

BROMELETTER



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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Photo by Nina Woodcock

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ISSN 2208-0465 (Online)
January February March
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UPCOMING EVENTS

@Federation Pavilion, Showground Rd, Castle Hill NSW 2154, Australia

The next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, **12th April where Mayor Michelle Byrne will be talking and taking questions about the future of Castle Hill Showground, with sales to the public from 10am and the meeting commencing at 12 noon. We also have our very popular plant raffle.** For further details please contact Ian Hook, President BSA on mobile 0408 202 269, email ianhook1@bigpond.com or refer to www.bromeliad.org.au for the latest updates.

4-5th May The BSA Autumn Show

10th May Robyn Bible from the Australian Geranium Society will talk about a variety of geraniums .

14th June Edwina Wain will talk about bromeliads and plant markets.

12th July Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nurseries will speak about Rare Australian Plants and saving plants from extinction.

9th August Janet Kuan will discuss artistic bromeliad displays.

The 22nd Aussie Broms Conference 2025 Exploring Diversity & Beauty will be held at the Eaton's Hotel Brisbane from Tuesday the 4th of November to Friday the 7th November 2025.



NEW MEMBERS:

Monique Nelson
Julie Olston

2025 membership fees are now overdue

AGM OVERVIEW

At this year's Annual General Meeting, all positions were rendered vacant and then they were re-elected with minor changes. Pamela Munro will take over as Secretary from Amal Eid, Amal will remain on the committee as a member. Bob Bartley will also join the committee as a member. All other positions remained the same.



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

Autumn Show

Saturday 3rd May 9am - 4pm
Sunday 4th May 10am - 3pm

Free
admission

Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground off Showground Road, Castle Hill, NSW

20+ sales tables continually restocked • Bromeliad Competitions on Display
Lucky Barrel Draw • Literature, information and advice • Plenty of Parking - EFTPOS

Bring a box for purchases



For further information please contact Ian Hook, President
Mobile 0408 202 269

www.bromeliad.org.au

 Bromeliad Society of Australia

EXPLORING DIVERSITY & BEAUTY
2025
AUSSIE  BROMS

4TH - 7TH November 2025

Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD

Plant Sales -
New Releases!
Taxonomy Botany
Cultivation
Rare plant auction
Garden tours

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL
EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS
ALL THINGS BROMELIADS

Full details at www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp

Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>

 AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au



THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND



FEBRUARY MEETING TOPIC FAMOUS GARDENS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

David Chandler, volunteer Sydney Royal Botanical Gardens gave a wonderful talk about some English and Welsh gardens that David and his wife have visited. The particular garden tour that David shared with the BSA was organised through Botanica World Discoveries. It provided an opportunity for him and his wife to visit some of the most beautiful and famous gardens in England and Wales.

It also gave him a wonderful chance to return to his roots and share the beauty of British gardens with his Australian born wife Jenny.

David originally came from England as a young teacher in 1967 and became fascinated with Australian native plants and created a prize-winning native garden. This led to him becoming a volunteer guide for the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

For the past 20 years he has taken many overseas visitors on walks through our beautiful botanical gardens.

THE GARDENS THAT DAVID AND JENNY VISITED AND MENTIONED IN HIS RECENT TALK.

Waddesdon Manor, Hatfield House Gardens
and Walking Tour of Oxford

Hidcote Manor Garden and Betws-y-coed (Wales)

Plas Brondanw,
Portmeirion and Bodnant Garden

Powis Castle and The Laskett (England)

Great Dixter and Sissinghurst Gardens



MARCH MEETING TOPIC BOB SHARPLEY'S WATERING SYSTEM

If you missed Bob Sharpley's presentation on the system he installed for watering his huge bromeliad collection. The good news he, very kindly agreed to go through the process again at the March meeting.

Bob spent many hours researching watering systems and decided to go with an ORBIT brand WiFi watering system called B-Hyve.

The WiFi watering system could be turned on or off as needed, even while he is away on holidays by using his mobile phone.

He will bring to the meeting samples of piping, misting nozzles, tap connector, and the B-Hyve tap timer and assist with the costings for the installation.



Both systems can be run from the same tap with two tap timers (one at a time). For more info see <https://www.orbitonline.com/collections/b-hyve>.

Bob was tired and frustrated at so many plants being damaged by heat and low humidity. So he researched watering systems available at Bunnings.

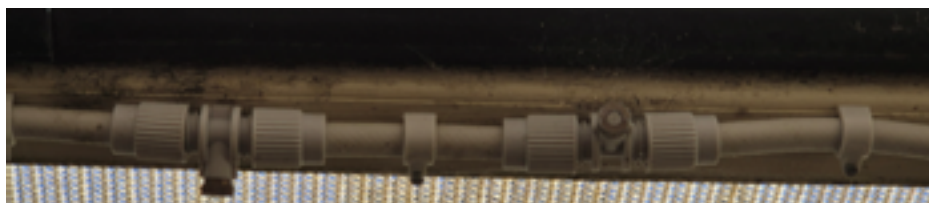
Bob purchased a Holman Bluetooth system and ran it but found it not appropriate because he had to be within approximately 10 metres of the hub.

THEN . . . He discovered Wi-fi systems and found that was the perfect solution he went back to Bunnings to see what they had using WiFi. A stranger recommended that he try an ORBIT brand WiFi watering system called B-Hyve so he purchased it, took it home and set it up. Bob found the setup easy to do.

So he started building his watering and misting system. If an extension is needed, you can purchase one or more tap timers to add systems.



For the misting system Bob chose the Nylex brand piping and Misting parts because of their ease of installation and their UV protection. He started installing the piping overhead using Nylex mounting clips. Connect piping to the tap connector, then connect to the tap. Then he started fitting the Misting nozzles approximately 1 metre apart or where needed.



After installing the watering system as outlined above download the app from the app store and set it up. You can control the device from your phone remotely using the b-hyve wifi hub. You can shedule multiple devices to water from the app. It is also now possible to enable smart watering which uses Weather sensing technology drawing data from live weather feeds and historial data.

PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

JANUARY 2025

Open	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> ‘Mandarine Miss’	Bill Homer
Second	<i>Billbergia</i> ‘Tubular Bells’	Harold Kuan
Third	<i>Vriesea lubbersii</i>	Harold Kuan
Open	Members Choice	
First	<i>Billbergia</i> ‘Dangerous Dan’	Kerry McNicol
=Second	<i>Vriesea</i> ‘White Cloud’	Harold Kuan
=Second	<i>Hylaeaicum pendulum</i> var. <i>brevifolium</i>	Kerry McNicol
=Third	<i>Billbergia</i> ‘Tubular Bells’	Harold Kuan
=Third	<i>Billbergia</i> ‘Kawana’s Black Beauty’ x OP	Nina Woodcock
Novice	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> ‘Shell Dance’	Phil Ross
Novice	Members Choice	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> ‘Shell Dance’	Phil Ross
Tillandsia	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Tillandsia concolor</i> x <i>streptophylla</i>	Harold Kuan
Second	<i>Tillandsia</i> ‘Cooloola’	Harold Kuan
Third	<i>Tillandsia</i> ‘Silver Queen’	Julie Evans
Tillandsia	Members Choice	
First	<i>Tillandsia streptophylla</i>	Ian Hook
=Second	<i>Tillandsia concolor</i> x <i>streptophylla</i>	Harold Kuan
=Second	<i>Tillandsia</i> ‘Silver Queen’	Julie Evans
Third	<i>Tillandsia butzii</i> var <i>rosiflora</i>	Kerry McNicol
Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition		
First	‘Brom Riverboat’	Janet Kuan

Neoregelia 'Mandarine Miss'



Billbergia 'Dangerous Dan'



Billbergia 'Tubular Bells'



Hylaeaicum pendulum var. *brevifolium*'



Vriesea 'White Cloud'



Neoregelia 'Shell Dance'



Tillandsia concolor x *streptophylla*



Tillandsia 'Cooloola'



Billbergia 'Kawana's Black Beauty' x OP



Tillandsia *butzii* var. *rosiflora*

Tillandsia *streptophylla*



Tillandsia 'Silver Queen'



'Brom Riverboat'

PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

FEBRUARY 2025

Open	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bottoms Up'	Philip La
Second	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Migaloo'	Harold Kuan
Third	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Sangre'	Nina Woodcock

Open	Members Choice	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bottoms Up'	Philip La
Second	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Sangre'	Nina Woodcock
Third	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Migaloo'	Harold Kuan

Novice	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Hylaeacium</i> 'Pink Spider'	Anna Ernst
Second	<i>Vriesea saundersii</i>	Anna Ernst
Third	<i>Tillandsia leiboldiana</i>	Phil Ross

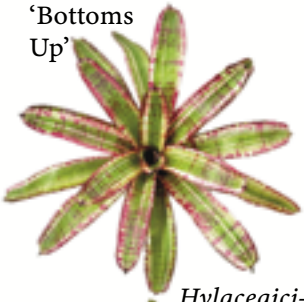
Novice	Members Choice	
First	<i>Nidularium fulgens</i>	Anna Ernst
First	<i>Vriesea saundersii</i>	Anna Ernst
Third	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Muriel Waterman'	Bob Bartley

Tillandsia	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Minas Mini'	Harold Kuan
Second	<i>Tillandsia capitata x bourgaei</i>	Harold Kuan
Third	<i>Tillandsia stricta</i>	Harold Kuan

Tillandsia	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Tillandsia fasciculate</i>	Helga Nitschke
Second	<i>Tillandsia stricta</i>	Harold Kuan
=Third	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Minas Mini'	Harold Kuan
=Third	<i>Tillandsia capitata x bourgaei</i>	Harold Kuan

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition		
First	'Rosy Spectrum'	Anna Ernst
Second	'Brom Cascade'	Janet Kuan
Third	'Happy Garden'	Christine Schrembri

Neoregelia
'Bottoms
Up'



Dyckia 'Clifton Migaloo'



Billbergia 'Sangre'



Hylaeai-
um 'Pink
Spider'



Vriesea
saundersii



Tillandsia
leiboldiana



Nidularium
fulgens



Tillandsia
'Minas Mini'



Tillandsia
stricta



Tillandsia capitata
x bourgaei

Billbergia 'Muriel
Waterman'



'Rosy Spectrum'



'Brom Cascade'



'Happy Garden'

PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

MARCH 2025

Open	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i> 'Ensign'	Kerry McNicol
Second	<i>Quesnelia marmorata</i> 'Tim Plowman'	Philip La
Third	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Gizmo'	Helga Nitschke

Open	Members Choice	
First	<i>Wallfussia</i> 'Creation'	Kerry McNicol
Second	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i> 'Ensign'	Kerry McNicol
Third	<i>Quesnelia marmorata</i> 'Tim Plowman'	Philip La

Novice	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'It'	Warril Evans
Second	<i>Wallisia cyanea</i>	Bob Bartley
Third	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Shelldance'	Anna Ernst

Novice	Members Choice	
First	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'It'	Warril Evans
=Second	<i>Wallisia cyanea</i>	Bob Bartley
=Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Shelldance'	Anna Ernst

Tillandsia	Judges Choice	
First	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Samantha'	Kerry McNicol

Tillandsia	Members Choice	
First	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Samantha'	Kerry McNicol

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition		
First	'Bromlongboat'	Anna Ernst
Second	'Kokedama'	Linda Molloy

Aechmea orlandiana
'Ensign'



Quesnelia marmorata
'Tim Plowman'



Neoregelia
'Gizmo'



Cryptanthus 'It'



Wallfussia 'Creation'



Tillandsia
'Samantha'



Wallisia cyanea



Neoregelia 'Shelldance'



'Bromlongboat'



'Kokedama'

GARDEN VISIT

BILL HOMER'S BROMELIAD GARDEN

Last weekend I had the pleasure of visiting Bill Homers bromeliad garden in Macquarie fields near Sydney. He has an extensive collection of neoregelia, aechmea, alcantarea, billbergia, vrieseas and lots of other interesting bromeliads and cycads. In recent years he has been developing a method for attaching bromeliads to palm trees and the variety he has attached to the trees creates a tall, striking and colourful display.

Bill uses two strips of old shade cloth and nails to hold the plants in place. After many experiments he found success using a wide piece of shade cloth to hold the base of the plant and a thin piece to help balance the middle of the plant in place. Some example's are pictured below.





Bill wraps the base of the plant in palm fibre before attaching the plant to a palm tree. First he adds some moist peat moss and fertiliser around the roots before wrapping the plant and attaching the fibre with wire as demonstrated below.



Bill originally became interested in growing bromeliads many years ago when he was a member of the Tropical Garden Society. He has developed many techniques for growing Bromeliads in every available space around his home and has recently started growing bromeliads at his local church grounds and helping look after their collection of plants.



Bill grew the Alcantarea here from seed. It was the only survivor out of many seedling. To the left is a stand Bill made to fill in the pathway here with plants to make the most of the space.

He uses white shade cloth year round but adds an extra layer in mid summer to protect the plants from the burning sun.

Most of his collection sits in styrofoam boxes so that he can move them around easily and the plants also drain effectively when he waters.





Bill Homer's Garden

MEET OUR MOST RECENT LIFE MEMBERS

Warril Evans Pat Sharpley and Bob Sharpley

Warril has been a member of the bromeliad Society of Australia since March 2007. Her love of bromeliads has infiltrated her family, with both of her children, Julie and Alan also being avid bromeliad growers and collectors.

Warril is one of the more silent types, doesn't make a fuss, just quietly goes about showing her plants when she feels she has something to offer the group. Warril has attended most of the meetings at Castle Hill, along with the spring and Autumn shows, where she has been found quietly behind the scenes collating results, sales records and sellers envelopes. Her support may sometimes go un-seen, but it has been a cog in the workings that keep our Society running. Thank you Warril.

Pat and Bob have been members since May 2012, coming to first Burwood RSL and now Castle Hill, where meetings are held. Bob and Pat first became interested in Bromeliads when their son bought a house with a makeshift shade house out the back. As inevitably happens a storm came through and blew it over. Their son, being busy left the plants to their own devices. Pat noticed that they were burning badly, so made the 'grave mistake' of rescuing them. They were *Neoregelia compacta*, which still hold a special place in their garden, today. Thus hooked, when Pat happened upon a flier about a 'Bromeliad Sale' out near Windsor, she visited and came home with a load of plants in the boot. They found information about the Bromeliad society meetings at Burwood each month, so they went along, enjoyed it and became members. It wasn't long before their talents were recognized, and Bob was asked if he would take on the position of Secretary and, of course, he passed it on to Pat, who was Secretary for the next four years. When we moved to Castle Hill, there was a bit more work in setting up, so Bob pitched in and helped out (as he still does, today). Pat, of course helped out quietly about the meetings, but truly found her niche with Alan Matthews as assistant in all matters to do with sales. Pat is invaluable in her work at the cash register, collating sales and paying members, always in a very quiet competent style. Thank you Pat and Bob

SEED BANK

If you have seed to donate please contact Terry.
Below is the list of seeds in our Seed Bank.

<i>Puya mirabilis</i>	<i>no date</i>	<i>Bob Maclay</i>
<i>Alcantarea patriae</i>	<i>07/06/2024</i>	<i>Greg Aizlewood</i>
<i>Alcantarea vinicolor</i>	<i>03/06/24</i>	<i>Kerry McNicol</i>
<i>Tillandsia gardneri</i>	<i>12/07/24</i>	<i>Terry Davis</i>
<i>Alcantarea heloisea</i>	<i>28/08/24</i>	<i>Greg Aizlewood</i>



50¢ per packet (plus postage)
Members or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all others Contact
Terry Davis (02) 9636 6114
or 0439 343 809

MONTHLY TRADING ACCOUNT REPORT 2024

	Dec 1st-31th	Jan 1st-31st	Feb 1st-28th
Opening Balance	\$22,743.54	\$22,595.67	\$23,455.84
Receipts	\$915.18	\$1,612.12	\$830.11
Less Expenses	-\$1,063.05	-\$751.95	-\$3,603.03
Closing Balance	\$22,595.67	\$23,455.84	\$20,682.92

Report by Maureen Johns

2025 membership fees are now overdue

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

ABN 63 152 285 864

Membership

	Single/family – newsletter by post. (in Australia)	\$35		
	Single/family – newsletter by email. (Worldwide)	\$25		
	Add Airmail Postage Asia/Pacific zone incl NZ.	\$58		
	Add Airmail Postage - UK, Europe, S. Africa.	\$87		
	USA (and rest of the world).	\$81		
	NB - Membership fees are due every calendar year on the 1st January.	Total due		

Direct deposit to Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc BSB 062180 Acct No 1001 0802.
Include your initial and surname in deposit reference:

COLLECTORS' CORNER

BROMELIADS – a large colourful range of Bromeliads, both species and hybrids of many genera. Includes a very large range of Tillandsias. A range of tillandsias is offered in the Collectors Corner eBay store: <https://www.ebay.com.au/str/collectorscornervictoria>

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



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

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But, please, phone first.

Phone/Fax: (07) 5482 3308.

E-mail: 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

ESSENTIAL BROMELIAD WEB LINKS AND PAGES

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR): <http://registry.bsi.org/>
for correct identification and spelling of your hybrid or cultivar.

New Bromeliad Taxon List:

<http://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist> Refer to this site for latest species name changes and correct spelling.

Bromeliads in Australia:

<http://bromeliad.org.au/> Refer to this site for the society Newsletters, events and current seed list

The Bromeliad Society of Australia Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2037990933090559/>

Keep these web sites set as desktop icons for quick reference access.

LITERATURE FOR SALE

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

Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden by Andrew Steens \$20.00

Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007) by BSI \$ 6.00

Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias by Margaret Paterson \$25.00

Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree by John Catlan \$10.00

Bromeliad Cultivation Notes by Lyn Hudson \$10.00

Growing Bromeliads 3rd Ed by BSA \$20.00 (\$12 member price)

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Ryde NSW 2112
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