



# GLASSHOUSE GOUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 29

February - March 2013

*Happy New Year*



John and Jenny Caitlin were our guest speakers at our first meeting of the year and what a pleasure it was to be able to attend just to listen to the pair passing on some of the knowledge they have acquired from being involved with the propagation of bromeliads for so many years.

John was kind enough to present all the placegetters of the Plant of the Month for 2012 with their gift vouchers whilst Jenny kindly announced the January 2013 Plant of the Month placegetters and took the time to explain to members what genetic differences are involved with each genus of bromeliads



**Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society** would like to thank the State Member for Glasshouse **ANDREW POWELL M.P.** for his assistance in the printing of this publication

# Greetings from the President



Hi Everyone,

Well, what a great meeting we had on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. We were delighted to be joined by 17 guests, mainly from the Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Society. We had a fascinating talk from John and Jenny Caitlin who are a walking encyclopaedia. I hope you enjoyed their talk as much as I did.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Belinda & Geoffrey Tilton, 160 Glenview Rd, Palmview. I do hope that the weather is better for us. I would encourage all of you to bring along a bromeliad that you are growing as it makes you very aware of how you are progressing in this very friendly competition. I look forward to seeing you there.

The management committee have approved a set of guidance notes to help run our Bromeliad Society and these will be emailed or posted to you shortly.

Pat Pennell

## Advanced Plant of the Month Winners for 2012

1<sup>st</sup> – Sheryl Waite 15 points



2<sup>nd</sup> – Len Waite 14 points

### Management Committee Officers

**President:** Pat Pennell **Vice President:** Len Waite. **Secretary:** Keith Pennell. **Treasurer:** Ardie Baker  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bob Watkins

### Committee Members

**Immediate Past President:** Karen Binstead. **Media liaison, P. R. Officer** Bob Watkins & Bob McLean  
**Librarian:** T.B.A **Raffles:** Kaye Notman. **Plant of the Month Organiser:** Margaret McLean.  
**Guest Speaker & Trip Coordinator:** T. B. A. **Catering:** Belinda Tilton. **Plant Steward:** Len Waite

# Advanced Plant of the Month-January



**1<sup>st</sup>** Sheryl Waite's - Neoregelia Velvet Rose



**2<sup>nd</sup>** Sheryl Waite's - Vriesea Megan

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Lou Baker - Guzmania Conifera



# Novice Plant of the Month January



**1st Pat Pennell's - Neo Turmoil**

## Novice Plant of the Month Winners for 2012

1<sup>st</sup> – Tied – Ardie Baker & Pat Pennell -11 points



Ardie and Pat now  
move up to the  
Advanced section



2<sup>nd</sup> – Tied – Bob Watkins & Jeanette Robertson – 10 points



### Growing Bromeliad Plants Indoors

Bromeliads are excellent indoor plants. They have colorful, long-lasting inflorescence and some have brilliantly colored foliage as well. Bromeliads also readily adapt to the unfavorable growing conditions that exist in most homes.

Although many bromeliads are epiphytic, living on branches and trunks of trees or on rocks in their native habitat, most can be grown in containers. Clay and plastic pots are equally satisfactory as containers unless plants are large, in which case the heavier clay pot is more stable. Because plastic pots retain moisture longer than clay pots, plants grown in the former need watering less frequently than those in the latter. Epiphytic bromeliads can also be grown in perforated plastic baskets and clay pots like those used for other epiphytic plants such as orchids.

Because bromeliads rarely have extensive roots, relatively small pots are adequate for most plants. The larger varieties can usually be brought to flowering in 5 to 7-inch pots. Terrestrial plants do not have to be moved into larger pots until their roots completely fill the current container. Move young epiphytes into pots one size larger every spring, however, until the maximum convenient pot size has been reached.

Some epiphytic bromeliads, such as the gray-scaled *Tillandsia*, grow poorly if planted in a conventional potting mixture. They grow best in a medium such as tree-fern bark, cork-oak bark, or on a tree-fern slab, or pieces of wood. To mount a plant on one of these materials, wrap the base of the plant (including roots, if any) in sphagnum moss, and tie the wrapped base to its support by winding plastic-coated wire around the moss and the supporting material. Fasten the ends of the wire firmly but in such a way that it can be easily untied. Hang the mounted specimens in a convenient place. Spray the sphagnum moss and plant with water frequently enough to prevent complete drying of the moss.

After supportive roots grow over the sphagnum moss and around the mount, remove the temporary wire. To keep the plant alive and healthy water the plant, its roots and the supportive materials twice weekly throughout the year. Water can be applied as a spray or the entire mounted plant can be submerged in water for a few minutes. The humidity around plants will influence their need for water. The humidity in a home which is heated during the winter months, or cooled with air-conditioning during the summer months, can be very low and plants may need to be watered more frequently than those grown in a moist environment.

The Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society contributes to Bromeliad Society of Australia web site, [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au) You can visit the Club News tab to view the regular newsletters from around the country. You can also visit the Photo Index, where you can look at the Genera and then go to the Species to view plant photos. You can now do your own research while enjoying the beauty of these plants.

For more information please contact President Pat Pennell: 5438 7375

**To get in touch phone:** Keith Pennell on 54387375 or Bob Watkins on 0418 782 538

# What's On When

Due to unforeseen circumstances and the recent inclement weather, we have unfortunately had to cancel the meeting set down for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Geoff and Belinda Tilton's residence @ 160 Glenview Road Palmview. As the Mary McKillop hall was pre-booked we were left without a suitable venue to hold our monthly meeting. For further information please contact Pat Pennell on 54387375

Our April meeting will be held at the Mary McKillop Centre Beerwah – Kilcoy Road Beerwah on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 pm. Please bring a friend and a cup for afternoon tea.

**AUCKLAND 2013 BROMELIAD CONFERENCE.** Auckland New Zealand. Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> - Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2013. Register your interest now by emailing us at [coolbroms@bsnz.org](mailto:coolbroms@bsnz.org) just type in ' send us cool broms info' and we'll make sure you get all the latest conference news and all the 'early bird ' offers. The 'Cool Broms' bromeliad conference is being organised by the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand Inc. Auckland New Zealand. Conference Convenor: Peter Waters, 22 Half Moon Rise, Half Moon Bay, Auckland 2012, New Zealand.  
Email [waterspj@ihug.co.nz](mailto:waterspj@ihug.co.nz)

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland has a new webpage, it is not quite finished yet, but it's still worth a look before you include it into your favorite list.

<http://bromsqueensland.com.au/>

*Editorial Committee: Bob Watkins. Pat Pennell.*

*Any contributions can be emailed to:- [bobwatkins69@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bobwatkins69@yahoo.com.au)*

**DISCLAIMER:** This bi-monthly newsletter is intended to provide general information only for the members of the Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. The producers and contributors will not be responsible for any loss or damage to property or injury to persons regarding the information provided.



**Potting mix is still available in 25L bags for \$4.00.  
Contact Lou and Ardie Baker on 54948426**



*Contributors to this issue. Pat Pennell. Bob Watkins. Len Waite.*



## Lens Timely Tips

(1) First, we have to make up our minds if we are growing to beautify our gardens, we are collectors, or want to be a commercial grower. Growing for your own garden is by far the easiest path to take. You can pick only the best of the best and let someone else worry about starting from scratch. If you are a collector you may have to gain some extra knowledge to protect your investments. The other option would be commercial. I would prefer not to discuss this option other than say hang on for a bumpy ride.

(2) One of the questions I get asked more times than anything else is, "Where do I put this plant when I get it home?" Without knowing the exact conditions of a strangers property, my advice is generally, if it is a soft plant, Guzmania, Vriesea, Nidularium, etc, as much light as possible without direct sun. As for the rest Aechmeas, Neoregelias, Canistrums, etc, as much sun as possible without burning. Morning sun is much kinder to bromeliads than a west facing aspect.

(3) Another question I am frequently asked is, "How often do I water my plants?" This is a tough question to answer with just a general comment on paper as this depends on the type of plant and the mix used by the grower you purchase from. The time of year also has a lot of influence on the answer. My common answer is to treat your bromeliad as you would any other plant in your garden and when you water, give a complete drink, saturate the plant and then let it almost let it dry out before watering again. Commonsense should prevail.

(4) Pests are not a major problem with bromeliads, with a little care they can easily be controlled. I guess flyspeck scale and soft scale are the biggest dilemma. Everybody tends to use something a little different when it comes to spraying poisons. This is probably best discussed at your study group or meetings. You can help the situation naturally by giving your bromeliads room to get fresh air circulation around them. There are natural remedies available also that are very effective. I am always happy to discuss whatever problems you may have one on one if you need a little more clarity on a subject and if I can't help, I will find you someone who can.

I know I covered these topics at the same time last year but I thought it was most important to revisit them again just to re-enforce how important they really are. What I would hope is that you take the time to read through the points I have made and hopefully gain some benefit from what I have stressed.

I hope you and your bromeliads have fared well in the recent inclement weather. It has certainly been very trying for Sheryl and I as you can well imagine, but given the time and a fair bit of sunshine I'm sure we will be okay.

Happy New Year to everyone and see you at the next meeting

Cheers

Waitey