Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 20th June, 2013 at 11 a.m.

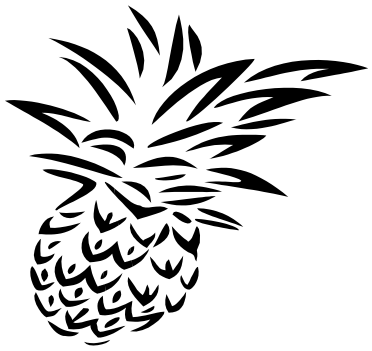
Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery
114 Pine Street Wardell 2477
Phone (02) 6683 4188

Discussion: May 2013

General Discussion

Viviparous Bromeliads

Bromeliad I.D.'s



Editorial Team:
Don Beard
Ross Little & Helen Clewett
pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com

Meeting 18th April 2013

The meeting was opened at 11:20 am. Ross welcomed all members. A total of 31 members and one visitor were in attendance, apologies from one member was received.

Kevin informed the meeting that June Howard had told him recently, that because of her ill-health she would not be attending any more monthly meetings. She has to undergo eye injections and she also has heart problems. She relates that she has enjoyed everyone's company, but unfortunately just cannot make it any more. We would certainly want June to know that we have enjoyed her company, that we are sorry to see her leave, and that we wish her the very best for the future.

General Business

Those members who attended the recent Queensland Bromeliad Society show and /or the Gold Coast Bromeliad Society show were well rewarded. The displays were awesome, and a great variety of excellent plants (some usually difficult to obtain) were available for sale at reasonable prices. The only negative comment that could be attached to the shows, was the nowadays seemingly ever present 'incorrect labelling' problem.

Meg Kerr and John Crawford mentioned the possibility of applying for a grant to enable the FNCBSG NSW to obtain a computer and a projector for power point presentations. Possible grantors included the Federal and State Governments, local councils, casinos etc. The first step in this process would be to approach one or more of the grantors, and to obtain application forms or information regarding the possible grant. Meg and John will follow this up.

John tabled some paperwork for the library, which included brochures offered as part of the proposals presented at 'Coolbroms' Conference New Zealand for both the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society and Victorian Bromeliad Society for the 19th Australasian Bromeliad Conference 2017. John informed the Group that the 2017 Conference will be hosted by the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society.

Don't forget the 18th Australasian Bromeliad Conference, "Bromsmatter", will be hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Australia and held on 16th - 19th April, 2015 at Parramatta, Sydney, NSW. Details are available at our meetings for those wishing to attend.
Early bird savings available if you register before 30th April 2014 - $260.00 pp.
May 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015 - $280.00 pp, after January 2015 - $300.00 pp.

Lesley produced a copy of Margaret Paterson's new book at a cost of $27.00 titled: **Bromeliad Hybrids:** "for my own satisfaction" **Book 2:** Cryptanthus, Tillandsia, Vriesea and others, which she obtained from a recent show. After a short discussion a number of members sought to order the book. In addition, Leslie demonstrated a spray unit ($16) which engendered a lot of interest and subsequent orders. Both the book and the spray unit should be available for pickup at the next monthly meeting.

The membership voted for all mobile phones to be turned off during the meeting. The PineGrove phones will remain active during the meeting.

Members' Show and Tell

Considering the recent wet weather and with the cold weather on it's way, Ross indicated that now was the time to dead-head our broms and generally clean them up. This will provide for a better airflow between the plants and help prevent the movement of scale.

Laurie passed around a page from a old magazine regarding *Vriesea* variations, including an article by Alan Phythian. He also exhibited a number of *Tillandsia* including *Tillandsia* 'Emerald Forest' with delightful pink and white flowers, this plant has the form of a *Till. tenuifolia*; *Till. crocata* with its brilliant yellow petals and delightful perfume; the brilliantly red and cheerful *Till. funckiana* and also *Till. capitata* 'Salmon', which is very similar to *Till. capitata* 'Peach'.
Ross mentioned that the *Tillandsia crocata* don't seem to be as perfumed as usual. This may have something to do with the recent excessive rainfall ???

Carol exhibited a basket of nine well grown and happy *Cryptanthus* including *Crypt*. 'It' which is a cultivar of *Crypt. arelii*, and *Crypt*. 'Ti' which is a sport of *Crypt*. 'It' but with olive-green leaf margins.
Carol also presented three Orthophytums including *Ortho*. 'Stellar Beauty'.

Lesley presented a plant labelled *Pitcairnia hartwigii* (?) (see article p.10-11) which she bought at the Queensland show and which was now flowering in red and yellow. The plant will eventually make a nice clump, but it is presently unsure whether it is a species or a cultivar. It was noted that Pitcairnias are water lovers but if kept moist will thrive in the full sun.

Speaking of water, Flo indicated she had a water feature in which her son grew *Vriesea fosteriana* for over a decade. The Vrieseas are growing in the water. The plants thrived and pups were easily transplanted into pots. Mention was then made of *Aechmea nudicaulis*, some Neoregelias, and some Nidulariums also being observed to grow directly in water.

Jeanette brought in a *Neoregelia* sporting a light white stain or veil on some of the leaves. The stain was recognized as dehydrated green or blue-green algae and noted to be relatively harmless. It's presence is probably a result of excessive fertilizing, and can be easily removed with water and gentle rubbing. However it is likely to return unless the tank is flushed and replaced with clean fresh water. Remember it is only a cosmetic problem. (photo p.9)

A tip from Linda Owens in - From Around the Shade House
FNCBSG NSW Newsletter, July 2012, p.3.
Algae: At times a green slime appears in the water storage centre of our bromeliads. This algae can be hosed out, if it is left upon the leaves and allowed to dry out it will appear like thin tissue paper. It will need to be wet to be removed and sometimes a soft cloth will be needed to remove it all. It does not harm the plant but when it is thick it can stop the colour development in that part of the plant.

Ted asked the question of when to fertilize? It was indicated that our green leaf bromeliads should be fertilised well prior to flowering e.g. Vrieseas, Guzmanias etc. and when potting pups add a little slow release fertilizer on / into the potting mix. Since different genera flower and pup at different times of the year, fertilising becomes an all year round task. Keep in mind that not only will you require slow release fertiliser for bromeliads grown in the ground or in pots, but also foliar fertiliser will be needed for those bromeliads grown epiphytically. Given the amount of rainfall recently, it is likely that fertiliser application should be increased to help offset any leeching. It should also be noted that Seasol can be used as a tonic for stressed plants and also for young plants.

Don made a brief presentation on the use of Zeolite (see article page 6).

Again the possibility of adding a decorative or artistic section to our monthly competitions arose. Again members have been asked to put their ideas in writing, discuss those ideas with each other, and finally and hopefully in the near future come to a decision on the matter. Meg has agreed to produce a ballot sheet with multiple choices of competitions available for voting.

Helen demonstrated how she has used hessian covered polystyrene as a base for bromeliad attachment used as wall hangings. (photo p.9)

Ross revealed a *Neoregelia* which was badly infected with root mealybugs. Once the plant is removed from the pot a white powder is seen all around the outside of the potting mix. This white colouration is a waxy secretion from the root mealybugs, which generally covers their bodies. The root mealybug is a type of unarmoured scale insect pest which sucks fluid from the roots and

causes the plant to dry out, retards growth, and causes chlorosis (leaf yellowing). The root mealybugs have a life cycle of 2-4 months and differ from their above ground foliar feeding relatives in that they have no tailing wax filaments. The presence of ants may be indicative of a mealybug problem, for they have a symbiotic relationship with the ants. The mealybugs provide the ants with a sugary honey dew type secretion, and the ants in return protect the mealybugs and herd them to new grazing areas i.e. fresh roots or new plants.
There are a number of things that can be done to eradicate root mealybugs. With bromeliads, which are mostly epiphytic, removal of the potting mix and the infected roots is not a problem, and is perhaps the easiest and most effective solution. Tests have been undertaken and shown to work, wherein the infected roots are submerged in hot water (at least 49^0C) and the root mealybugs killed. Getting rid of or controlling the ants will help reduce the spread of root mealybugs. A surface treatment of coffee grounds may be useful as could an addition of silica sand to the mix.
More severe chemical treatments, which also work, involve using any of the following chemicals as a root dip: Rogor; Pyrethrum; Confidor; Malathion. The addition of soap or detergent as a wetting agent is also advised.
Disulfoton (very toxic, not recommended) is granular and can be sprinkled into the cup (only a couple granules) or on the potting mix.
Finally, one of the most common causes of root mealybugs is the use of previously used potting mix. **Dump all used potting mix, don't reuse**.

Ross gave a lecture on plant formulae and plant cross' (see article p.12-13).

Lesly Baylis should be congratulated on the quality of the photos she entered into the Queensland Bromeliad Society Autumn Show photographic competition for 2013. Lesley managed a 3rd placing for her photograph of *Ae. recurvata var. benrathii* and a Special Commendation for Artistic Creativity for her photograph of *Ae. fulgens var. discolor.* Well done Lesley, keep up the good work and hope we see more of your photos gracing our pages here in the FNCBSG NSW Newsletter in future editions. (photos p.9)

Note to all members with cameras or photos, if you have a photo or two you would like published here in our pages we can easily scan your older photos or lift a photo direct from your digital camera on meeting day if necessary or e-mail them to the editors at anytime. Come on show what you can do with a camera.

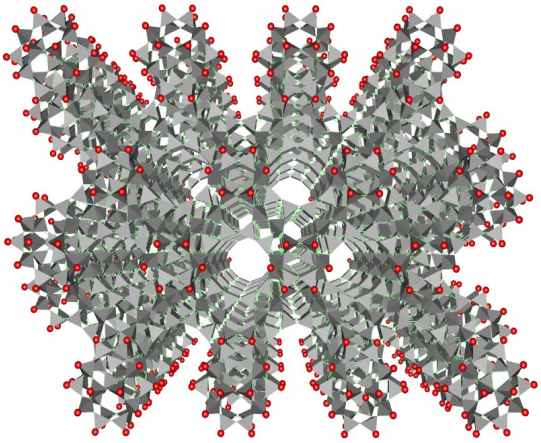
Cleanliness and tidiness --
Thank you to all those who help maintain a tidy venue for our meetings.

Zeolite by Don Beard

Because John Crawford mentioned the use of zeolite in his potting mixes to help minimize fertiliser loss due to rainfall or watering, it was considered timely to explain a little about the use of zeolite in horticulture and some of it's structural idiosyncrasies.

Zeolite is a general or group name for minerals produced in certain volcanic rocks and by secondary alteration of minerals in rocks. There are over 90 different varieties or 'species' of zeolite e.g. chabazite, brewsterite, clinoptilolite, heulandite, leucite, natrolite, phillipsite, stilbite etc. these minerals are found on all seven continents and in all oceans. Some zeolites when heated produce copious amounts of steam, hence the Greek 'zeolite' or 'boiling stone'

All zeolites are microporous aluminosilicates with exchangeable cations. That is to say they are made up of Al (Aluminium), Si (Silica), and O (Oxygen) atoms in a pyramidal framework (tetrahedrons) which has a negative charge. This framework can capture and exchange positively charged cations such as Na (Sodium) K (Potassium), Ca (Calcium), Mg (Magnesium), P (Phosphorous), Ba (Barium) etc. There are over 40 different types of framework structures depending on the manner in which the pyramids are stacked, and some of these positive cations lend themselves to fitting better into some of these structures than others.



Clinoptilolite framework.
(http://crystaldetox.com.au)

The attraction between these positive and negative charges is only slight, and so the larger cations are only loosely held and rather easily lost ,gained or exchanged. Because of the different types of atomic structures, many of the cations can be sieved, filtered or trapped to differing extents. Hence zeolites can also be known as molecular sieves, and they can sort positively charged molecules according to size As a consequence zeolites have many uses viz. as a molecular sieve, in medicine to absorb toxins, as a detergent, in the building industry (Pozzolanic cement), water purification, the extraction of nitrogen from air, swimming pool filters, the reduction of gaseous odours, drying gases, agriculture, horticulture, and

last but not least by NASA as a growing medium to be used in space or space travel (Zeoponics). It is the horticultural use that interests us mostly. Here zeolite buffers the dumping of free nutrients. In other words it prevents the leaching of fertiliser by excessive watering.

The zeolite which is of most use to bromeliad growers is clinoptilolite which is a hydrated (contains water) Ca, K, Mg, Al silicate which is low in Na. All zeolites including clinoptilolite have a preferential order of trapping of the cations and molecules by the open framework. This order is heaviest first e.g. toxins such as uranium, arsenic, mercury, cadmium etc. followed by the lighter molecules and atoms such as Ca, Mg, N, K etc. . Clinoptilolite is such a good sieve of Ca, that if used in a potting mix additional Ca may need.

So what does clinoptilolite do for us when added to our potting mixes?
The answer is a number of things:

1) It is a source of slow release K (Potasium). Probably the most important element in bromeliad fertiliser.
2) If the clinoptilolite is preloaded with ammonium, it is a source of slow release N (Nitrogen).
3) The mineral can absorb up to 55% of its own weight in water, which is available for later release during dry periods.
4) Clinoptilolite prevents leeching of important elements during heavy watering and thus promotes growth.
5) Has the ability to clear toxins.

Only a relatively small amount of zeolite is needed. A handful in a 200mm pot of potting mix or up to 5% of the potting mix. All in all this seems like a pretty useful material. Not only will it improve the efficiency of any fertiliser, but it should contribute to some cost saving. However, many products are sold as zeolite, when they only contain a very small percentage of the mineral. Make sure there is a high percentage of zeolite in any package you purchase. The zeolite we need is called Escott Zeolite which is mined by Australian Zeolite Pty Ltd from it's Werris Creek mine, north of the Hunter Valley. It is sold locally by Go Grow situated just south of Ballina on the Teven Road. It is sold as an agrimix (2 - 4mm) from $0.50 to $1.00 a kilo. There is of course other brands but this is the one I have tracked down and know to be reliable. Australian Zeolite Pty. Ltd. has outlets throughout Australia.

Zeolite agrimix.
(http://allpurposeabsorbent.com)

Guzmania sanguinea
Equal 1st Open - Marie Essery

Tillandsia ehlersiana - Dawn Dennis
1st Novice & Judges Choice

Tillandsia gardneri & Tillandsia ehlersiana
grown by Jeanette Henwood

Quesnelia 'Rafael Oliveira'
Equal 1st Open - Shane Weston

Pitcairnia 'Hartwig'
shown by Lesley Baylis

Vriesea fosteriana grown in a water feature for many years.

Ae. recurvata var. benrathii
Lesley Baylis

Dried algae on a *Neoregelia* leaf, can be gently wiped off when wet, notes p.4

Ae. fulgens var. discolor
Lesley Baylis

A selection of *Cryptanthus* shown by Carol Buckman

Broms. on styrene box lid covered with hessian as a wall hanging.

Photo's supplied by: Ross Little and Lesley Baylis.

***Pitcairnia* 'Hartwig'** by Derek Butcher

Some of you will have read the Journal of the Bromeliad Society Inc. (March/ April 2002, Issue 2, Page 51) where Len Summers used this plant to produce an odd bigeneric called *xDeuterocairnia* 'Lenny'. This raised an interesting point in the mystery surrounding a plant called *Pitcairnia hartwigii* ; it has never been described. A search of the records both here and in Mexico has failed to reveal the smallest of leads.

Maurice Kellett tells us he got the plant in 1971, which Professor Eizi Matuda called *Pit. hartwigii.*

Let us now read Maurice's diary for 18/4/1971 in Mexico:

"We travelled first to the Valley of San Pedro, where we walked down into the valley where a power station was situated. The trees were covered with many *Tillandsia imperialis* in flower. Many other bromeliads were also in flower. I remember seeing large plants of something like *Till. leucolepis* growing in the ground amongst the grass. On the rocks, but impossible to collect, were large flowering plants that looked like *Till. parryi*. We saw native *Pitcairnia* in flower and collected *Mammillaria*, a small *Echeveria,* and many native *sedums*, etc.

We based ourselves in the town of Zacatlan, in the State of Puebla. Interestingly, the Valley San Pedro does not relate to the river San Pedro, which is on the western side of Mexico! After leaving Zacatlan we called into Chignahuapan, which is not far away, and also into Puebla. Many years before in Chignahuapan someone had seen an image of the Virgin Mary on the bark of a pine tree and they built a church around it. Such faith and ingenuity!! When we saw it, it was a pile of rubble because a cow had walked onto the roof !!

We collected a Pitcairnia near the Power Station. I asked Dr. Matuda, who had organised the trip, to write down its name as his mixture of spoken Japanese and Spanish was sometimes hard to understand. He obliged with *Pit. hartwigii* on a scrap of paper.

Back to 2002!
I have been trying to obtain just a little piece of this plant, to see if I could link it to a currently described species from Mexico. If the plant was described under another name, this could account for why *Pit. hartwigii* did not get published, and this is how I could achieve my aim!

Just to show how fervent some South Aussies can be towards bromeliads, Len Colgan had arranged a trip to Teesdale, Victoria for the weekend of October 26/27. Apparently Rudi Schultz had an open day! It meant an 8 hour drive there, and an 8 hour drive back for a 3 hour visit! Thanks to Email I was able to warn Chris Larson (who only had to travel from Melbourne) that I would love to see a *Pit. hartwigii* in the flesh!

I digress because Chris mentioned that Len Summers was there, too, AND I found out that Len had some plants in his car. I pleaded with Len for him to remove the inflorescence from his *Pit. hartwigii* so I could take it home and take it to pieces! “Sorry, Derek, but the flowers are not open yet, and probably wouldn’t open if you did cut it off!” Disappointment! Anyway I made it to Len’s car so I could see this mysterious plant. Len treated his plant with care as he lovingly got it from the back seat. Then he knocked it against the door and half the inflorescence on one plant fell off. My eyes lit up and Len’s fell! He was soon his happy self, and I got half an inflorescence to take home. He must have been in a generous mood because I also got an offset that Len squeezed out of the same pot. This offset is now potted up in Adelaide, where I must remember the Summers’ motto “Feed it, feed it, feed it”

Back to the flower bit I had. The next day, on my return to beautiful Adelaide, I got to work. Admittedly I had to guess the petal status, but I did have a photo from Chris Larson to help me. I had pieces of flower all over the place. I just could not fit the plant into Lyman Smith’s key and in desperation tried every description of any *Pitcairnia* found in Mexico. Again nothing. Perhaps this plant was new after all. Perhaps we will have to wait for the Mexicans to again find this plant in the wild and properly describe it.

In the meantime I am going to de-Latinise the name to ‘Hartwig’ and put it in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register, where you can see its photo.

Pit. ‘Hartwig’ grows well in Melbourne and appears to be restricted to Melbourne (except for my little offset).

July 2005
I now know it is not restricted to Australia because 2005 saw Chas Dills of California enquiring about his *Pit. hartwigii*. How on earth had the plant got to the USA? On enquiry I found that Maurice Kellett had sent a plant to Jim McQueen in Tasmania (of all places). Jim had flowered his plant and thought it so good, sent seed to the BSI seed bank in the early 1980’s.

Now that this plant is widespread it is all the more pertinent to get it properly identified. Seed collected by Maurice Kellett shows them to be bicaudate and thus sub genus Pitcairnia.

(photo of *Pit.* ‘Hartwig’ page 8)

Glossary

XDeuterocairnia -- a cross between two different genera being a *Deuterocohnia* crossed with a *Pitcairnia* to create this bigeneric hybrid.

Bicaudate -- having two tail-like appendages.

Understanding a Written Formula from a talk by Ross Little

When writing plant names there are some fairly basic rules to follow so that at a glance in a written article one knows if the plant being referred to is a species or a hybrid. Some basic rules to follow are:

1) genus begins with a capital letter and in italics e.g. *Neoregelia*
2) species name is in lower case and in italics e.g. *carolinae*
3) genus name for a hybrid as for (1) above
4) hybrid name, first letter capital, name in quotation marks, e.g. 'Whirlwind'

Some basic rules also apply when writing a hybrid formula:

1) seed / pod parent should always be written first.
2) pollen parent second.

When writing a hybrid formula these rules help to easily identify when a species or hybrid has been used as a parent and which is the seed parent. In the following formula we can see that some species and some hybrids/cultivars were used as parents, however written as is, it is difficult to know what was crossed first.

carolinae variegated x 'Rafa' x 'Skotak's Tiger' x *ampullacea* x *tigrina* x 'Punctate Red'

Not wanting to write this much information all the time we can first shorten it by identifying the sets of parents by adding brackets and parenthesis, this will help identify hybrid names to then shorten the formula:

carolinae variegated x ('Rafa' x 'Skotak's Tiger') x (*ampullacea* x *tigrina*) x 'Punctate Red'

Following the bracketed parentage the shortened formula should read as:

carolinae variegated x 'Hannibal Lector' x 'Tiger Cub' x 'Punctate Red'

Add brackets and parenthesis again to identify the next set of crosses:

([*carolinae* variegated x 'Hannibal Lector'] x 'Tiger Cub') x 'Punctate Red'

This formula gives the end result of *Neoregelia* 'Whirlwind'

This is what we refer to as a complex hybrid, however by adding the brackets and parenthesis in the appropriate places it has helped identify the parentage and make working out in which order each set of parents played their part in the final result as seed or pollen parent. To most growers this information isn't of that much importance, however to budding hybridizers it is very useful to help identify the end result of various combinations of parents, especially if brackets, parenthesis and parentage are incorporated into a formula correctly.

For the purpose of this exercise the generic name *Neoregelia* has been left off these formulae, don't forget to include this when writing labels.

As hybridizers are doing very complex hybridizing these days it is getting harder to distinguish just which individual plants have been used as parents unless a specific trait has been passed onto the new hybrid by each parent. For example has variegation been passed on, has banding / zonation or spotting / dots been passed on, these are easily distinguished traits to see which will indicate that the specific hybridizing program has been achieved. However, parental traits are not always obvious at the vegetative stage so a hybridizer needs to assess these results at the flowering stage also. As very few species are self fertile (meaning, will accept their own pollen) any seed collected from these plants has a fair chance of being hybrid. The only way to be sure of attaining purity in seed if this is desired is to do a controlled pollination in a secure location where no foreign pollen can get to the plant being pollinated. Sometimes to achieve purity a different clone of the same species is required.

Often when seed batches have been raised or crosses made, we see the notation after the plants name of F1 or F2 etc. The 'F' meaning filial.
F1 - first filial generation.
F2 - second filial generation; the progeny from the crossing or selfing of the F1.

Some general rules that should help you decide whether your hybridizing has been successful from: Checklist of Australian Hybrids and Cultivars including Notes for the Hybridist *compiled* by Derek Butcher, 1997.

1) True species x same True species = same True species
1a) True variety x same True variety = same True variety
2) True species x Self (own pollen) = same True species
3) True species x another True species = F1 hybrid
with consistent characteristics in each of the seedlings.
4) True species x Hybrid = F2 hybrid
with inconsistent characteristics
5) Hybrid x Hybrid = F3 hybrid
with inconsistent characteristic
6) Hybrid x Self (own pollen) = F2 hybrid
with inconsistent characteristics
7) Hybrid x same Hybrid = F2 hybrid
with inconsistent characteristics

This table is a guide to help readers understand what the 'F' can mean when reading articles relating to hybrids. However different hybridizers have varying opinions as to the relationship of the 'F' regarding the creation of a new hybrid using two unrelated hybrids as parents. A complicated subject *!!!!*

Don't forget **Tidy-up Corner (corrections)** for your thoughts regarding F1, F2 relationships, all thoughts forwarded to the editors will be appreciated.

From Around the Shade House

A question asked this month -- how do I use slow release fertilizer.

Answer -- when fertilizing your plants especially newly potted pups **do not** put slow release fertilizer prill (balls of Osmocote) in the central cup of the plant, it should only get mixed into or sprinkled on top of the potting mix.

However after removing pups a few fertilizer prill can be put into each leaf axil of the **old mother plant only** (not in the pups), this will help that old mother plant produce another round of pups more vigorously. But how many do you need *!!!*

Tidy-up Corner (corrections)

by Eagle Eyed Observers

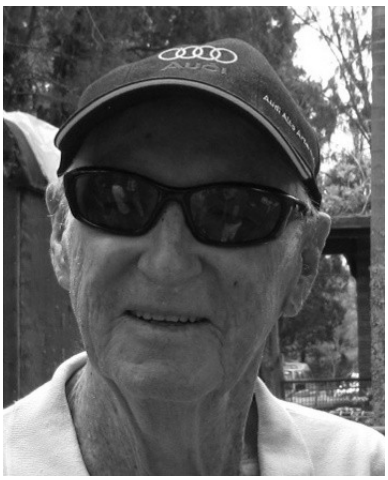
Since publication of our FNCBSG NSW Newsletter, April 2013, Alan Phythian has advised that two of the Vrieseas on p.9 will not have the 'Maroochy' name attached. These should read *Vr.* 'Mauve Star' and *Vr.* 'Lolly Pink', could you please cross 'Maroochy' out to save future reference errors.

Vale

Reg Ross

1 - 11 - 1928 to 19 - 4 - 2013

Reg had been an integral part of the FNCBSG NSW since February 2011, he had only been involved in bromeliads for a relatively short time however they became a passion to him. At every possibility he would get Heather to drive him from Evans Head to Wardell to get a pie, hmm or was that just an excuse to visit the Bromeliad Nursery for a cuppa and a plant or two or maybe even three to add to his ever growing collection. Reg was always a very welcome visitor with his pleasant smile and a kind word for all. A few of us from the Group visited Reg at home on occasions to wander around and view his neat, well grown collection that he was ever so proud of.
He was never with-out a question or two, always wanting to learn just a little more.
It was a pleasure to have met and known him.



Reg, referred to by Heather as "My Gentleman Gardener", will be sadly missed.

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Dawn Dennis	*Tillandsia ehlersiana*
2nd	Trish Kelly	*Vriesea fosteriana* x *hieroglyphica*
3rd	Coral McAteer	*Vriesea fosteriana var. seideliana*

Open Popular Vote

1st	Marie Essery	*Guzmania sanguinea*
1st	Shane Weston	*Quesnelia* 'Rafael Oliveira'
2nd	Carol Buckman	*Alcantarea extensa*
2nd	Laurie Mountford	*Vriesea* 'Honolulu Beauty'
3rd	Meg Kerr	*Vr.* 'Lime Zinger' unreg.

Judges Choice

1st	Dawn Dennis	*Tillandsia ehlersiana*

Comments from the growers:

Dawn's *Tillandsia ehlersiana* was bought in Kyogle some 10 years ago. It currently grows on a brick wall with other Tillandsias and experiences good air circulation. Receives some direct sunlight, but mostly dappled. It receives no particular attention. Watered when rains. No pests or diseases.
Trish's *Vr. fosteriana* X *Vr. hieroglyphica* is, because of its poor root system, propped up cleverly with rocks. It was acquired from PineGrove as a seedling in November 2010. It is grown under 50% shade cloth, and receives morning and early afternoon sun. Watered when dry twice a week. Fertilised with slow release Osmocote. No pests or diseases.
Coral obtained her *Vr. fosteriana* var. *seideliana* from Marie in 2011. It grows on a table under an awning, and receives afternoon sun. Water once a week. Slow release Osmocote.
Marie's *Guz. sanguinea* came from June as a little green pup sometime in September 2012. It grows under 70% beige shade cloth. Never fertilised. Only rainwater currently. No pests or diseases.
Shane's *Quesnelia* 'Rafael Oliveira' is actually a species of *Quesnelia*, a variegated cultivar of *Ques. marmorata*. The plant was discovered in habitat in Brazil by Rafael Oliveira. This plant was actually champion at the recent Gold Coast show. It grows under 50% sandstone shade cloth in good light. Little water or food.

Carol's *Alcantarea extensa* has been with her for a couple of years. It grew under the eaves in very strong light, but no direct sun. For the last few weeks it has been growing in direct sun, and it appears to like it. Rainwater. Occasionally fertilised.
Laurie has owned his *Vr*. 'Honolulu Beauty' since December 2009. He is not sure where it came from. It is one spectacular hybrid. It grows in a bush house with 50% biscuit shade cloth. A mostly shady environment. This plant was shown some 18 months ago, but now looks fantastic compared to then. Keep doing whatever it is you are doing Laurie. Rain only. Some fertiliser. No pests or diseases.
Meg's *Vr*. 'Lime Zinger' (unreg) is a lovely hybrid from Innisfail North Queensland, acquired in September last year. Currently grown in a shade house with a 70% shade cloth roof and 50% shade cloth on the side. Facing the south-west. Rain only. Some slow-release fertiliser. No pests or diseases.

WHAT IS A SOCIETY PRESIDENT

If he is pleasant – he is too familiar
If he is sober-faced – he is a sourpuss
If he is young – he doesn't know anything
If he is old – he is an old stiff
If he goes to church – he is a hypocrite
If he doesn't - he is a heathen
If he drinks - he is an old soak
If he doesn't - he is a tightwad
If he talks to everybody - he is a gossip
If he doesn't - he is stuck up
If he insists that the rules be kept - he is too particular
If he doesn't - he is careless
If he sneaks around - he is snooping
If he doesn't - he is unobservant
If he tries to settle all the complaints, he must have the wisdom of Solomon
If he worries about them, he will soon go crazy
He should have the patience of Job
The cunning of a fox
The skin of a rhinoceros
The courage of a lion
Be blind as a bat
Silent as the Sphinx