

# BROMELETTER

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Published by the Bromeliad  
Society of Australia Society  
[bromeliad.org.au](http://bromeliad.org.au)



ISSN 2208-0465 (Online) July August September 2025 Vol 63: No 3



Please send articles for Bromeletter to  
[editor@bromeliad.org.au](mailto:editor@bromeliad.org.au)  
and all other correspondence to:

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

Photo by Nina Woodcock *Vicanterea* 'Mariachelle' Grown by David Scott

# BROMELETTER

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
bromeliad.org.au

ISSN 2208-0465 (Online)  
July Aug Sept  
2025 Vol 63:No 3



## COMMITTEE

President	Ian Hook	0408 202 269
	president@bromeliad.org.au	
Vice-President (1)	Kerry McNicol	0439 998 049
	membsec@bromeliad.org.au	
Vice-President (2)	Vacant	
Secretary	Pamela Munro	0418 945 194
Treasurer	Maureen Johns	0414 338 982
Editor	Nina Woodcock	0488 0893 74
Member	Helga Nitschke	0447 955 562
Member	Karen Czarnecki	0423 688 071
Member	Bob Bartley	0408 280 345
Member	Amal Eid	amalianne@yahoo.com.au
Member	Pat Sharpley	0439 672 826
Member	Bob Sharpley	0439 672 826

## OFFICE BEARERS

Book Sales & Librarian	Ian Hook
Member Secretary & Purchasing Officer	Kerry McNicol
Catering	Joy Clark Helga Nitschke
Raffle Sales	Kath Fitzgerald Peter Fitzgerald
Plant Sales	Pat Sharpley Maureen Johns & Volunteers
Plant of the Month/ Show Register	Ian Hook Terry Davis
Show coordinators	Terry Davis
Publicity Officer	Di Tulloch
Public Officer	Kerry McNicol

## LIFE MEMBERS

Carolyn Bunnell
Terence Davis
Ron Farrugia
Ian Hook
Kerry McNicol
Bill Morris
Joy Clark
Helga Nitschke
Warril Evans
Pat Sharpley
Bob Sharpley
David Scott

## CONTENTS

JULY Meeting Topic Mark Massey	4
August Meeting Topic Tony Matson from Cut Above Tools	6
September Meeting Topic Mark Belot talks about Alcantarea	8
Plant of the month competition July 2025	10
Plant of the Month competition August 2025	12
Plant of the Month competition September 2025	14
Spring Show 2025	16
Spring Show 2025	18
Spring Show 2025	19
Farewell to David Scott	20
Seed Bank	22

## 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.

For further details please contact Ian Hook, President BSA on mobile 0408 202 269, email [ianhook1@bigpond.com](mailto:ianhook1@bigpond.com) or refer to [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au) for the latest updates.

The next meeting of the BSA will be held on December 13th 2025. Sales will begin at 10.00 a.m. as usual, but our General members meeting has been moved forward to 11.00 a.m. There will be NO RAFFLE at this meeting. After a short general meeting we will begin Christmas celebrations. The society will be providing 'finger food', soft drink, juice and of course tea & coffee. Anyone who wishes to bring along a 'favourite' delicacy, would be most welcome to do so. ALL FINANCIAL MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME.

## BSA MEETING DATES FOR 2026

10th January  
14th February  
21st March - 3rd Saturday  
11th April  
2nd-3rd May BSA Autumn Show  
9th May  
13th June

Dates for the rest of the year will be confirmed at the end of the financial year.



## NEW MEMBERS:

Martin Sitterlee

## JULY MEETING TOPIC MARK MASSEY

Our guest speaker for July was Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nurseries his presentation focused on Australian natives and his addiction to preserve as many native plants that may be at of risk extinction.

His passion for plants has seen his collection outgrow his home. Together with his obsession with collecting and propagating even more plants led to his first nursery.

Mark discussed a whole range of Australian natives from the rare plants to the most popular type we are familiar with and possibly grow in our own gardens.

Eucalyptus, Waratah, Banksia, Melaleuca, Paper Barks, Tea Trees, Myrtles, Spider Flowers, Flannel Flowers, and Golden Wattles.

He also touched on soil preparation, the importance of good drainage, aspect for planting, watering and fertilisation specific to Australian Natives.

Mark brought along many examples of Australian natives that many of us purchased following his presentation. Including a *Prostanthera Rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Mint Bush).





## AUGUST MEETING TOPIC TONY MATSON FROM CUT ABOVE TOOLS

Tony and Karen Matson from Cut Above Tools were the Guest speakers for August. Tony showed us how to clean and sharpen some clipping and pruning tools with the Specialist WD-40 Lawn and Garden cleaning product and the 3-In-One Multi-Purpose Oil shown below. Tony said that if you clean and maintain your gardening tools properly they will extend the life span of your favourite tool and make them easier to use.

Tony also demonstrated how to use ratchet shears and power shears for trimming larger bromeliads such as Alcantareas, Vrieseas and the very large spikey Neoregelias.





## SEPTEMBER MEETING TOPIC MARK BELOT TALKS ABOUT GROWING ALCANTAREA

The guest speaker for our September meeting was member of the BSA, Mark Belot who specialises in the larger bromeliads such as the Alcantarea and the Vriesea.

Mark grew up on a quarter acre block with an old garden, filled with camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons which were a passion of his late Father's.

However, Mark developed an interest in Bonsai and at one stage had a huge collection. His interest and passion for bromeliads increased when a neighbour shared some of her plants with him and he was hooked.

Currently, Mark doesn't have a shade house, so most of his bromeliads are out in the full sun. The more delicate and precious species are located on his deck. The sunny end is for the Neoregelias and the other shaded end is for Vrieseas.

Mark has a bit of everything in his garden including beautiful Neoregelias, with the large hybrid variegated Alcantarea being his favourites.

Mark brought along a huge variety coloured flowered and about to flower Alcantarea bromeliads.

He demonstrate the removal of pups and grass pup from the mother Alcantarea bromeliads and how to assist with the survival of accidentally neglected bromeliads.

*Alcantarea imperialis rubra x  
vinicolor* 'Hawaiian Red'





Originally a vegetative sport off imperialis red form ex M&M

# PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

## JULY 2025

<b>Open</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Meyendorffii'	Helga Nitschke
Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Wild Rabbit'	Nina Woodcock
Third	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Aztec'	Ian Hook

<b>Open</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Wild Rabbit'	Nina Woodcock
Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Meyendorffii'	Helga Nitschke
Third	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Broken Heart'	Nina Woodcock

<b>Novice</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Savoy Truffle'	Liz Gordon
Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Blushing Zebra'	Liz Gordon
Third	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Dark Knight'	Phil Ross

<b>Novice</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Nepregelia</i> 'Purple Star Marginated'	Debbie Walters
Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Savoy Truffle'	Liz Gordon
=Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Dark Knight'	Phil Ross

<b>Tillandsia</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Tillandsia gardneri</i>	Nina Woodcock

<b>Tillandsia</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Tillandsia gardneri</i>	Nina Woodcock

### Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

First	'Velvet Fountain'	Anna Ernst
-------	-------------------	------------

*Neoregelia*  
'Meyendorffii'



*Neoregelia*  
'Wild Rabbit'



*Aechmea*  
'Aztec'



*Neoregelia*  
'Broken Heart'



*Neoregelia*  
'Purple Star Margined'



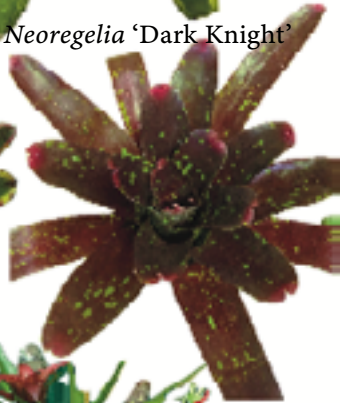
*Neoregelia*  
'Savoy Truffle'



*Neoregelia*  
'Blushing Zebra'



*Neoregelia*  
'Dark Knight'



*Tillandsia gardneri*



'Velvet Fountain'

# PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

## AUGUST 2025

<b>Open</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Milaloo'	Harold Kuan
Second	<i>xSincoregelia</i> 'Gary Hendrix'	Janet Kuan
Third	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Ed Prince'	Linda Malloy
<b>Open</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Milaloo'	Harold Kuan
=First	<i>xSincoregelia</i> 'Gary Hendrix'	Janet Kuan
Third	<i>Neodularium cariacicaense</i>	Ian Hook
<b>Novice</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Moon Tiger'	Karen Czarnecki
Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Hybrid'	Bob Bartley
<b>Novice</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Moon Tiger'	Karen Czarnecki
Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Hybrid'	Bob Bartley
<b>Tillandsia</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Tillandsia punctate red</i>	Helga Nitschke
Second	<i>Tillandsia marconae</i>	Ian Hook
Third	<i>Tillandsia leonamiana</i>	Helga Nitschke
<b>Tillandsia</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Tillandsia punctate red</i>	Helga Nitschke
Second	<i>Tillandsia marconae</i>	Ian Hook
Third	<i>Tillandsia leonamiana</i>	Helga Nitschke
Third	<i>Tillandia pardoii</i>	Ian Hook
<b>Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition</b>		
First	'Star Light'	Anna Ernst
Second	'Curly Pet Kokoderm'	Linda Molloy

*Dyckia* 'Clifton Milaloo'



*xSincoregelia*  
'Gary Hendrix'



*Neoregelia*  
'Ed Prince'



*Nidularium*  
*cariacicaense*



*Billbergia* 'Moon  
Tiger'



*Neoregelia*  
'Hybrid'



*Tillandsia punctate red*



*Tillandsia*  
*marconae*



*Tillandsia pardoii*



*Tillandsia*  
*leonamiana*



'Curly Pet Kokoderm'



'Star Light'

# PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

## SEPTEMBER 2025

<b>Open</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Snow x'	Harold Kuan
Second	<i>Quesnelia augustocoburgii</i>	Kerry McNicol
Third	<i>Billbergia nutans</i> sp. <i>Jguazu Falls</i>	Kerry McNicol

<b>Open</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Billbergia nutans</i> sp. <i>Jguazu Falls</i>	Kerry McNicol
Second	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Reins Pride'	Linda Molloy
Second	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Snow x'	Harold Kuan

<b>Novice</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Pot Belly'	Anna Ernst
Second	<i>Vriesea flammea</i>	Anna Ernst
Third	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Caitlands Meg'	Karen Czarnecki

<b>Novice</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Pot Belly'	Anna Ernst
Second	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Caitlands Meg'	Karen Czarnecki
Third	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Brown Eyed Girl'	Phil Ross
Third	<i>Aechmea recurvata</i>	Bob Bartley

<b>Tillandsia</b>	<b>Judges Choice</b>	
First	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Purple Gem'	Harold Kuan
Second	<i>Tillandsia aeranthos</i> v. <i>aemula</i>	Harold Kuan
Third	<i>Tillandsia streptophyla</i> x <i>prunosa</i>	Kerry McNicol

<b>Tillandsia</b>	<b>Members Choice</b>	
First	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Purple Gem'	Harold Kuan
Second	<i>Tillandsia streptophyla</i> x <i>pruinosa</i>	Kerry McNicol
Third	<i>Tillandsia Houston</i>	Ian Hook

<b>Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition</b>		
First	'Springtime on the Pond'	Janet Kuan
Second	'Spiked Tea'	Anna Ernst

*Dyckia* 'Clifton Snow x'



*Quesnelia augustocoburgii*



*Billbergia nutans* sp. 'Jguazu Falls'



*Neoregelia* 'Reins Pride'



*Aechmea* 'Pot Belly'



*Vriesea flammea*

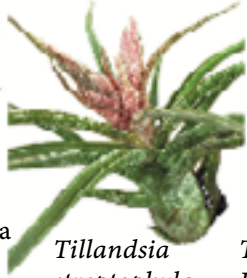


*Billbergia* 'Caitlands Meg'

T. 'Purple Gem'



*Tillandsia aeranthos* v. *aemula*



*Tillandsia streptophylla* x *pruinosa*



*Tillandsia Houston*



'Springtime on the Pond'



'Spiked Tea'

# SPRING SHOW 2025

<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Aechmea</b>	
1st	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Yellow Throat' (P)	Anna Ernst
2nd	<i>Aechmea recurvata</i> (P)	Philip La
3rd	<i>Aechmea recurvata</i> (B)	Janet Kuan
<b>Class 2</b>	<b>Billbergia Specimen</b>	
1st	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Ralf Graham French' (P)	Philip La
2nd	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Moon Tiger' (P)	Philip La
<b>Class 3</b>	<b>Billbergia Colony</b>	
1st	<i>Billbergia stolonifera</i> (P)	Linda Molloy
2nd	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Hallelujah' (B)	Philip La
<b>Class 4</b>	<b>Cryptanthus</b>	
1st	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Ruby' (P)	Helga Nitschke
2nd	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Corrine' (P)	Janet Kuan
3rd	<i>Cryptanthus acaulis verigata</i> (P)	Janet Kuan
<b>Class 5</b>	<b>Neoregelia Species</b>	
1st	<i>Neoregelia lilliputiana</i> (P)	Kerry McNicol
2nd	<i>Neoregelia green ball</i> (P)	Linda Malloy
3rd	<i>Neoregelia burnsie spiral</i> (B)	Helga Nitschke
<b>Class 6</b>	<b>Minature Neoregelia Specimen (Single)</b>	
1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Moon Dust' (P)	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Olens Hybrid' (B)	Carolyn Bunnell
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Alley Cat' (B)	Kerry McNicol
<b>Class 7</b>	<b>Minature Neoregelia Multiple</b>	
1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Mojo' (P)	Kerry McNicol
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Domino' (P)	Joe Micallef
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Pepper Hybrid' (B)	Carolyn Bunnell
<b>Class 8</b>	<b>Neoregelia Hybrid</b>	
1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bottoms Up' (P)	Philip La
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Groucho' (P)	Joe Micallef
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Black Knight' (P)	Helga Nitschke
<b>Class 9</b>	<b>Nidularium or Canispropsis</b>	
1st	<i>Nidularium angustibracteatum</i> (P)	Ian Hook
2nd	<i>Nidularium albiflora</i> (P)	Ian Hook
<b>Class 10</b>	<b>Tillandsia Specimen</b>	
1st	<i>Tillandsia seleriana</i> (P)	Harold Kuan
2nd	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'My Sweet Rose' (P)	Helga Nitschke
3rd	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Samantha' (P)	Amal Eid

<b>Class 11</b>	<b>Tillandsia Multiple</b>	
1st	<i>Tillandsia streptophylla x brachycaulos</i> (P)	Harold Kuan
2nd	<i>Tillandsia tectorum</i> (P)	Harold Kuan
3rd	<i>Tillandsia sprengeliana</i> (P)	Harold Kuan
<b>Class 12</b>	<b>Vriesea</b>	
1st	Vriesea 'Montezumas Gem x Fosteriana	Dark Red'Amal Eid
2nd	<i>Vriesea flammea</i>	Anna Ernst
3rd	<i>Vriesea rubyae</i>	Helga Nitschke
<b>Class 13</b>	<b>Foliage Variegated</b>	
1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Samsara' (P)	Kerry McNicol
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Pink One x Mauve Monarch' (P)	Amal Eid
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bob's Dream' (P)	Amal Eid
<b>Class 14</b>	<b>Other Genera</b>	
1st	<i>Dyckia delicata</i> (P)	Harold Kuan
2nd	<i>Canistrum billbergioides</i> 'Mulberry' (P)	Kerry McNicol
3rd	<i>Quesnelia marmorata</i> 'Tim Plowman' (P)	Philip La
<b>Class 15</b>	<b>Intergeneric</b>	
1st	<i>xSincoregelia</i> 'Galactic Warrior' (P)	Joe Micallef
2nd	<i>xSincoregelia</i> 'Gary Hendrix' (B)	Janet Kuan
3rd	<i>xNeomea</i> 'Shooting Star' (B)	Helga Nitschke
<b>Class 16</b>	<b>Mounted Bromeliads</b>	
1st	'Black Devil'	Anna Ernst
<b>Class 17</b>	<b>Terrestrial Bromeliad</b>	
1st	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Snow x Red Robe' (P)	Harold Kuan
2nd	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Red Robe x Maroon Madness' (P)	Harold Kuan
3rd	<i>Hectia texensis</i> (P)	Helga Nitschke
<b>Class 18</b>	<b>Artistic Arrangement</b>	
1st	'Beautiful Spring Time'	Janet Kuan
2nd	'Fantasy Forest'	Criag Willis
<b>Class 19</b>	<b>Novice</b>	
1st	<i>Noeregelia</i> 'Bullis Margaret'	Amal Eid

## SPRING SHOW AWARDS 2025

Grand Champion	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Clifton Snow x Red Pride'	Harold Kuan
Reserve Champion	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Montezumas Gem x Fosteriana	Dark Red' Amal Eid
Species Award	<i>Dyckia delicata</i>	Harold Kuan
Novice Champion	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bullis Margaret'	Amal Eid

(P)=Purple ribbon award (B) blue ribbon award  
 \*\*\*The following pictures in order of listing here

# SPRING SHOW 2025



The pictures are in order of listing on pages 16-17

# SPRING SHOW 2025



## FAREWELL TO DAVID SCOTT

David is life member of our society. He has moved out of area so he might not be able to attend meetings in the future. Below are some pictures of his beautiful bromeliad garden. He will be very much missed.



*Aechmea ensign*



*Tillandsia barclayana*



*Aechmea chantinii*



*T. cacticola*

# SEED BANK

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

<i>Alcantarea patriae</i>	07/06/2024	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Alcantarea heloisea</i>	28/08/24	Greg Aizlewood



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

	July 1st-31st	Aug 1-31st
Opening Balance	\$30,302.74	\$18,447.94
Receipts	\$256.93	\$423.53
Less Expenses	-\$2,111.73	-\$806.50
Closing Balance	\$18,447.94	\$18,064.97

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!



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)

## **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)

## **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)

If undelivered, return to:  
Bromeliad Society of Australia  
P.O.BOX 340,  
Ryde NSW 2112  
BROMELETTER



**PRINT POSTAGE  
POST PP PAID  
100029450 AUSTRALIA**