in past Bromeletter Issue 4:2020.**

**Source: H.Cleghorne, Pups - Why do they Form.**



## MEETING SHOW AND TELL cont...

**Amal Eid** - Showed a *Guzmania sanguinea* var. *brevipedicellata*. Amal has this one hanging high up in her shade house. This guzmania increases its colour pre-flowering. The general comment was this was a great specimen particularly as it needs a warmer winter to achieve a good colour and this is difficult to achieve in the colder Sydney winters. Well done Amal!



### Astrid Bradshaw- *Puya alpestris* subsp *zoellneri*

Source: Text and photos Astrid Bradshaw, [bluemountainsbotanicgarden.com.au](http://bluemountainsbotanicgarden.com.au)

Astrid brings to our attention a majestic Puya at the Blue Mountains Botanical Garden, at Mt Tomah. One of the most

cold hardy of the bromeliads, it is found through the stony, arid mountainous area of Central America. The blue flowers are borne on large spikes from October to November and in the photo left, the blue flower is visited by a wattle bird.

Other Puya article - Issue 8, 2020 *Puya* 'Clava Hercules'; Issue 1, 2021 *Puya ramondii*.



We would like to welcome our most recent bromeliad enthusiasts:

**Andrew Fuller**  
**Andrew Miller**



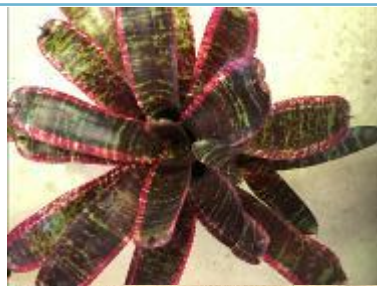
If you know someone who would like to become a member, please direct them to our website, the link to the member application form can be found at the bottom of the home page.

## MEETING SHOW AND TELL cont

**Sari Kilpinen-Hughes** - Bought in three broms to show. Comments included:- Be aware pups of variegated species may come through non variegated, but do not despair or throw out, as once separated from parent they can become variegated.

**Neo. 'Lucifer'** needs more sun to attain the pink and red hues it's known for. **Neo 'Snowflake'** has variegations.

Some discussion followed on obtaining plants from Queensland, grown in tropical conditions and take approximately two years to acclimatise to Sydney. Often the next generation of pups are more resilient to Sydney weather but broms obtained from interstate can arrest in their growth.



**Neo 'Maria'** (photo left) - is a slow growing brom



If you accidentally remove a pup before it is 1/3-1/2 the height of the parent plant, it generally will not survive. If this happens, place it inside a water filled tank of any brom and over time the pup will grow roots and so has a better chance of survival. (photo left - very small pup sitting inside another brom tank; photo right - 2 months later still no roots but doing well)



## Tillandsia 'Samantha' - Dave Scott

Source: [bromeliad.org](http://bromeliad.org); [bsi.org/registry](http://bsi.org/registry). Photos: D.Scott, C.Johnson, L.Victoria

**Tillandsia 'Samantha'** has been a finalist in the Chelsea Flower Show and at Flora Holland. David Scott's photos show the progression of this spectacular tillandsia which is monocarpic and has now produced 2 pups.

Here is its background as explained by the breeder **Pamela Koide-Hyatt** of Bird Rock Tropicals nursery, in Encinitas, California: "This cultivar is a cross of 2 species which I collected in western Mexico in the early 1980's. The pollen parent is *T. kalmbacheri* from the State of Michoacan. The seed parent is *T. mooreana* from

the State of Jalisco. I made the cross in 1989 and harvested the seeds in August, 1991. The progeny show intermediate characteristics of the parents.

This pollen parent *T. kalmbacheri* (Michoacan form) is not a very large plant, compared to the form from Oaxaca. The Oaxacan form in bloom stands 4-6 feet tall (120-180cms.) with a very elongated inflorescence, plus a rosette diameter of over 3 feet (1 metre). This smaller Michoacan form has a more digitate inflorescence and when blooming is closer to 2 feet (60cms.)



Left - Feb 2020  
Right - May 2020



Left, above and right -Jan 2021



high. Flower petals of both forms are light yellow. The primary bracts blush pink and spikes are full and pale green. The foliage is grey-green and lepidote.

The seed parent, *T. mooreana* (Jalisco) has very dark green, shiny foliage. The leaf texture is thin and the rosette leaves curl back towards the base of the plant. Near anthesis, the foliage changes to pink and red. The inflorescence is tall, blooming up to 4 feet (120cms.). Primary bracts can show some pink or red, but will fade back to green. The bracts are not as wide as those of *T. kalmbacheri*. The *T. mooreana* has many more lateral spike branches and purple flower petals.

It took me over 10 years to grow these progeny to blooming size, which occurs in Spring/Summer (Figure 1). The foliage is wide like *T. kalmbacheri* but glossy, dark green like *T. mooreana*. The inflorescence spikes and primary bracts are like *T. kalmbacheri*, but there are more of them and much taller, similar to *T. mooreana*. It is really the best of both parents. The spikes hold colour for a long time, more than 6 months. The flower petals are pale yellow.



## SHOW AND TELL - Harold Kuan

### *Tillandsia* 'Kandanga'

A beautiful Margaret Paterson hybrid of *Tillandsia brachycaulos* x *Tillandsia capitata* 'Rubra' – hence the intensely red blush. (Close up photo on front cover).



### *Tillandsia* 'Leon'

A hybrid whose parents are unclear. There is a guess that it might have some relation to *Tillandsia leonamiana*, thus why it's called *Tillandsia* 'Leon'.

### A bit more from Harold about his broms.....

I only have a small space, so all my tills pretty much receive the same care. They're all under polycarbonate, and I think this really helps to control

the watering – especially during winter when sustained cold, wet rains can lead to rot with some species. Tillandsias definitely appreciate air movement, and I'm lucky in that where they are situated is almost like a wind tunnel.

Most of the collection gets bright northerly light all day. In winter, some of westerly sun might sneak through, but in summer, the growth of grape vines shield them from the harshest of the hot westerly rays.

I think my tillandsias grow relatively dry, compared to other people's. They normally get watered every 2 or 3 days in the summer, although just before hot days, they would appreciate some hydration. In winter, they may go a week before getting water. I definitely err very cautiously on the safe side of dry.

## THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

### TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

It is with pleasure that I present this Treasurer's Report for the 2020 year. As a result of the 2013 changes to the Constitution the 2020 Accounts have been inspected by Mr Bill Ng of Partlett Chave & Rowland and his certificate is attached. There has been no fee for this service but a suitable gift in appreciation will be made in the near future. The current Financial Report has been prepared on a cash basis, as at 31st December there were no outstanding debtors or creditors. The valuation of

the Stock of Pots and Books on hand is based on actual cost where possible. Due to Covid 19, the last meeting in 2020 was in March, meaning that there were no meetings for the rest of the year and consequently no shows. It was decided that to maintain contact with members, Bromeletter was to be produced monthly, even though this could be a costly exercise. Many thanks to Larissa Victoria, our editor for accepting this sometimes thankless task. The magazine has continued to be of the highest quality. Additionally it was decided that 2020 financial members would be offered 2021 membership automatically at no charge. The Profit and Loss Account for the year has resulted in a **deficit of \$7544.70** compared with a **surplus of \$10915 for 2019**. This was not unexpected due to the lack of shows, meetings and the special August sale held in 2019.

### INCOME

General income has decreased from \$36031 to \$7955 with the main change a decrease in Plant Sales Donations to \$251 from \$17685 and other similar reductions due to lack of meetings. Pot sales have **only** reduced by \$2606 due to the hard work by Kerry McNicol who remains a tower of strength.

### EXPENSES

Operating Expenses have decreased slightly, from \$19569 to \$13479. This is in spite of an increase in Bromeletter Printing of \$4225. The Hills Council has also assisted by refunding rent paid for unused meeting times. The Society purchased a new computer for the use of the President at a cost of \$1903. This is currently subject to depreciation at the rate of 20% pa.

### ASSETS

The Society at 31st December 2020 held \$107634 in Cash and Bank deposits. This includes various Petty Cashes held by the Treasurer and Secretary. The other assets held by the Society are various items of equipment, the library various items of inventory (books, pots etc), and Prepayments.

### LIABILITIES

There were no liabilities outstanding at 31st December 2020.

The Net Assets of the Society stand at \$136227 at 31st December 2020.

As this is my last report as Treasurer of the Society, I would like to thank the Committee for their support during the year together with the unnamed and unsung volunteers who keep the Society rolling.

Thank you all.      Alan Mathew      03.02.2021

## IN THE WILD - TILLANDSIA COMPLANATA

Source: Jerry Raack, Journal of Bromeliad Society, Vol 69(4) 2019

Jerry he has been on 3 trips to Ecuador and was fascinated by the *Tillandsia complanata* species, its variants and characteristics.

*Tillandsia complanata* has a large range that extends from Costa Rica all the way to Bolivia. It grows strictly as an epiphyte in trees and shrubs and on rock walls at elevations from 750 to 3000m (photo bottom left). This species is notable for being the only non-terminal blooming bromeliad, and the tillandsia with real axillary inflorescences. It sends semi-pendant inflorescences from many leaf axils (photos top right and top left) along the bottom portion of the plant, while the meristem continues to grow year after year from the top.

Some specimens have multiple inflorescences growing from a single leaf axle. Since this tillandsia does not die after flowering it can live for many years continuing to grow a long base and flower. (photo top left page 21)

This plant seems to always be in flower regardless of the time of year (i.e. ever blooming) because of this and the fact that many areas forest have been thinned/cleared, hummingbirds have affected cross-pollination with other tillandsia growing in close proximity resulting in some naturally occurring hybrids.

There are many colour variations. The variations found include, leaf colour, the size (short or rather long) and colour (green to rose, red or orange) of inflorescences and flower petals (rose, purple or blue flowers).

One clone Jerry purchased has very plain light green leaves and relatively long bright red orange spikes with light blue flowers and is found growing in trees overhanging the Utcubamba River and turned out to be a fast growing variety and easy to cultivate in his house. While another variety he has grows at an altitude of 2800m, north of Loja (Ecuador) is highly spotted. Jerry notes both spike and flower petal







colour remain constant for a given variety and seem to be unaffected by light intensity. Jerry was under the impression *Tillandsia complanata* was difficult to grow in cultivation due to the elevations at which it is found but found this was not the case. (photo top left, page 20 is one in his collection). He found one variety that has bright red leaves in the habitat, lost nearly all its colour when grown under low light.

## THIS MONTHS HINTS

### TEST THINGS YOURSELF from Ray Henderson

Ray was our member profile last issue he explains, "when growing broms follow conventional advice initially but be prepared to experiment at times, keep an open mind and try things for yourself." for example -

1. Ray was told that *alcantareas* grass pups were inferior as a nursery crop because they were much slower than seed grown ones, but Ray has found them to be at least as fast, and this works better for him.
2. Ray was told *alcantareas* don't like wet feet, whereas for Ray the opposite is true. He puts a saucer under many of his *alcantareas* to keep water up and finds this works well when it's hot and dry.

**So always try something new, to see whether it works in your microclimate.**

### QUILLING - Photos Helga Nitschki



Helga's ***Neomea 'Strawberry'*** (Intergeneric cross between *Neoregelia carolinae*(?) seed x *Aechmea recurvata* v. *benrathii*(?) pollen ) grew with this strange pattern.

Explanation: when new leaves emerge from the bromeliad centre, they are covered with a thin, sticky substance which is diluted when you water your plant. However if not properly diluted, as happens during very dry conditions, the leaves stick together and form a tight cone this is called 'quilling' and may cause abnormal ridges in the leaves. Sometimes a few drops of washing up liquid and a washout will separate the leaves, but if you need to separate manually, do so carefully as the leaves are the growing part of your plant.



**If you have seed to donate please contact Terry .**

**Below is the list of seeds in our Seed Bank.**

Alcantarea 'Silver Plum'	11.10.20	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia novakii	30.10.20	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia schiedeana yellow	30.10.20	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia ionantha (Mexico)	2.11.20	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia minutifolia	17.11.20	Greg Aizlewood
Tillandsia capitata rubra	29.11.20	Kerry McNicol

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

Contact **Terry Davis (02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809**

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

**WEBSITES**

Bromeliads in Australia	<a href="http://bromeliad.org.au">http://bromeliad.org.au</a>
Encyc of Bromeliads	<a href="http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/">http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/</a>
BSI Cultivar Register	<a href="http://registry.bsi.org/">http://registry.bsi.org/</a>
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies	<a href="http://fcbs.org/">http://fcbs.org/</a>
Bromeliario Imperialis	<a href="http://imperialia.com.br/">http://imperialia.com.br/</a>



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:**

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

<b>Annual Membership (Single/Family):</b>	<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.

**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.)

## 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***

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.

We also specialize in orchids, cacti, succulents, hoyas, bonsai and carnivorous plants, PLUS gems, fossils, natural history, books and much MORE!



810 Springvale Rd., Braeside  
VIC 3195

PH: 03 9798 5845, FAX: 03 9706 3339

E-MAIL: [sales@collectorscorner.com.au](mailto:sales@collectorscorner.com.au)

WEBSITE: [www.collectorscorner.com.au](http://www.collectorscorner.com.au)

Open 9am-5pm 7 days a week.

### **M. J. PATERSON**

**212 Sandy Creek Road,  
GYMPIE QLD 4570**

A Large Range of Bromeliads For Sale, especially our own hybrid Neoregelias, Tillandsias, Cryptanthus and Vrieseas

Do call in if you are up this way.

**But, please, phone first.**

Phone/Fax: (07) 5482 3308.

E-mail: [wm\\_paterson@bigpond.com](mailto:wm_paterson@bigpond.com)

Also available

**Bromeliad Hybrids. "For My Own Satisfaction" Book 1.**

**Neos. "For My Own Satisfaction"**

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

Books available on-line at

**[www.bromeliad-hybrids.com](http://www.bromeliad-hybrids.com)**

## **FOREST DRIVE NURSERY**

Prop: Peter Tristram.

**C/- P.O. BOX 2, BONVILLE NSW, 2441**

(a few miles south of Coffs Harbor.)

**Specialising in SPECIES and VARIEGATES from mostly imported stock.**

**TILLANDSIAS to titillate the most discerning fanciers.**

**Beautiful VRIESEAS (including 'silver' species).**

**GUZMANIAS, AECHMEAS, NEOREGELIAS, etc.**

**Visitors welcome—phone first: (02) 6655 4130 A.H.**

**Send S.A.E. for MAIL ORDER list of quality plants.**

**POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**AUSTRALIA**

**PRINT  
POST**

PP1000001193



***If undelivered, return to:  
Bromeliad Society of Australia  
P.O. BOX 340, 2112  
Ryde NSW  
BROMELETTER  
Print Post Approval  
No. PP1000001193.***