

# KABBROM



*Tillandsia stricta*

## Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Society Inc No 5 September / October 2009

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

It is August already and Spring has sprung. Soon we will all be busy in the garden again and delivering all those long awaited pups.

The July meeting with our Xmas in July was again a great success. As always the raffle was well received and certainly well supported. Thank you all for your continued support and contributions. It was also good to see some guests had been invited and are now interested in becoming members. This shows we are continuing to grow. The guest speaker was not too bad either according to the remarks received afterwards.



The workshop on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> August at Talbot Lodge should be a cracker of a day. Don't forget to bring a chair to sit on, a mug (the type you drink out of), a plate of goodies for a shared morning tea and your own lunch.

Just a reminder to all those sleepy heads who like luxuriating and sleeping in, to set your alarm clocks as the first speaker will start at **9 am**.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting at the hall on Saturday 22/08/09.

Best wishes and kindest regards

Carlo M. Hanswyck

Our society has posted our Club News on the website of the Bromeliad Australia – check it out at [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au)

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland website [www.bromsqueensland.com](http://www.bromsqueensland.com)  
has lots of information as well as their journal Bromeliaceae.

MEMORIES OF OUR BUS TRIP IN JUNE  
PHOTOS: CRISS BUTTON AND ROB MURRAY



Our obliging bus driver



On our way to Glasshouse



First stop Nigel Thompsons



A frenzy of buying



Back on the bus



Lunch



Back on the bus



Second stop - Cheryl Basics





Another frenzy of buying



Time to go home

Were you there?



Thanks Criss



Thanks Rob

## JULY MEETING

Our Mystery Speaker for July was our President Carlo. He chose to speak about Bromeliads from his own perspective – a different one according to him!

The audience was interested in hearing some facts about this youngest species in the evolutionary flora chain. The oldest fossil around 30 million years old! Mainly found in South and North America there is one lonely Pitcairnia that comes from Africa – a staggering 12 million years ago the seed was carried from the Tropical Americas to Africa. Bromeliads were used for food, protection, as a fibre and in ceremonies.

Carlo then delighted the audience in sharing his first wondrous experience in owning and growing a *Neoregelia* 'Fosperior Perfection'. How he transformed this thing of beauty into a sad and sorry sight. Yet the plant continued to live even though cast out. Carlo then produced this specimen and he was right – it was a sorry sight. Yet it is offsetting and Carlo will no doubt be able to grow the offsets into beautiful plants with all his new wonderful knowledge. The audience empathised fully with Carlo as everyone there had experienced their own disaster.

**Next month is a Member's Forum so please prepare your questions, or bring something to share.**



CONGRATULATIONS to the winner of our Christmas in July raffle.

Angela Squires was delighted to take home this wonderful collection of goodies.

Thank you to all who donated as well as those who bought tickets.

Madge Jarvis holding her wonderful *Tillandsia stricta*.

Madge bought the plant on our bus trip day so we could share the beauty of flowering.



Julie Bettany is home from hospital and now has a long convalescence ahead. I am sure she would welcome a phone call or visit. Ask Bruce and Deirdre Roberts for updates on Julie's progress.

## The Shade Centre

Gary May has negotiated a discount on purchases for all CDBS members at *The Shade Centre*, Unit 5 - 9 Combarton Street, Brendale. Find out their best price and then ask for the discount.



## **TIMELY TIPS (many tips from Bob Reilly and found in various Bromeliaceae)**

In sub tropical and tropical climates many bromeliads can be grown in the garden all year round. Care needs to be taken in December, January and February as the combination of high temperatures and low air humidity can cause leaf scald or burn. Note that high temperatures combined with high humidity will not cause leaf scald or burn. Several hours on one day of adverse weather conditions is often all that is needed to cause severe plant damage.

Bromeliads appreciate good air circulation. However they do not appreciate the cold strong westerly winds usually experienced during winter. If they are in a shade house one solution is to temporarily cover the western wall with thick plastic. This material is sold by the lineal metre in most hardware stores and is usually 1.8 metres wide.

August is the time to start sun hardening bromeliads.

Heavy watering results in water flowing through the pot for several minutes. Water the surface of the pot, as well as the plant itself, to ensure all of the potting mixture is dampened. It has been suggested that 30 minutes after watering, the process be repeated.

Avoid watering bromeliads in the middle of hot summer days if you can. The sun's rays can be focused by the droplets of water onto the bromeliads' leaves resulting in leaf burn and subsequently bleached spots on the leaf.

Dead leaves are usually easy to remove by gently pulling them and moving the leaf from side to side at the same time. Living leaves may prove difficult to remove using this technique. In such cases split the leaf in half by running a knife along its entire length. Then apply the pulling /moving technique used for dead leaves.

Removing offsets in winter is usually undesirable because of the growth setback they experience. However if you have access to some mechanism for example a 'heated soil bed' for providing bottom heat, offsets can be successfully removed in winter. Olive Trevor notes that offsets allowed to grow too large before removal can have a distorted shape which may not grow out at maturity.

Worms are great in the soil but a problem in pots. They cause premature breakdown of potting mixtures. They build mud castles in the drainage outlets and block them. They transport soil out of the pots. They are a disaster in pots where you are germinating seeds. Treat seed mix by wetting it and placing it in the microwave oven. It is best to repot pot plants and throw the worms into the compost heap where they can do their job. Dunking the pots in lime water (a weak solution of Calcium Hydroxide) gets rid of them quickly. Old shade cloth can be put to good use as a worm barrier in the bottom of pots. Particularly those pots placed on the ground.

Many people are concerned that mosquitoes will breed in the centres of tank-type bromeliads during summer. One way of avoiding this outcome is to use a hose to flush the water out of each plant's tank once a week during summer. This action gives the mosquito insufficient time to breed, as well as helping to water the plants and minimise the possible build up of blue-green algae.

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### **WHAT'S ON IN 2009**

**30<sup>th</sup> August** Bromeliaceous Workshop see Flyer attached

**12<sup>th</sup> September 8:30 am – 3pm & 13<sup>th</sup> September 9-2** Noosa Bromeliad Market Noosa Bicentennial Hall, Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach 0412 884 116

**10<sup>th</sup> Oct 8–3 & 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 9- 2** Bromeliad Extravaganza Wavell Heights Community Hall 175 Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights

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### **PLEASE CONTRIBUTE**

Our newsletter is published bi-monthly. Any members may contribute to the newsletter – items such as cultural notes or articles, your experiences (good and not so good) in growing bromeliads, any information about shows or other events. Closing time for articles will be our meetings in February, April, June, August and October. Please either hand in at the meeting or mail to Barbara Murray or email to [yarrumai@bigpond.net.au](mailto:yarrumai@bigpond.net.au) or phone 3888 2637. Email me if you would like a copy of the newsletter emailed to you.

## POPULAR VOTE

NO WINNERS FOR POPULAR VOTE IN JUNE AS THERE WAS NO MEETING

## WINNERS FOR POPULAR VOTE JULY

### NOVICE:

- |                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Deirdre Roberts | <i>Neophytum</i> 'Galactic Warrior' |
| 2. Barbara Murray  | <i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i>           |
| Tie for third      |                                     |
| 3. Pam Board       | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Enchantment'     |
| 3. Steve Waite     | <i>Vriesea</i> 'Highway Beauty'     |

### ADVANCED:

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Madge Jarvis | <i>Tillandsia ionantha</i> |
| 2. Madge Jarvis | <i>Tillandsia stricta</i>  |
| 3. Madge Jarvis | <i>Tillandsia butzii</i>   |



*Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior'



*Tillandsia ionantha*

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS** are held on the 4th Saturday of the month at C.T.Williams Hall at Caboolture Showgrounds, Beerburrum Road Caboolture, 12:30 for 1:00 pm start.

### MEETING DATES FOR 2009

August	22.08.2009	Member's Forum
September	26.09.2009	Steve Waite <i>Seedlings</i>
October	24.10.2009	Tony & Lesmar Debrincat <i>Wet Feet Plants / Cryptanthus</i>
November	28.11.2009	XMAS PARTY
December	NO MEETING	
January 2010	23.01.2010	

### OFFICERS

President	Carlo Hanswyk	5495 1380
Vice President	Jeanette Robertson	5495 2497
Secretary	Deirdre Roberts	5499 2724
Treasurer	Rob Murray	3888 2637
Membership Secretary	Lorraine Rolley	3285 2743
Committee Member: Editor	Barbara Murray	3888 2637
Committee Member: Hostess	Anne Hanswyk	5495 1380
Committee Member: Librarian	Lesmar Debrincat	5438 7869
Committee Member: Plant	Len Waite	5496 7795
Committee Member: Popular Vote	Bruce Roberts	5499 2724
Committee Member: Raffles	Sheryl Waite	5496 7795

### HALL STEWARDS

Plant Sales	Angela Slaughter and Julie Waite
Hall Set Up	John Parker
Catering	Martha Richards and Deirdre Roberts



# BROMELIACEOUS WORKSHOP

Sunday, 30 August 2009

8.45 am for a 9.00 am start through to 3.00 pm

Sheryl and Len Waite's Garden

Talbot Lodge

4 Prudence Court

Upper Caboolture

5496 7795 / 0422 694 122

Learn about a wide range of planting tips including some landscaping ideas.

Remember to bring a notebook (to catch those great ideas), a mug (for refreshment), a chair (to rest those weary legs), a plate (with food) for a shared Morning Tea and your lunch (to keep you fully charged).

**9.00 - 10.00** - Greg Aizlewood on  
*Tillandsias*

**10.30 - 11.30** – Len Waite on *Dyckias*,  
*Orthophytums* and *Cryptanthus*

**11.30 - 12.30** – Arnold James on  
*Colour in Neoregelias* and *Mini*  
*Neoregelias*

**1.30 - 2.30** – Steve Flood on  
*Landscaping and Fertilising With*  
*Bromeliads*

**2.30 - 3.00** – Evaluation

Morning Tea: 10.00 - 10.30 *and*  
Lunch (BYO): 12.30 - 1.30



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