

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

Edition: August 2020

Agenda: General Discussion

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

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 17th September 2020 at 11 a.m.

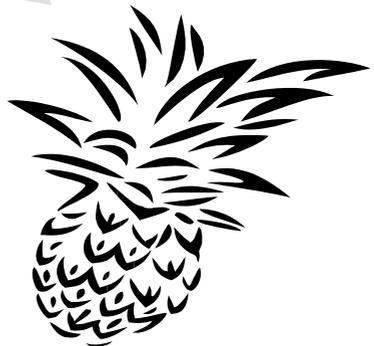
**To be advised**

## **Editorial Team:**

Ross Little  
Helen Clewett  
Drew Maywald  
Michelle Hartwell

[pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com](mailto:pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com)

Life Member: Gary McAteer



Statements and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Group.  
Articles appearing in this News Letter may be used in other Publications provided that the source is credited.

## Meeting 16th July 2020

There was no meeting in July due to corona virus Covid-19.  
Take care, stay safe and well everybody in these dire times.

Another month's gone by without a meeting because of Covid-19. Due to border closures our August meeting is also doubtful as several of our members are from across the border in Queensland. The time it would take to get back across the border for those affected makes it a difficult decision to attend. With the continued instability in our area our best hope is a go ahead when the weather warms up in September. Even if border restrictions are still in place a smaller local group will be able to attend, following all distancing and sanitising guide lines.....

I have received a few short articles and photos from a couple of our members of what they have been up to during the covid break, however I would like to see more.

Drew hasn't been idle during this covid break, he has been very busy working on our FNCBSG NSW Newsletter index. In this issue of our Newsletter starting on page 14 is an article by Drew explaining how to navigate the INDEX. He has also spent many hours indexing the Journals/Newsletters of the Australian Bromeliad Society, Illawarra Bromeliad Society and the Queensland Bromeliad Society. All these Journals/Newsletters are now easily accessed via a LINK on the Bromeliads in Australia web site: <http://bromeliad.org.au/>

Helen has also been busy searching for articles of interest and another PUZZLE for your entertainment. The cheat sheet, oops I mean the answers are on p.5.

Hopefully we'll all get through these troublesome times and meet again soon.

### Web Links for Checking Correct Identification and Spelling

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR): <http://registry.bsi.org/>  
Refer to this site 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 (BinA): <http://bromeliad.org.au/>  
Refer to this site for its Photo Index, Club Newsletters, Detective Derek Articles.

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

1 	2 MAN — BOARD	3 STAND — 1	4 READING
5 WEAR — LONG	6 R O ROADS D S	7  T O W N	8 CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE
9 LE / VEL	10 O M.D Ph.D B.S.	11 KNEE — LIGHTS	12 iiii — OO
13 CHAIR	14 DICE DICE	15 T O U C H 	16 GROUND — FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET
17 MIND — MATTER	18 HE'S / HIMSELF	19 ECNALG 	20 DEATH / LIFE
21 G.I. — CCC CC C	22 ..... PRO- GRAM 	23  OUSE	24 J YOU U ME S T

## **Aechmea 'Jackson'**

by Drew Maywald

I acquired *Aechmea* 'Jackson' because of its wonderful foliage, which is very dark - black to dark maroon. *Aechmea* 'Jackson' is a Hummel cultivar from the Aerial Gardens, of *Aechmea ramosa* x *chantinii*.

The strappy leaves are long and thin and glossy on both sides. The leaves are 400 mm long and 40 mm wide at their widest point, and are slightly channelled. They have upward facing soft spines less than 0.5 mm long and 6 mm apart.



I put the plant in an area of my garden where it is shaded by palm trees and gets virtually no direct sunlight, and it thrived. After a few months I had a mature pup which I removed and put in a position where it is slightly more exposed to afternoon sunlight. Unfortunately, the leaves of the pup suffered from sun burn, even though it was only exposed to the sun for a short time each day. This pup has now flowered and produced a pup which is shaded from the sun by an Elkhorn, and it has the wonderful foliage which attracted me to the plant in the first place. One pup on the original plant was formed on a stolon about 200 mm long.



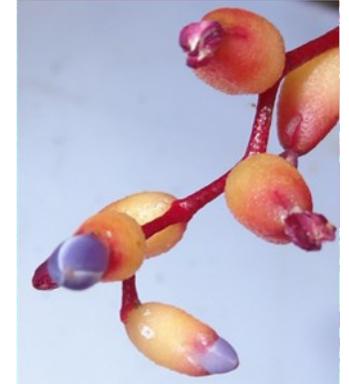
I don't give my Jackson any special care apart from a dose of weak liquid fertiliser made from worm tea and Power Feed, every now and again, and it gets watered once or twice a week.

The pendent inflorescence is a brilliant orangery red colour with contrasting pale blue flowers, giving quite a dramatic effect against the luxuriously glossy leaves. The pale blue petals have a thin white line on their margins.

Interestingly both the BCR and the FCBS, have a plant called *Aechmea* "Bill Barrett" registered which has the same parents as *Ae.* 'Jackson', from the same Hybridiser, Hummel at the Aerial Gardens. The BCR

says "syn. 'Jackson' parents seem in doubt". On both web sites the photos of the two plants are identical, and they both have different registered numbers on each site. Is this the case of identical plants simply registered under different names on different dates, by the Hybridiser Hummel; or simply a loss of memory by Hummel; or something more sinister?? Now that's another story!

Regardless of whether my *Aechmea* 'Jackson' is in fact *Aechmea* 'Bill Barrett', the plant is a prolific producer of pups and I plan to put the next pup that I remove, in a hanging basket under my back patio where it will get a lot of light but no direct sunlight, and I think it will be a feature plant to be admired by all. With its outstanding eggplant-like foliage colour, this is a bromeliad that is worth having in your collection – but please do not put it in a position where it will get direct sunlight, or those elegant leaves will turn a dirty, army-camouflage green!



'syn.' = synonymous

References:

Bromeliad Cultivar Register.

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Data base.

### PUZZLE SOLUTION from page 3.

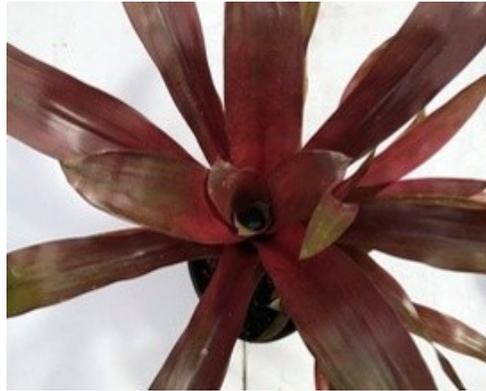
- |    |                           |    |                         |
|----|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | Sand box                  | 13 | High chair              |
| 2  | Man overboard             | 14 | Paradise                |
| 3  | I understand              | 15 | Touchdown               |
| 4  | Reading between the lines | 16 | 6 feet underground      |
| 5  | Long underwear            | 17 | Mind over matter        |
| 6  | Crossroads                | 18 | He's beside himself     |
| 7  | Downtown                  | 19 | Glance backwards        |
| 8  | Tricycle                  | 20 | Life after death        |
| 9  | Split level               | 21 | G.I. overseas           |
| 10 | 3 degrees below 0         | 22 | Space program           |
| 11 | Neon lights               | 23 | See through blouse      |
| 12 | Circles under eyes        | 24 | Just between you and me |

## *Aechmea filicaulis*

by Drew Maywald and John Crawford

*Aechmea filicaulis* is a species that is endemic to Venezuela where it grows in the tropical cloud forests at altitudes of 300 to 4,800 metres. It is a medium sized plant with the leaves forming an open rosette shape.

John has two forms of the plant one with green leaves and one with red leaves.



On both plants, the 300 mm long leaves are soft, glossy and without hairs. The leaves on the green version take on a bronze red tint when grown in full light.

This is a fairly standard looking *Aechmea* until it flowers. The red and green inflorescence hangs down on a fine, threadlike stem up to 1.8 metres long, which gently sways back and forth in the breeze.

The flower bracts are bright red, while the petals are pure white, which, when viewed from a distance, look like butterflies fluttering around, as the inflorescence sways in the breeze.

After flowering it forms blue berries. The inflorescence looks even more spectacular on the red *Ae. filicaulis*. *Aechmea filicaulis* is an epiphyte growing on trees and other supports often around waterfalls.



It was first added to the FCBS data base in 2003, and was discovered in 1894 by Mez. The full technical name of the plant is *Aechmea filicaulis* (Griseb.) Mez.

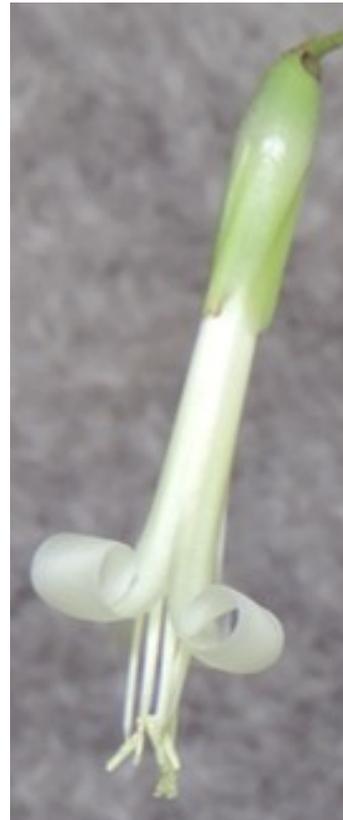
The plant pictured here is from John Crawford's collection where it hangs near the top of his shade house. He applies slow release fertiliser to the plant which must be grown at a sufficient height to allow the pendant inflorescence to hang down to its full 1.8 mts.

*Aechmea filicaulis* is a spectacular plant for your collection and is a species not often seen.

References:

Lloyd Godman, "Catalogue of Bromeliads"  
Backyard Gardener.com.

Photos by Drew Maywald



## Mexico Tillandsia Sweep – part 3: Nizanda

Day six of touring the two southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas in Mexico had us travelling from Huatulco to Tehuantepec - this leg of our tour we were to explore the “Rock Gardens” of Nizanda. On arrival we were told the rocky hill in the distance was our destination so off we trekked in blistering heat along a ‘goat track’. It was an easy walk through dry scrub before we started the hill climb!



In the BSI Journal 1961, Vol.11, No.4 Thomas MacDougall wrote:

“One of my favorite plant habitats is that on a small limestone hill, some five hundred feet above sea level, in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec — a “rock garden” that owes nothing to man!

The succulent and epiphytic flora of this little hill is a sample of that of other areas in southern Mexico, in that it contains undescribed, or poorly known, species. During the past twenty years, these “Rock Gardens” have become the type locality of an orchid, a cactus, an agave, and of an anthurium. In addition, mammillaria, a peniocereus, an agave, an echeveria, and

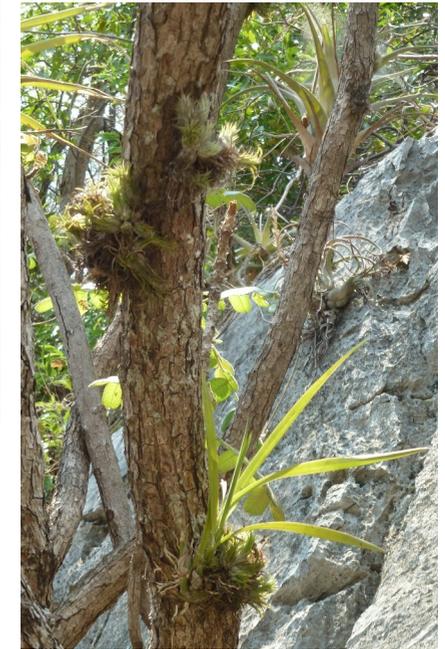


a pilea growing there are probably still undescribed”.

◀ As seen by MacDougall all those years ago and as we saw the “Rock Gardens” of Nizanda in 2018. ▶



At the foot of the hill was a sign of things to come seeing *Tillandsia caput-medusae* clinging to the limestone, *Till. ionantha* clumps wrapped around a tree with orchids, *Till. cucaensis* was also there in abundance, and so we climbed.....



In the BSI Journal 1952, Vol.2, No.1 Ladislaus Cutak wrote in part:

“Nizanda, in Oaxaca, is another plantsman's paradise in Mexico. Bromels, orchids, magueys, aroids and cacti live here in close harmony. Tillandsias are again much in evidence growing both on rocks and trees, some even attaching themselves to the tall torch cacti. The dwarfish

compact *Tillandsia ionantha* cluttered slender branches while *Till. juncea* preferred the fissures of rocks.



*Tillandsia concolor*

A stiffish, gray-leaved Tillandsia caught my eye as a possible new species. It flowered early in 1951 and now I am checking to find out whether it has ever been described. The elliptic flower spike is eight inches long and is composed of red tipped and red margined apple green bracts, from which deep purple pink tubular flowers protrude”.



L. B. Smith, Phytologia 7: 249, pl. 1, figs. 1,2. 1960



*Hectia isthmusiana*



*Tillandsia ionantha*  
very small "Peanut" form (above)

*Tillandsia ionantha*  
*forma fastigiata* (below)



At times it was difficult walking around as the rocky landscape was covered with cacti, agave, Tillandsias and Hectias to such an extent that it was almost impossible not to step on them.

The view from atop this hill was amazing and to think that these wonderful little plants thrive in what seems like a very harsh environment. One can only assume that moisture from the coast must make it to these hills due to the extraordinary number of epiphytes growing in such abundance here.



*Hectia rosea* was an unexpected sight to see in bloom and one could not go to Nizanda and not seek out and find *Tillandsia nizandensis*.

Colour photos and text by Ross Little except where quoted.

## Seed Raising - Step by Step

by Jacob Koning

Seedling tray ready for sowing, I only use 'BRUNNINGS' brand seed raising Cocopeat, DON'T use 'Ritegrow' as it turns to mud. Fill the tray to within 1 cm of the top. Mist the tray over lightly and sow seeds, then very gently dampen seeds down, don't use a strong spray as the force will blow the fluffy seeds out. Once dampened down water well and cover with a sheet of glass and keep in a warmish moderate light area. Once your seedlings touch the glass (hence the 1 cm from the top of the tray for the mix) you can remove the glass.



Seeds germinate in 2 to 3 weeks, often Algae will grow, this can be controlled by spraying with 'Alginox' pool algacide, 10 mL to 1 litre of water, use only on a cool day and don't cover for a day or you could burn tender shoots.

Mother tray, about 12 - 18 months old, at this stage there could be several hundred seedlings and they need thinning out or they will not grow well.



Seedlings in trays that were transplanted out between 60-100 seedlings, same mix as for seed sowing, these get fertiliser every 1 - 2 weeks and now are about 2.5 years old, ready for planting out.

Seedlings selected for transplanting one more time into trays, now I do about 35 - 49 to a tray, a bit of Dynamic Lifter is added to the mix for root growth. They still get liquid fertiliser every 1 - 2 weeks.



These will stay in the trays now for at least 6 months to 12 months longer then go into 125 mm squat pots.

Seedlings in 125 mm squat pots, some in community pots, from here on in they get grown as a normal established plant in a mostly fine bark mix with Dynamic Lifter fertiliser added, about 2 cups full to a 20 litre mix, and grown in very good light.



### Where to Find Bromeliad Groups & Societies Meeting Dates

[www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au) then click "Diary".

Check this site for regular updates of times, dates and addresses of meetings and shows in your area and around the country.

## FNCBSG NSW Newsletter Index

by Drew Maywald 2020

An Index of all copies of the Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group NSW Newsletter is now complete and available to all members. Access to the Index is via the link on the Bromeliad Society of Australia's (BSA) web site. To access the index, go to the BSA web site: <http://bromeliad.org.au/>, scroll down and click on the Bromeletter Index Link: **\*INDEX JOURNALS\***

This will take you to the home page of the Bromeletter index. Put your mouse cursor over the item [FNCBSG Newsletter Index](#) (lower r/h corner) and click on the link that will be displayed. This will take you to the home or Contents page of the FNCBSG Newsletter Index, as illustrated below. Additional Society indexes available will also be displayed.

FNCBSG NSW Newsletter Index Table of Contents	
The Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group (FNCBSG) NSW is proud to be affiliated with The Bromeliad Society of Australia (BSA) inc.	
To Access the Contents: Put your mouse cursor over the Blue Contents you require and click on the link displayed	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span><a href="#">Articles</a></span> <span>#gid=118087986</span> </div>	
Table of Contents	
<a href="#">Articles</a>	<a href="#">Pests, Scale, Diseases &amp; Controls</a>
<a href="#">Aechmea</a>	<a href="#">Fertilising</a>
<a href="#">Billbergia</a>	<a href="#">Watering Bromeliads &amp; Potting Mixes</a>
<a href="#">Neoregelia</a>	
<a href="#">Tillandsia</a>	<a href="#">Glossary of Terms</a>
<a href="#">Vriesea</a>	<a href="#">Bromeliad Names</a>
<a href="#">Other Bromeliads</a>	<a href="#">Botanical Latin</a>
<a href="#">Decorative Entries</a>	
<a href="#">Competition Results</a>	<a href="#">BSA Bromeletter Index</a>
<a href="#">Links to All FNCBSG Newsletters</a>	<a href="#">Illawarra BS Newslink Index</a>
<a href="#">Other Documents</a>	<a href="#">BSQ Bromeliaceae Index</a>

Instructions on how to use the index are contained in each folder in the index. This link is a View Only link, so users will be able to navigate around the index and conduct searches but they will not be able to change any of the details in it. The index consists of a number of folders which can all be accessed by hyperlinks. To go to a folder simply put your mouse cursor over the folder you want to see, e.g. **Articles**, and click on the link which will be displayed e.g:  Articles. This will take you to all the entries contained in that folder.

The folders in the index are summarised in the table below:

Articles	Contains a list of all articles, discussions and descriptions published in the FNCBSG Newsletters.
Aechmea	These folders contain a list of all photographs, articles and plant descriptions related to each plant category published in the FNCBSG Newsletters.
Billbergia	
Neoregelia	
Tillandsia	
Vriesea	
Other Bromeliads	
Decorative Entries	A list of all decorative competition entries.
Competition Results	Contains articles listing all the FNCBSG competition results.
Links to all FNCBSG Newsletters	Contains a link to all available FNCBSG Newsletters.
Documents	Contains links to other documents and publications not published in the FNCBSG Newsletter
Pests, Diseases and Controls	Contains all the articles, photographs etc, related to pests, diseases, pest control and controls for various plant and Bromeliad diseases.
Fertilising	Contains all the articles and photographs related to Fertilising Bromeliads.
Watering Bromeliads and Potting Mixes	Contains all the articles and photographs related to watering Bromeliads as well articles related to Bromeliad potting mixes.
Glossary of Terms	This folder contains more than 2,500 definitions of Bromeliad and plant terms based on Derek Butcher's glossary of terms.
Bromeliad Names	Contains guidelines on how to write Bromeliad names correctly.
Botanical Latin	Contains the meanings of a variety of Latin plants names and Latin abbreviations (this is unfinished and is a work in progress).
BSA Bromeletter Index	This is a link to the Bromeliad Society of Australia's Bromeletter Journal Index.
Illawarra BS Newslink Index	This is a link to the Illawarra Bromeliad Society's Newslink Journal Index.
BSQ Bromeliaceae Journal Index	This is a link to the Bromeliad Society of Queensland's Bromeliaceae Journal Index.

Each folder has been organised alphabetically, and once you are in a folder you can simply scroll down to access the entry you require, or you can conduct a search by pressing <Control F> on your key board. A search box will appear in the top right of the screen. Enter the topic of your search which can be an article or plant name, author, part of a name, or any other detail. Scroll down the folder to see all the results of your search which will be highlighted in green. Click on the **X** on the right of the search box to close it.

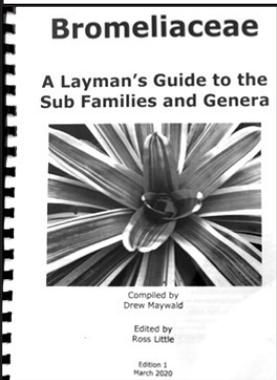
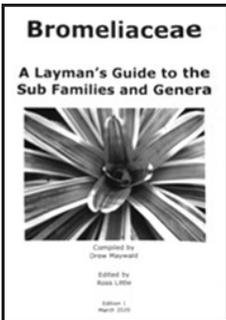
All the folders on articles and plants are set out the same way, and each entry contains a link to the relevant newsletter, so that you can read the article or see the photograph in the relevant FNCBSG Newsletter edition.

Once you have finished with a particular folder return to the home page by using the "Return to Contents" hyperlink. The Articles folder contains an index to all FNCBSG Newsletter articles, descriptions and discussions. Each of the plant folders contains all the information about a specific genera, but also includes a list of photographs and drawings, with links to the relevant FNCBSG Newsletter.

The index also includes quite a large glossary of terms based on Derek Butcher's glossary. To find a term you can simply scroll down to the entry you require, or use the alphabetical hyperlinks on the right of the Glossary folder, or simply conduct a search by pressing <Control F> on your key board.

There are more than 3,700 entries in the index and in excess of 2,500 entries in the glossary of terms. Links to all the FNCBSG Newsletters from 2008 to 2020 are accessible in the index, so members can read any of the past newsletters of their choice. Members can also access more than 820 Bromeliad journals through the FNCBSG Newsletter index.

Should you have any feedback about the index; or ideas on how it can be improved; or if you have editions of the newsletter not contained in the Index, please contact me at [drewmaywald@gmail.com](mailto:drewmaywald@gmail.com)

	<p><b>A4</b> 36 pages, with binding. Cost \$26.00 inc. postage within Australia. \$24 ex postage.</p>		<p><b>A5</b> 36 pages stapled. Cost \$16.00 inc. postage within Australia. \$14 ex postage.</p>
--	---	---	---