



# ***BROMELETTER***

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

***bromeliad.org.au***



**Published by the Bromeliad Society  
of Australia Incorporated**

**ISSN 2208-0465 (Online)**

**Vol 59 No 7, August 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 2,3,11,19,22,23
Our RHS Award winner - Award winners present and past	4,5,6
June speaker - Mark Massey	6,7
June competition	8,9
June meeting 'Show and Tell' - Mark Belot; Jan Townsend	10
Diary dates; Vale Michael Ferenczi	11
Preparing for Exhibitions	12,13
Aechmea nudicaulis	14,15
Full Sun Broms	15,16
Mamorata Neoregelias ; Till. Crocata;	17
Check your Labels ; This months hints	18,19,20

## 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)	Sari Kilpinen—Hughes		0424 272 467
Secretary	Christine Johnson		02 95193105
Treasurer	Maureen Johns		0414 338 982
Assistant Treasurer	Sari Kilpinen—Hughes		0424 272 467
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
Member	Bob Sharpley		0439 672 826

## OFFICE BEARERS

Book Sales & Librarian	Ian Hook
Member Secretary & Purchasing Officer	Kerry McNicol
Catering	Helga Nitsche
Assist Catering	Annamari Kilpinen
Raffle Sales	Peter Fitzgerald
Plant Sales	Pat Sharpley
Plant of the Month / Show Registrar	Terry Davis
Show coordinators	Ian Hook / Terry Davis
Publicity Officer	Di Tulloch
Public Officer	Bob Sharpley

**Photo Front  
Cover  
Neoregelia  
'Blushing Tiger'**

**Janet Kuan's**  
winning entry in our  
June competition -  
Novice section.

**Photo Terry Davis**

Greeting to all members

Sadly I spoke too soon, and here we are back in lockdown! But as we all know, those of us with an interest in bromeliads have a worthwhile pursuit to occupy our days, whether it is moving, cleaning up, repotting our broms,



reading about broms or making wish lists, the bromeliad related activities are never ending.

The Bromeletter has been including member profiles now for more than a year, the first profile being Bob Sharpley in May 2020. It has been a positive that has resulted from the COVID isolation, as many members have commented that they didn't know this or that about a member. It gives us an opportunities to talk to those we don't know well, now that we know a bit more about them.

One of the common threads in these member articles has been how people start on their bromeliad passion. Often it's getting just one brom and then being hooked. The differences between us, show there's not just one way of enjoying your love of broms. Whether you have a small or large space, grow broms in a garden or shadehouse, concentrate on one or many genus, the pleasure we get from growing broms and the joy we experience when we find a 'new one' is universal.

During one of my COVID enforced clean-ups, I came across some photos from 1994 (photo top right) which shows the first few broms that I acquired. I never imagined how many bromeliads I would acquire over the next few decades and I'm sure it is the same for most of us.

from Larissa (Editor)

#### Life Members:

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

#### WEBSITES

Bromeliads in Australia

Encyc of Bromeliads

BSI Cultivar Register

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Bromeliario Imperialis

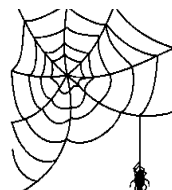
<http://bromeliad.org.au>

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

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

<http://fcbs.org/>

<http://imperialia.com.br/>





## AWARDS

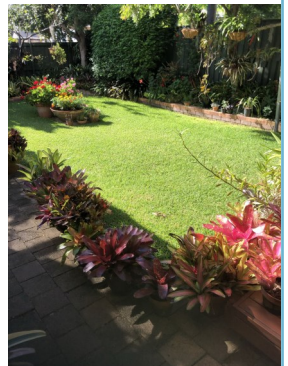
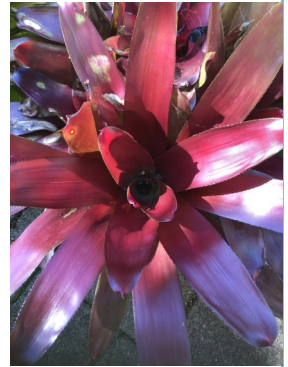


You may remember the article featured in our May 2021 Bromeletter on Bryan and Laurie's voluntary work in the garden of the Balmain Unit of Sydney Secondary College. As a result of their work, Bryan Alchin was presented with the 2021 RHS medal which is awarded to a BSA member, at our June

meeting.

In addition to their work at the campus gardens Bryan and Laurie also have an immaculate, mostly bromeliad and beautiful garden in Balmain.

Both Bryan and Laurie came from small country towns, Bryan from Gunning and Laurie from Nangus (out of Gundagai). As they both worked in the city and hated city travelling they bought a small run down cottage in Balmain.

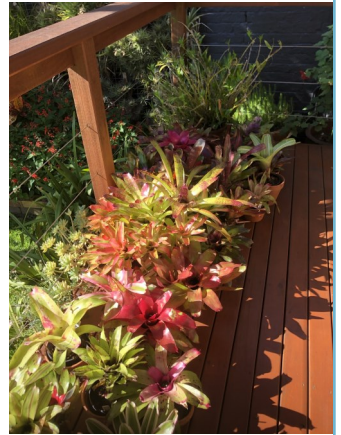




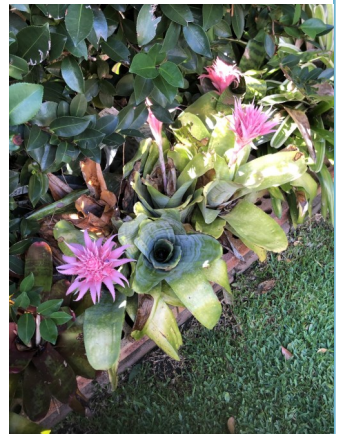


Their original house was demolished and rebuilt on 1963 and Bryan designed the new house in such a manner as to allow a significant space for a garden and central lawn area, a most unusual feature in the small blocks in Balmain.

Every section of their garden has thriving and beautifully grown broms. Colour, colour, colour is the constant theme.



Before his retirement Bryan worked as an accountant for various firms, then took on a 3 month assignment in the computer section of the Department of Education, except the 3 months turned into 18 years!





Apart from their gardens and bromeliads, Bryan's passions include sailing ships, bushwalking, bridge and rugby. He loves the water but from afar, in his own words he “doesn’t go on or in the water”. Laurie shares Bryan’s interest in gardening, bushwalking, but also has an interest in steam locomotives.

## OTHER AWARD WINNERS

It is worth mentioning our other bromeliad enthusiasts who have received this RHS medal.

**2014 Werner Raff**

**2015 Robyn Firth**

**2017 Graham McFarlane**

**2018 Ivan and Lydia Hope**

BSA members who have received other awards include **Waril Evans** who was awarded a medal by Concord Garden Club in 2016. **Robert and Judy Weatherdon** who won the North Sydney Garden competition in 2017 and 2018.

In QLD, **Rebekah Trevor** was awarded the GCA Young Gardener of the Year in 2020. She was nominated by Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society.

## JUNE MEETING - SPEAKER



Our speaker this June was Mark Massey, from Mother Earth Nursery in Kenthurst. Mark was around plants from an early age as both his mum and grandmother were keen gardeners. On finishing school Mark studied Biotechnology, then worked designing water and irrigation systems for farms and large



commercial greenhouses. His greenhouse designs included artificial lighting, temperature regulation and watering systems for crops like tomatoes, cucumbers and coriander. After approximately 15 years he returned to study horticulture and then worked in flower plant nurseries with varieties like dahlias and roses. Owning Mother Earth came by chance, after Mark got chatting to the owner one day, who told him she was closing her small nursery. Mark had done his year 10 work experience at Mother Earth so had a soft spot for this nursery.



Hence 6-7 weeks later he was the new owner of Mother Earth.

Mark aims at growing the unusual, rare or endangered plants that most large retail nurseries will not provide as they are slow to grow and difficult to propagate. Some plants varieties

Mark grows take 3-4 years to get to a

saleable plant, as opposed to the 8 months for most plants you will find in normal nurseries.

Recently he has taken over Bosch nursery in Cranbrook and this gives Mother Earth



more space for propagation and growing on those slow growing varieties.



Some unusual species you may find at Mother Earth include:

- ◆ Weeping Japanese Yew
- ◆ Wollomi Pine
- ◆ South African Yellow Wood
- ◆ An endangered fuchsia from NZ
- ◆ Climbing baubinia- (as opposed to the trees we see on streets)
- ◆ Dalechampia - a climber which flowers for a long time in sunny position ie up to 12 months; cussonia trees
- ◆ Australian bred roses - including one Mark has bred, called "little sweetheart"
- ◆ Less common camellias such as Japanese camellias and the rare camellia Bento (variegated leaves)
- ◆ Medlar trees - ancient trees that predate apples and pears;
- ◆ 17 different varieties of wisteria
- ◆ 1200 varieties of maples are currently held between Mark and a handful of friends
- ◆ 7 different species and hybrids of clivias - from young age Mark has grown clivias so he carries all varieties.

So does Mark have bromeliads?

When Mark finds one type of plant he has to have all the different varieties so he tries NOT to get into a new type of plant, but he fully appreciates and understands our passion.





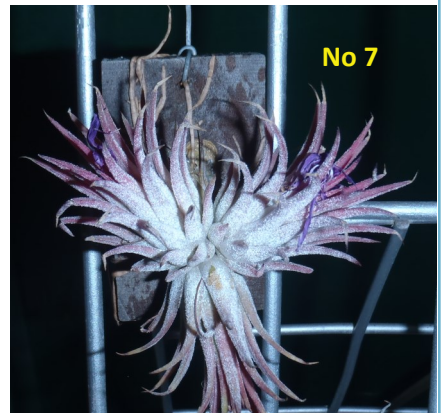
## *Plant of the Month Competition June*

### **Open Judge's Choice**

1st	Tillandsia 'Eric The Red' (photo no 1)	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	Neoregelia 'Wally' (photo no 2)	Carolyn Bunnell
3rd	Tillandsia 'Imbil' (photo no 3)	Harold Kuan

### **Member's Choice**

1st	Tillandsia 'Eric The Red' (photo no 1)	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	Tillandsia 'Imbil' (photo no 3)	Harold Kuan
3rd	Neoregelia 'Wally' (photo no 2)	Carolyn Bunnell



## Novice Judge's Choice

1st	Neoregelia 'Blushing Tiger' (photo front cover)	Janet Kuan
2nd	Tillandsia complanata (photo no 5)	Craig Cameron
3rd	Billbergia 'B A Bubblz' (photo no 6)	Anna Ernst

## Novice Member's Choice

1st	Tillandsia complanata (photo no 5)	Craig Cameron
= 2nd	Neoregelia 'Blushing Tiger' (photo front cover)	Janet Kuan
	Tillandsia ionantha 'Maui' (photo 7)	Craig Cameron
3rd	Billbergia 'B A Bubblz' (photo no 6)	Anna Ernst

## Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

1st	'The Voyage' (photo no 8)	Janet Kuan
2nd	'Christmas in July' (photo no 9)	Anna Ernst
3rd	'Memories of Mexico' (photo no 10)	Di Tulloch





## JUNE MEETING - Show and Tell

Mark Belot brought in more unusual bromeliads and explained some of their interesting backgrounds.



Above left: Neo. 'Bahiana Pink Tips'.  
Above middle: Neo. 'Tunisia x bahiana'



Above right: Neo. Skarkicelli x dactyloflamman a hybrid of Peter Tristam.

Left: Neo. abendrothae

## AUGUST MEETING

Unfortunately our August meeting will not eventuate and we were so looking forward to Jan Townsend's talk. Jan and husband Jon, run Bonville Broms, and have been at this location since 2009. Bonville is just south of Coffs Harbour and in this area the Great Dividing Range comes right up to the sea, thus creating an unusual

microclimate.



Photo: left and top right—Jans shadehouses filled with beautiful broms;  
bottom right - preparations underway with boxes of broms ready for our BSA talk;  
bottom middle - one of Jans's hybrids





## FOR YOUR DIARY

### **Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens to see the Puya in flower.**

We remain hopeful that our planned November bus trip to Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens (Bilpin area) to view the puya in flower will still take place. The cost will be \$25 for members and guests, which includes morning tea, BBQ lunch at Mt Tomah Gardens and entry to Wildwood Gardens (morning tea stop). Our coach can carry 53 people and to date we have over 35 interested people. We have booked a picnic area and 2 electric scooters for members with limited mobility. Obviously preferences will be given to members ie you can't bring 10 guests if we are nearing capacity.

Pick up will be in Mandala Ave, just near the Showground Metro station. It is highly likely you drive past it when you come to meetings, so have a look next time you are driving to the meeting. Parking will be easy on a Saturday at the Metro car park, where there are several parking levels with lifts to ground level. Alternatively you can park in the Showground area. We will be leaving at 8:15 am.

## OUR SPRING SHOW IS CANCELLED

### VALE – MICHAEL FERENCZI



We are sad to inform members on the unexpectedly passing away of Michael Ferenczi, at the end of June 2021, from a heart attack. Our heart felt condolences go to Elizabeth Mudriczki and Michael's children. Michael was a long term Bromeliad enthusiast initially from Sydney, who subsequently moved down to the South Coast so as to obtain more room to grow bromeliads. A good number of bromeliad plants were brought into Australia by

Michael, including *Tillandsia tequendamae* which he collected in Ecuador.

**Photo top left :** Michael sorting collected seed at Nirvana, Cali, Colombia. **Photo top right:** *Tillandsia tequendamae*. **Photo bottom right:** Michael in centre holding camera



## PREPARING FOR EXHIBITION

**Source: L.Victoria; BSA website; Terry Davis; How to Select, Prepare and Present Your Bromeliads for Competition and Exhibition - J. Henwood 2016, FNCBG.**

Although we are currently in lockdown and our Spring Show is cancelled, at some stage we will hold more shows, so it is still worthwhile understanding the guidelines for entering bromeliads for exhibition.

An exhibitor may enter a maximum of three (3) plants in each class and must be a financial member of the BSA.

There are a larger number of categories at shows than at normal meetings and include :

Pot of Aechmea	Pot of Neoregelia Species
Pot of Billbergia Specimen	Miniature Neoregelia
Pot of Billbergia Colony	Pot of Neoregelia Hybrid
Pot of Cryptanthus	Foliage / Variegated Bromeliad(s)

The full list and explanations can be found on our website in CLUB NEWS - 1.

Australia BSA - Competition rules (under meeting date table). Here are some more preparation tips:-

### Plan early

Select your plant well in advance of the competition date, possibly as much as six months in advance.

### Centre plant

The plant should be firmly set in the pot and centred. Do not repot the plant close to competition time. A plant which is not centred can be reset by removing, adjusting the root ball, centring back in the pot and adding potting mix to the correct level.

### Symmetry

Choose your plant for symmetry, checking each leaf for damage and seeing that the symmetry of the plant will not be altered with the removal of one or two damaged leaves. Preferably choose plants which can have the leaves trimmed or reshaped rather than need leaves removed. Leaves can be reshaped at the tips or down the sides matching the form of the other foliage.

The trimming is best done with a pair of clean sharp scissors no earlier than the day before the competition.

Trimming variegated or marginated bromeliads for competition can be very difficult and avoided if possible.

Before removing damaged leaves which may have splits or holes in them, place a piece of paper over the leaf/leaves to check on the symmetry of the whole plant. If you are satisfied that the symmetry will not be effected remove the damaged leaves by splitting them down the centre and pulling each section in opposite directions to detach at the base. Remove old mother plants and cover the old stump with potting mix. Remove dead flowers and inflorescences.

## Pots

### Cleanliness

Pots must be clean and maybe rejuvenated by wiping with a little cooking oil or spraying with personal insect repellent and wiping with a soft cloth. Old pots are best replaced and should be free of salts, algae, weeds, insects, frogs, spiders and webs.

### Type

Competition plants must only be in plain pots ie they must not add to or detract from the overall look of the specimen eg black, brown, green, plastic pots or plain terracotta pots. They cannot be in a decorative pot or container with artistic qualities such as coloured, textured, patterned pots or ones with gemstones or minerals, pieces of coral, ceramic pots or bowls and shells. Tillandsias maybe hung on a mono-filament or mounted on pieces of cork, small branches or small pieces of old timber are regarded as standard entries rather than decorative.

### Correct identification

The label should show the plants genus plus the specific epithet name - e.g. *Aechmea fasciata*. *Aechmea* = genus, *fasciata* = specific epithet, together they equal the species name. If your plant is an unregistered hybrid write 'unreg.' after the name. Do not enter a plant without its identifying label. NB there should be NO indication as to the owner of the exhibit.

### Transporting your plants.

Always empty the water out of your plants before transporting and showing.

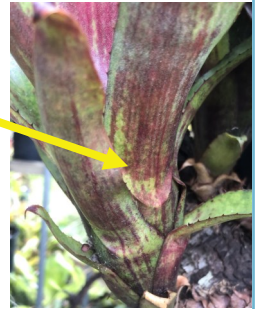
Upturned polystyrene boxes with suitable pot sized holes cut to sit the plants in during transit protect your plants. Or use boxes the right way up, with scrunched up newspaper packed around your pots. Do not sit bromeliads with spines on their leaf margins close to those that have not.



## AECHMEA NUDICALIS

Source: BSA website; Bromelcairns 2010: 4. Photos: BSA website.

*Aechmea nudicaulis* is an easy bromeliad to grow and will flourish and flower in full sun. These broms are easy to recognise by the 'thumb print' at the base of the plant, (Photo top right) which looks like someone pushed their thumb into the tissue. The thinking is, this feature strengthens the leaves from high winds which are prevalent in its natural habitat.



The binomial lists 10 varieties, plus there are many cultivars.

The scape bracts are a very bright red, the distinguishing features of some varieties are:-

\* var. *nudicaulis* - is tall and green, goes yellow with purple spots and blotches in an all day sun position. (Photo middle right: K. Woods)



\* var. *aequalis* - heavily banded. (Photo bottom right: K. Woods)

\* var. *aureorosea albomarginata* - green leafed, with white leaf margins.

\* var. *aureorosea* - has red markings, the sepals are spotted with red, petals are plain red. The name **aureorosea** = golden yellow and rose, refers to the inflorescence.



\* var. *cuspidata* - as above but with yellow sepals and petals. Also comes in variegated form.

\* 'Flavomarginata' - with yellow leaf margins. (photo top left Kerry Tate)

\* cv. 'Silver Streak' - has silvery lepidote leaves with dark cross bands.

\* cv. 'La Tigre' - from Costa Rica, reddish orange with silver banding, redder than 'Silver Streak'

\* cv. 'Mary Hyde' - albo-margined, cream/pink cast in good light, dark spines. \* cv. 'Lightning' - opposite variegation to 'Mary Hyde'.



Photo above; Cultivar 'Tabuleirensis' (Rehak)





Cv. 'Plurifolia' D. Cathcart

\* cv. 'White Lightning' - of variegated 'Mary Hyde', is almost purely yellow leafed.

\* cv. 'Big John' - of aequalis, 75 - 90 cm tall, broad green leaves, orange bracts. \* cv. 'Dee Butt' - variegated with two shades of green.

\* cv. 'Xavante' formerly the red form or 'rubra' - appears someone brush-painted the leaves with red, more

heavily on the outside. The common form has vertical markings, but here is also a horizontally striped plant. (photo pg 14 top right)

## Full-Sun Bromeliads

Source: Ray Henderson; FNCBSG 2012: Vol 4, True Full-Sun Bromeliads M.Prince. Photos: BSI, BSA

Here are some suggestions for sun tolerant bromeliads:

### Large:

- Aechmeas – *blanchetiana*, *eurycorymbus*, *mexicana* (incl albomarginated form), *bracteata*, *mulfordii*, *nudicaulis species*, *rubens*, *chantinii* (black form), 'Little Harv' and 'Samurai'. (Photo right)
- Just about all Alcantareas particularly *vinicolor* and *imperialis*.
- *Androlepis skinneri*.
- *Hohenbergia castellanosii*, 'Karla.
- *Portea petropolitana* var. *noettigii* and var. *extensa*.



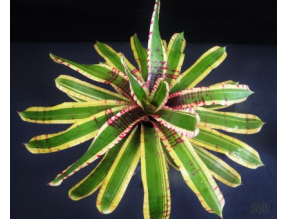
### Medium:

- *Aechmeas pectinata*, *ornata* .
- *Ananus bracteatus* and *comosus*.
- *Neoregelia cruenta*, *johannis*, *monstrosus*, *compacta*, *macwilliamsii*, *marmorata*, 'Sheba' and 'Martin'.
- *Quesnelia testudo*, *arvensis*, *marmorata* and 'Tim Plowman'.
- *Wittrockia superba*.
- Most hard leafed billbergias.
- *Vriesea* 'Rafael'. (Photo bottom right)
- *Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle'.



### Small:

- *Aechmea recurvata* var. *ortgiesii* (Photo bottom left), *recurvata benrathii* and 'Rock Lobster'.
- *Neoregelia olens*, 'Stormy Weather', 'Stormy Forest', 'Wild Rabbit' and 'Fireball'.
- *Orthophytum gurkenii*, (Photo bottom right), *magalhaesii*, *maracasense* and *rubrum*, *navioides* and *burle-marxii*.
- Most dyckias, hechtias and pitcairnia.
- *Hohenbergia stellate*. (Photo above right)
- *Neoregelia sarmentosa*, *tigrina*, *bahiana* x *Neotanthus* and 'Cardboard'.
- *Portea leptantha*.
- *Tillandsia fasciculata*, *capitata*, *chiapensis*, *streptophylla*, *xerographica*, *concolor tricholepis*, *bulbosa*, *caput-medusae*, *ionantha*, (all forms), *stricta*, *vernica*, *disticha*, *didisticha* and *usneoides*.



If your bromeliads have been growing in the shade, move them to direct sun in Autumn or Winter allowing them to get established in their new position. If you can provide them with a little shade, even from a nearby palm or your patio screen, they'll do better. If they're going to be in full sun from sunrise



to sunset, get them established in the winter, otherwise, be prepared for at least a little bleaching. The humidity in your particular environment will also affect how bromeliads fare in full sun. Higher humidity helps to minimize scorching from the sun, but is low humidity there is a higher chance of scorching.

We would like to welcome our recent bromeliad enthusiasts

**Judy Stewart**

who joined up at our June meeting.





## MAMORATA NEOS

Source: Facebook comment by Lisa Vincent—KIWI Bromeliad Group

.... a lot of different marmorated Neos will do that colour break thing in response to a seasonal change in temperature. In places with year-round even temperatures, you won't see that. It's too bad, as it makes it more attractive, but for that reason, it's best to ignore the green patches when looking for an ID. Unless you know it is a variety that forms colour bands year-round (like Lambert's Pride or Razzberry Ripple), it is just a seasonal anomaly, and not part of its genetic makeup. Kind of like trying to ID a person based on their current hairstyle.



Photos above and right: *Neo*.

'Lambert's Pride' (BSA website)

The epithet '*crocata*' is Latin for saffron-coloured ie shades of yellow and orange.

## CROCATA

Source: Dr Dale Dixon (Facebook)

*Tillandsia crocata* (subg. *Phytarrhiza*) occurs from

Bolivia to Brazil with disjunct populations also found in Uruguay. It is a saxicolous species between 875-2650 m. elevation.

This is a larger form grown by Dale with bright yellow flowers and the individual stems have polystichous leaves. The flowers produce a heavenly scent. This species flowered in his TillHouse on and off from November 2020 to February 2021.



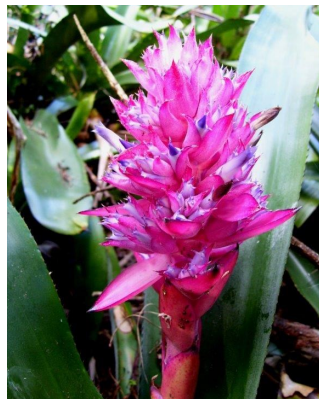
## CHECK YOUR LABELS!

Source: Ross Little

You may remember Allan Beard's *Aechmea macrochlamys* in Bromeleter Vol 59, No.5 – May 2021 featured on the Show and Tell (page 11). This is an error, as in 2012 this was corrected to *Aechmea* 'Macfoster'. Below is an explanation on *Aechmea* 'Macfoster' by Ross Little.

The take home message  
check your *Aechmea macrochlamys* it may be  
*Aechmea* 'Macfoster'.

*Aechmea macrochlamys* and *Portea fosteriana* broms grown in Australia are quite often sold as *Ae. macrochlamys*. A plant imported into Australia from California in 1982 as *Ae.* 'Purple Globe' which closely resembles 'Macfoster' was dealt with by Derek Butcher, Harry Luther and Elton Leme was considered to be an abnormal form of *Ae. macrochlamys*. The plant we are now referring to as 'Macfoster' came to Pinegrove in 1984 via Forest Drive Nursery as *Streptocalyx poeppigii*, this plant had it's name changed to *Ae. macrochlamys* by person unknown. In circa. 1990 Peter Franklin received a plant from Pinegrove as *Str. poeppigii*. Peter could see something was amiss with the description in Smith & Downs Monograph and his plant, however he was never comfortable at all with it being *Ae. macrochlamys* but thought it worth a look at *Ae. beeriana*, (was *Str. poeppigii*) no not a match there either. In 1993 Elton Leme published his book "**Bromeliads in the Brazilian Wilderness**", even though Peter retained the name of *Str. poeppigii* for ages, he saw a photo of *Port.*



*Ae. macrochlamys* - R.Little

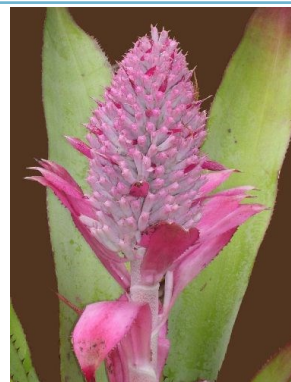


*Ae.* 'Macfoster'

*fosteriana* on page 48 of Leme's book and felt this was his plant, then changed his label accordingly. Did others do the same ?

Over the years many discussions have been had regarding the taxonomic discrepancies in S&D of *Ae. macrochlamys* and *Port. fosteriana* as our 'Macfoster' just doesn't fit comfortably within either description. To my mind there appears to be an overlap in the two descriptions to the plant we now refer to as *Ae.* 'Macfoster'.

*Ae. macrochlamys* and *Port. fosteriana*, both collected in July 1939 by Mulford and Racine Foster in approximately the same area only 12 days apart. Fosters herbarium of *Port. fosteriana* is also tagged *Port. silveirae* Mez and does appear close to *Port. silveirae*, photos of this plant on FCBS separate it from 'Macfoster'. When one asks what separates *Aechmea* from *Portea* the general answer is that "Portea has pedicels a minimum of 5-6 mm long". The plant we had tagged as *Ae. macrochlamys* now 'Macfoster' pedicels are 80 - 90% NIL with few to 5 mm (mostly sessile), this indicates a closer affinity to *Aechmea* than *Portea*.



*Ae. 'Macfoster'*

A few differences we noted with 'Macfoster' to *Port. fosteriana* in S&D are:

- ◆ 'Macfoster's scape is 17 mm not 10 mm thick.
- ◆ Inflorescence not tripinnate.
- ◆ Upper primary bracts half the length of the branch -- not: barely exceeds the base of the branch.
- ◆ Floral bracts minute, almost absent -- not: shorter than the pedicel (5 - 6 mm)
- ◆ Branches spreading, flowers mostly sessile - not 5 - 6 mm pedicel.

In Darwin 2011, I discussed an anomaly we noted within the floral structure of 'Macfoster' with Harry Luther, I noticed an absence of nectar scales at the base of the petals, the nectar scales in flowers Don was checking were quite visible, we checked more flowers to find this wasn't just an irregularity to the one flower. Harry had observed this irregularity also, but could offer no definitive answer. There are too many discrepancies, too many people agree that this particular plant doesn't fit the descriptions, therefore we feel it is best resolved by giving it this cultivar name by joining the two together as *Ae. 'Macfoster'*.

### **Financial Report - June 2021 - Maureen Johns**

<b>Opening Balance 01/06/2021</b>	<b>\$17,828.17</b>
<b>Add Income</b>	<b>\$1,378.60</b>
<b>Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,987.81</b>
<b>Closing Balance 30/07/2021</b>	<b>\$16,218.96</b>

Our expenses are greater this month, as they include Pot Purchases, Hall Rental and Banner Site Hire.

## THIS MONTH'S HINTS

### FORCING FLOWERING IN BROMELIADS

We all know that re-blooming a bromeliad adult isn't possible, but here are a few tips to get young offsets to bloom sooner.

- ◆ Add some dissolved Epsom salts to the cup once per month to encourage the production of chlorophyll and flowers.
- ◆ Forcing a bromeliad to bloom also requires an appropriate environment. Empty the water out of the tank/depression in the plant and encase the whole plant in a large plastic bag with no holes accompanied by a slice of apple, kiwi or banana. Tie the bag shut at the top and make sure there are no openings. These fruits give off ethylene gas, which will help force the plant into bloom.
- ◆ Keep the plant in the bag for 10 days and then remove the covering. Make sure the pot is kept in a shaded area as too much direct sunlight could damage the plant. The plant should bloom in 6 to 14 weeks with a little luck.

### ETHYLENE GAS

It is the ethylene gas that is produced when the apple ripens that stimulates the bromeliads to bloom. There are also chemical versions of ethylene available. They can come in gas, liquid or a crystal form. Unless you are a commercial grower you will most likely want to use the liquid form. Commercial growers often use the gas, but it is much more difficult to work with. Any product with the active ingredient of Ethefon will work and there are several products on the market. Spray the top surface of the plants with the mixture so they are just covered, but not dripping. Alternatively, you can add about an ounce of the mixture to the central tank.

### RATS

**Source: FNCBSG Dec 2011**

If your mini Neoregelias are being stripped/shredded or eaten overnight, it may be rats looking for water. Rats that have eaten rat poison often search for lots of water to drink, so put out large containers of water for them. Naphthalene flakes could also help.

### BLACK APHIDS

White oil, but you can make your own. 1tsp of washing up liquid, 1tsp of cooking oil, in a litre of water, shake and spray. At least every 2 weeks, it just smothers them.

## THIS MONTH'S HINTS

### WHITE RESIDUE ON POTS



Source: GetBusyGardening.com. Photo: GetBusyGardening.com

Why do we see white deposits on terracotta and black pots, saucers, sometimes even leaves and leaf axils?

Tap water is chlorinated for hygiene and dental health, additionally both tap and bore water contain other minerals such as magnesium, calcium and

sodium. The white residue we find on pots, leaves and leaf axils are mostly calcium, with some of the other minerals, deposited as the water evaporates.

Generally tap water is slightly alkaline to prevent corrosion in pipes and is fine for most plants. Rainwater isn't chlorinated and absorbs carbon dioxide and when combined with the other minerals makes it more acidic. The acidity helps to release micro-nutrients and trace elements (such as manganese, iron, potassium, copper, zinc) more efficiently than tap water.

More delicate broms will always do better when watered with rain water.

**To remove** white build up, soak first then scrub in a solution of white vinegar and water 1:3 or 1:4 ratio.

### TIPS FOR GROWING PUP ROOTS

We have all experienced the annoyance of taking off a pup only to find it broke off without roots or we took it off too early. John Catlan (a very knowledgeable bromeliad grower - now deceased) used to have a **"SH\*\*T"** box because that was the expletive he would utter when this happened to him. This comprised of two polystyrene boxes. Placed open end up sitting on top of each other, the bottom one is filled with water, the top punctured with holes for the pups to firmly sit in. Having the water underneath stimulates roots growth towards the water.

The second method is to sit your pup in the tank of another bromeliad (**Top photo**) and after 3-6 months roots form (**Bottom photo**).





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

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

<i>Neoregelia kautskii</i>	5.10.19	Terry Davis
<i>Al. imperialis rubra</i>	15.10.19	Terry Davis
<i>Pseudalcantarea viridiflora</i> (red under leaf)	23.10.19	Terry Davis
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>	28.5.20	Steve Molnar
<i>Tillandsia setacea</i>	22.5.20	Steve Molnar
<i>Tillandsia ionantha</i> (Mexico)	7.5.21	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia loliacea</i>	18.5.21	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia streptocarpa</i>	18.5.21	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia tricholepis</i>	7.6.21	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> (yel/green multispikes)	7.6.21	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia utriculata</i> (Florida)	25.6.21	Greg Aizlewood

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**

#### **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.)

## 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.***