



GLASSHOUSE GOUNTRY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 30

MARCH - MAY 2013



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



Hello to all members.

I missed last months meeting (painting in the Greek Islands) & returned to find winter here.

Some of my Broms seem to enjoy the cooler months.

As June is here it is getting towards that time of the AGM.I would urge ALL members to consider what they want for this group.

A group or society can only exist if members are willing to give a small amount of their time, & the more members help, it shares the work plus creates the fun.

Time for thinking caps.

Happy Bromeliads
Pat

What's on When

Our June meeting will be held at the Mary Mckillop Centre Beerwah – Kilcoy Road Beerwah on Sunday 2nd June at 2.00 pm. Please bring a friend and a cup for afternoon tea.

The July meeting will be held on Sunday 7th at Len and Sheryl Waite's residence 4 Prudence Court Upper Caboolture at 2.00.pm. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea, your own cup and a chair.

The August meeting will be held at the Mary Mckillop Centre Beerwah – Kilcoy Road Beerwah on Sunday 4th August at 2.00 pm. Please bring a friend and a cup for afternoon tea.

Our guest speaker will be Tegan Murray who will be educating members about the joys of photography

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:** T.B.A. **Plant Steward:** Len Waite

Bromeliad By-lines

Bromeliads are a great drought-tolerant addition to a shady landscape with some protection from frost or freeze. The nearly 2,000 species of bromeliads provide plant lovers with an unbelievable selection of form, color, size and blooming characteristics. Pineapples are a familiar plant in the bromeliad family, native to the American tropics. Did you know that another common member of this family is a native to Florida, U.S.A. Spanish moss?

Some of the most popular bromeliads are Neoregelia, Aechmea and Billbergia, most of which have thorns on the margins of the leaves, and the thornless Guzmania and Vriesea.

-- Neoregelia (Neos) are probably the most popular because of their low-growing habit and wide range of vibrant colors that they flush into during the blooming season followed by the tiny flowers down inside the "cup" at the center of the plant. You can find varieties with names like "Yin," or "Yang," "Mo Peppa Please," "Perfection," "Grace," "Painted Lady," "Moulten Lava," and "Hannibal Lector."

Most of these prefer bright light with a few hours of early or late sun, although some can tolerate more sun than others and a few need to be grown in the full sun.

-- Aechmeas are typically taller than Neoregelia with less-vivid leaves and somewhat vaselike in shape. The inflorescence usually extends well above the foliage, and comes in many forms and colors lasting several months. Many of these plants will tolerate more than six hours of sun, or full sun. Some of these you will probably find are fasciata, "Blue Tango," "Lil Harve," "Shogun," "Bert," and "Rambo."

-- Billbergia are typically a much narrower growing plant, the word "fluted" is often used to describe them, and they usually have a very bright pink bloom, which can be quite beautiful -- but, unfortunately, short-lived. They can also have striking leaf patterns and colors as well as very delicate shapes. Some of the names you may come across are "Hallelujah," "Delicioso," rosea and "Wendii."

--

Guzmania and Vriesea have softer foliage than the previously discussed genera and the bonus of being thornless. Both have a long-lasting showy, colorful inflorescence. Guzmania are mostly "trumpet"-shaped, while Vriesea have a flattened "featherlike" bloom spike. Vriesea are also grown for their stunning foliage. The vast majority of both of these genera grow best in shade.

The Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society contributes to Bromeliad Society of Australia web site, 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

Lens Timely Tips



I know I've put this article into



the newsletter before but I just thought it was a good time of the year to remind you to get some colour in your softer bromeliad foliage like Vrieseas etc by putting them out where they will get the first few hours of the gentle winter sun.

It's also a good time to re-pot mini Neos. Try not to disturb too much of the mix around the root system. Give them a little fertilizer and shift to a slightly larger pot. Then if possible, put them out into lots of early morning sun until Ekka time.

Cheers Waitey



Potting mix is still available in 25L bags for \$4.00. Contact Lou and Ardie Baker on 5494 8426



Editorial Committee: Bob Watkins. Pat Pennell.

Any contributions can be emailed to:- bobwatkins@y7mail.com

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.

Norm Bailey's Broms live on



I recently received a email from Margaret Blair, who was Norm Bailey's partner prior to his untimely passing on the 22nd September 2012. Margaret was kind enough to include a brief update about Norm's life after his wife Bev passed on.

Norm moved from Villa Beach to Limetree Village in Coffs Harbour where he and Margaret developed a partnership which, unfortunately, was shortened by Norm's untimely passing due to cancer.

Margaret was kind enough to include several photos of Norm's bromeliads which she now maintains at her home in an over 50's village in Coffs Harbour. By the looks of the plants Norm can rest in peace knowing they are well cared for Margaret.

Thanks for the update Margaret and please continue to stay in touch

Bob Watkins editor

