



BROMELETTER

***THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.***

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September, November and January.**

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BROMELIAD SOCIETIES AFFILIATED WITH THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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Caboolture & Districts Brom. Society Inc.,

The Secretary, P.O. Box 748, Caboolture Qld. 4510.

Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc.

The Secretary, P.O. Box 28, Cairns. Qld. 4870

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The Secretary, P.O. Box 452, Helensvale Plaza Qld. 4212.

The Hunter Bromeliad Society Inc.,

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Townsville Bromeliad Study Group,

C/- Barb Davies, 5 Sharp St, MT LOUISA. Qld 4814.

NT Bromeliad Society Inc

C/- Ross Hutton, PO Box 36283, Winnellie. NT 0821

Cover: *Sincoraea amoena*
(photo Bromeliario Iperialis
Comp Photots by Terry
Davis & Meryl Thomas

Life Members:

Grace Goode O.A.M
Eugene Morris
Ruby Ryde
Bill Morris
Ron Farrugia
Graham McFarlane
Ian Hook

OFFICE BEARERS

Book Sales & Librarian	Ian Hook
Member Secretary & Purchasing Officer	Kerry McNicol
Catering	Helga Nitschke; Lydia Hope
Raffle Sales	Peter Fitzgerald
Pots, Labels etc Sales	Ron Farrugia
Plant of the Month / Show Registrar	Terence Davis
Show Co-ordinator/s	Ian Hook / Terence Davis
Show Display	Joy Clark
Publicity Officer	Di Tulloch

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details

Operating Account to October 31, 2017:

Opening cash at bank	\$ 29 363.21
Income:	763.35
Expenses	1 258.97
Bank Statement as at <u>October 31, 2017</u>	<u>\$ 22 8867.59</u>

Operating Account to November 30, 2017:

Opening cash at bank	\$ 22 8867.59
Income:	1 620.80
Expenses	925.40
Closing cash at bank <u>November 30, 2017</u>	<u>\$ 2 9562.99</u>

WEBSITES

Bromeliads in Australia <http://bromeliad.org.au>

Encyc of Bromeliads <http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/>

BSI Cultivar Register <http://registry.bsi.org/>

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies <http://fcbs.org/>

Bromeliario Imperialis <http://imperialia.com.br/>

Facebook users: search for the group 'Planet Bromeliad' & associated 'Planets & Moons' sub-groups for Bromeliad Enthusiasts.



REMINDER



Don't forget a mug

***Annual subscriptions are now due, see details on p 15**

***We will have a meeting in January. All meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of each month, **EXCEPT March** which will be the 3rd Saturday in the George Bell Pavillion Castle Hill Showgrounds. Other changes MAY occur depending on BH council.**

*** BROMELIAD SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA Autumn Show 14th 15th April**

Plant of the Month Competition November 2017

Open

1st
2nd
3rd

Judge's Choice.

Neoregelia 'Forty-Six Winks'
xQuesmea Amanda Too
Tillandsia tectorum

Carolyn Bunnell
Kerry McNicol
Werner Raff

Open

1st
2nd
3rd

Members' Choice

Neoregelia 'Forty-Six Winks'
Tillandsia streptocarpa
Tillandsia streptophylla

Carolyn Bunnell
Carolyn Bunnell
John Cornale



Clockwise from top left:

Neoregelia 'Forty-Six Winks';
xQuesmea 'Amanda Too';
Tillandsia tectorum;
Tillandsia streptophylla; 'Pink & Blue';
'Lump of Wood';
Tillandsia streptocarpa.

Plant of the Month Competition January 2018 cont.**Novice**

- 1st
2nd
3rd

Judge's Choice

Tillandsia caput-medusa
Canistrum triangulare
Neoregelia 'Cheers'

Chris Cheetham
Elizabeth Madriczki
Elizabeth Mudriczki

Novice

- 1st
2nd
3rd

Members' Choice

x*Sincoregelia Gallactic Warrior*
Tillandsia caput-medusa
Vriesea 'Fast Lane'

Warrill Evans
Chris Cheetham
Elizabeth Mudriczki

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

- 1st
2nd
3rd

'Pink & Blue'
'Pineapple Party'
'Lump of Wood'

Carolyn Bunnell
Pauline Blanch
Ian Hook



Clockwise from top left:
Tillandsia caput-medusa;
Canistrum triangulare;
x*Sincoregelia 'Gallactic Warrior'*;
'Pineapple Party';
Vriesea 'Fast Lane'
Neoregelia 'Cheers'



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION OF
OFFICE BEARERS
SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2018
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

That the Annual General Meeting of
The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc. will be held on
Saturday 10th February 2018 at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill
Showgrounds commencing at **12noon**.

At each AGM 'all elected office bearers. . . shall retire and the meeting shall elect members to fill the positions (Rule 25) as set out in rule 17'. *(Rule 17 states that the Management Committee of the Society shall be not less than seven(7) and not more than twelve(12) members (called Office Bearers). The President, Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer and Editor , shall be ex-officio members of the committee).*

Candidates for each position on the committee must be nominated and seconded; such nominations to be signed by each nominator and nominee and to be in the hands of the current Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the AGM. The last date for the receipt of nominations by mail will be:

Friday 19th January 2018

Only members whose subscriptions are fully paid for 2018 will be eligible to nominate /accept nomination and vote. (Rule 32)

Members wishing to stand for positions on the Executive Committee and other offices within the Society, should obtain the relevant form from the Secretary. They should ensure that the form is completed appropriately and in the hands of the Secretary not later than Friday 19th January 2018, or Saturday 20th January 2018 if delivered by hand.

AGENDA: Minutes of the previous AGM 2017
President's Annual Report
Treasurers Annual Financial Report
Election of Officers
Matters arising from the above.

General Business will be discussed at the Open Meeting held on the same day, following the conclusion of the AGM.

'Rubra' is it Valid or NOT ?

compiled by Ross Little 2017

Taken from: FNCBSG October 2017

In our September Newsletter we used the term 'rubra' which drew the following response from Derek Butcher. Let us get rid of the term 'rubra' used with *Alcantarea imperialis* or at least try. Nobody has defined this quasi-botanical term by writing a description under the ICN rules as a botanist would do. It is not acceptable under the ICNCP rules for a cultivar either.

The following is what Versieux and Wanderley published in 'Bromelias Gigantes do Brasil', 2015, which is a very definitive book on the genus *Alcantarea*: "There is considerable morphological intraspecific variation in the different populations studied, particularly with regard to the colour of the central rosette leaves and peduncle bracts. In the populations of Macae de Cima, in Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, it is possible to observe individuals totally green growing alongside those totally vinous (Barbara et al. 2007). For gardeners, such variations constitutes important sources of selection of cultivars, which can be totally green plants, completely red-vinous with variations between the lighter shades or dark, or plants with leaves almost completely green, only with the tips vinous and peduncle bracts vinous at the base, passing to green concolor".

Nobody has defined what 'rubra' refers to:

Is it the red leaves or red peduncle/primary bracts or must it have both ? Does a tinge of red in the leaves qualify ?

The use of the word 'rubra' in this context should be banned from Bromeliad Newsletters.



Regrettably some growers will always use the word on their labels even though it has no botanical validity in conjunction with the botanically described, Latinised words *Alcantarea imperialis*.

After some discussion it has been agreed that there is no way a single cultivar name could be used for this ill-defined red form of *Alc. imperialis*. The redness is quite normal however variable the plants may be. Remember the term 'rubra' is only a descriptive trade or nursery name. The use of such terms should be banned. If you must use a descriptor use "red form".

If sellers are serious about their use of the name 'Rubra' they should select their distinctive forms and think of alternative names and register them as Cultivars.

For similar reasons "Purpurea" should be banned too.

Acknowledgements: Peter Franklin, Geoff Lawn and Derek Butcher.

Vale

Wayne Jeffries - 26th October 2017

Sadly, we should inform you of the passing of **Wayne Jeffries**, a long time member of both the BSA from the 1960s, and of the NSW Society. Our more 'mature' members will remember him. Wayne was ill and passed away from cancer. Wayne was, in the past, a frequent, very knowledgeable Bromelletter contributor and also contributed chapters to our 'Growing Bromeliads'. A sad loss for his family and the bromeliad family.

Devastation for the Isley family *and the world-wide bromeliad community.*

We have all probably been following the news reports of the devastating fires in California. A monumental tragedy, indeed, and when it hits close to home it makes it all the more real.

For our new members who may not be very familiar with Paul Isley's work. He began growing and hybridizing bromeliads, and more particularly Tillandsia's in the early 1970's. His nursery, *Rainforest Flora Inc. (RFI)* was the possibly largest grower and distributor of Tillandsias which produced 100% of his own inventory.

Most Tillandsia addicts around the world, will have a few Paul Isley hybrids in their collection. Following, in most part, is the email which Paul sent out notifying his many friends of his tragedy. Thanks to Lyn Hudson who has passed this on. If you would like to help please do so. (To see the extent of RFI before the fires see www.rainforestflora.com/)

Rainforest Flora and the North County San Diego Lilac Blaze

'Folks,

I apologize for doing a group broadcast and I wish I had the time to write to each of you individually but there is just too much going on, not enough time, for me to do that. Just know that all of you are cherished and I wanted to take the opportunity to let you know directly what happened to us this past Thursday, December 7th,

The North County, San Diego, Lilac fire destroyed our operation down there and we just can't believe it. Forty-three years of dedicated effort, gone in an afternoon. Forty-three years of building a dream dedicated to the growth and promotion of the world's most interesting group in ornamental horticulture. Ironically, ours was the only property for a mile around that got hit and it was destruction was pretty thorough. Only about 5% of the inventory came through unscathed. Literally a few million plants were lost and for most it took six to twenty-five years to produce them. And they are gone.. So many irreplaceable and magnificent hybrids and rare species, most of which can't be brought back without spending decades to grow them and, honestly, at my age that can't happen. In addition, we had three employees and their families living there in a couple of houses and they got out with their lives but everything they had went up in flames. They escaped with the cloths they wore. In order to help them, our daughter, Kimberly, has set up a GoFundMe website for donations for the families.

Here is the link: <https://www.gofundme.com/FamilyNurseryandHome>

As for us, that remains to be seen and, again, when I think of all that irreplaceable inventory that took decades to put together, gone, poof, in a few hours of blazing fire and heat, it is just incomprehensible. . . . I still can't believe that this really happened, that it isn't a dream. And ours was the only property for a mile around in any direction that was damaged. How's that for luck! Why us?

When this was happening in real time, my daughter came to me in tears because on the news they were showing film of what was described as, "A large nursery and house going up in flames." For a while we hoped that it wasn't us but that turned out to be wishful thinking. We didn't have any insurance because we never anticipated that something like this could happen. And even if we did have insurance, after having had the property for 28 years and with amortization, we wouldn't have gotten much for the greenhouse or house, etc. and the thought of a raging inferno destroying the inventory was not something that ever entered our minds. . .

I am attaching several photos so you can get a visual and visceral idea of the destruction. The first photo is a front view of the 65,000 sq ft greenhouse, the second photo is next to the west side entrance, the third is of the front of what was a 20,000(sq ft) house that held our Neoregelia potted bromeliads along with thousands of tillandsias and the last photo is a shot of where the 1,500 square foot mobile home was located. There was another two bedroom structure that was razed as well.

Jerry and I and the rest of our RFI team will deal with what happened. It will take time to learn what the answers will be and where we will end up. Please keep us in your prayers in the end, we're all in this together. *Merry Christmas, Paul Ty Isley III'*



Rainforest Flora Inc.

The nursery as it was

Photos courtesy of Peter Tristram



Greg Daus holding 2 giant forms of *T. chapeuensis*



Paul Isley in the Neo house



Sincoregelias and its relationship to Orthophytum

(Compiled by the Editor, thanks to information from, Herb Plever, *Bromeliana* March 2017; Geoff Lawn –DD0217 (Detective, Broms in Australia); Chris Larson; *Bromelio Imperialis*; Andreas Hofacker; Oscar Ribeiro; Rafael Louzada; Jay Thurrott; Michael Andreas; Elton Leme & Derek Butcher for photographs)

The genus *Orthophytum* is saxicolous (growing among rocks), endemic to eastern Brazil and it is found in dry, xeric habitats of the Atlantic Rain Forest, Caatinga desert areas and rocky areas called Campos rupestres. The first *Orthophytum* to be described was *Orthophytum glabrum* in 1820, *Sincoraea amoena*



Orthophytum vagans



and *Cryptanthopsis saxicola* were both described in 1908. In 1955 Lyman B Smith moved both *Sincoraea* and *Cryptanthopsis* into the genus *Orthophytum*. In this genus were two distinct groups, some have an inflorescence that comes up on a long peduncle (stem or scape) like *O. glabrum* (pendunculate) and another group which has inflorescences on a tiny, almost indiscernible peduncle - their blooms are said to be sessile like *O. amoenum*. Within that latter group we can discern that some are long caulescent and have leaves growing around along rhachis or axis, as *O. vagans*, whereas the leaves of other plants with sessile blooms are attached to a very low stem so the plants appear as flat rosettes -

as *O. amoenum*.

These distinct physical (morphological) differences caused taxonomists to sort them into three groups: a pedunculate and within the plants with sessile inflorescences an *Amoenum* group and a *Vagans* group. It now turns out that this morphological assessment is strongly supported by recent molecular DNA research.

Brazilian biologists/taxonomists Rafael Louzada and Maria das Graças L. Wanderley have written a formal botanical description of *Sincoraea* in the latest *Journal (Bromeliana* Vol. 66 No. 1) in which they propose to re-establish *Sincoraea* as a genus with 11 species, that heretofore were in *Orthophytum*. The authors state: “*Sincoraea* was first described with a single rupicolous species (*Sincoraea amoena*), characterized by . . . the total absence of a peduncle rendering sessile inflorescences. Many more new species, having the same features as *S. amoena*, were described under *Orthophytum* in subsequent years. Herein we re-establish the genus *Sincoraea* based on morphological analysis and the monophyly of the clade including all species with sessile inflorescences, and the geographic restriction of this

Sincoregelias and its relationship to *Ortophytum* *cont*

group to the northern portion of the Espinhaço Mountain Range.” That analysis and conclusion makes good sense to me. The uniformly sessile inflorescences and confined biogeographical habitat plus DNA evidence, strongly support the change.

Sincoraea albopictum



Sincoraea amoenum



Sincoraea burle-marxii



Sincoraea hatschbachii



Sincoraea heleniceae



Sincoraea humilis



Sincoregias and its relationship to Ortophytum cont

Sincoraea mucugensis



Bromeliario Imperialis

Sincoraea navioides



Michael Andreas

Sincoraea ophiuroides



Bromeliario Imperialis

Sincoraea rafaellii



Elton Leme

Sincoraea ulei



Rafael Louzada



Rafael Louzada

Meeting Discussions

October

Ian Hook: Brought in an unusual *Aechmea gamosepala*. It flowers exactly like a gamosepala but the leaves are slightly tougher, wider and longer, and the pups are on longer stolons than *Ae. gamosepala*, which are very short almost non-existent. He was wondering if anyone knew what it might be. The editor remembered writing about this plant, but could not remember the name. Ian said if it wasn't anything special, he would dispose of it. I then told him that I had given it to him! OOPS!

The plant is *Aechmea* Big Matchsticks. (Don't know if he still has it.)

Pamela Munro: Brought in 3 softer plants with damaged leaves. They were *Nidularium innocentii* var *innocentii*, *Nid. Innocentii* variegated and possibly *Billbergia pyramidalis*, all with damaged leaves. This damage could be caused by a number of things, low humidity will present as browned tips and lower leaves, brown spots can be 'water' damage when the sun intensifies through droplets and burns the leaf, or simply damage caused by external intrusion by insects, falling leaves, sticks or small branches.

November

Terry Davis brought in some welcome 'prunings' of *T. caerulea* and pups of *T. secunda* to give to members.

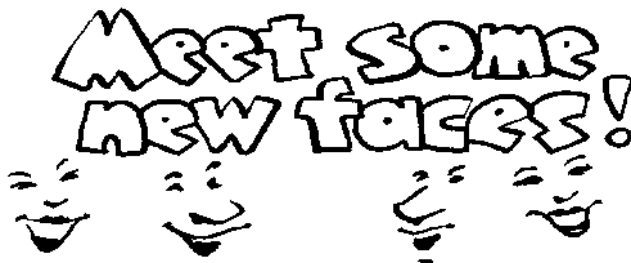
Pamela Munro asked if her plants could be identified, the first of which was a healthy *Vriesea phillipo-coburgii* just beginning to outgrow the telltale dark tips of a young plant. The second plant was thought to be a *Neoregelia meendorffii* with its pink centre or one of its many hybrids. The plant did have quite dark leaves, which indicated it could be put into brighter light.

December

There was a great deal of festivity going on this month, our Christmas 'Bromeldip' (secret Santa), huge plant raffle and of course lots of festive food and conversation. Another successful year over and ready to jump into next year.



Many thanks go to our hard working office-bearers & committee members, many of whom work quietly behind the scenes. Ian who is not only President, but Webmaster, store-man, purchasing officer for incidentals, and whatever else needs doing; Helga & Lydia, keeping us well hydrated & fed; our show team, Terry & Joy; Ron our man on the till & all the other members who can move in at any time, anywhere to help, way too many people to mention. A big part of the success of this year was also the Speaker Schedule, organized by Di, our Publicity Officer. Here's hoping all their tireless work continues to make our meetings all the more interesting. Thanks Alan, Pat, Bob, Carolyn John, Meryl, Peter, Kath, Bryan, Garry, Bob, Everyone!



We continue to attract new members into the Society and would like to welcome our most recent enthusiasts:

Dane Bennett-Hillier and Maeva Piper

If you would like to become a Member, please see details below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Renewal is due **1st January** for membership year January to December.

Annual Membership:

Australia

A\$25

Overseas Membership:

Asia/Pacific Zone

A\$40.

Rest of the World

A\$45.

New Membership requires a \$5 joining fee, plus Annual Subscription. (Those joining after our spring Show are covered for the following year.)

Note: Un-financial members must add \$5 rejoining fee when re-applying for membership.

Members will become 'un-financial' if renewals have not been received by the end of our Autumn Show.

MAIL ORDER PAYMENTS BY MASTERCARD/VISA.

(Subject to A\$10.00 minimum.)

Members using Mastercard or Visa mail order facility should provide the following details, printed clearly in block letters, on a separate sheet of paper:

- Name and address of **MEMBER**.
- **TYPE** of card (Visa, Mastercard)
- **CARDHOLDER** name details, as shown on card.
- Mastercard/Visa **number** and **expiry date**.
- **CARDHOLDER** signature (essential).
- Payment details (membership renewal, book purchase, postage, etc.) with \$A amounts for each item.
- A 3% surcharge for this service will be made.

Plant of the Month Competition December 2017

Open

1st
2nd
3rd

Judge's Choice.

Neoregelia 'Shamrock'
Neoregelia marmorata hybrid
Neoregelia 'Alea'

Kerry McNicol
Carolyn Bunnell
Kerry McNicol

Open

1st
2nd
=2nd
3rd

Members' Choice

Neoregelia marmorata hybrid
Neoregelia Fireball
Cryptanthus Vulcan
Tillandsia straminea

Carolyn Bunnell
Carolyn Bunnell
Ron Farrugia
Ron Farrugia



Clockwise Left to right:
N. Shamrock;
T.straminea
N. marmorata hyb;
N. Fireball ;
Crypt. Vulcan;
N.Alea

Plant of the Month Competition December 2017 cont.**Judge's Choice****Novice**

1st	<i>Tillandsia leonamiana</i>	Elizabeth Mudriczki
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Prinsler'	Elizabeth Mudriczki
3rd	<i>Tillandsia roland-gosselinii</i>	Elizabeth Mudriczki

Members' Choice**Novice**

1st	<i>Tillandsia roland-gosselinii</i>	Elizabeth Mudriczki
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Prinsler'	Elizabeth Mudriczki
3rd	<i>Tillandsia leonamiana</i>	Elizabeth Mudriczki

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st	'Nudie'	Carolyn Bunnell
2nd	'Under the Tree'	Di Tulloch



Clockwise left to right: *Till. leonamiana*; *Neo. Prinsler*; *Till. Roland-grossolinii*; 'Under the Tree', 'Nudie'

LITERATURE for Sale

<http://www.bromeliad.org.au/Contacts/BSALibrarian.htm>

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRICE
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden	Andrew Steens	\$20.00
Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007)	BSI	\$ 6.00
Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias	Margaret Paterson	\$25.00
Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree	John Catlan	\$10.00
Bromeliad Cultivation Notes	Lyn Hudson	\$10.00

Growing Bromeliads— 3rd Ed. by BSA is out of stock.
Reprinting negotiations are under way. *Watch this space!*



SEED BANK

Thanks go to all those who have donated seed.

Seeds cost 50¢ per packet for Members and Seed Bank supporters
(plus postage) or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other enquiries:

Enquiries for seeds should be directed to

Terry Davis

(02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809

Below is the list of **some** of the **most recently** added seed to our Seed Bank. For a full list please go to bromeliad.org.au

<i>Tillandsia variabilis</i>	17/11/17	John Olsen
<i>Neo. ampullacea</i> 'Rubra'	19/11/17	Terry Davis
<i>Neo. smithii</i> 'Oppenheimer'	19/11/17	Terry Davis
<i>Neo. carolinae</i> albo marginated	19/11/17	Terry Davis
<i>Tillandsia lolliaea</i>	24/11/17	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia festucoides</i>	24/11/17	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia juncea</i>	24/11/17	Greg Aizlewood
<i>Tillandsia ionantha</i> (Mexico)	24/11/17	Greg Aizlewood

Seed has been moving quickly, especially the more recent additions.

SO if you have seed to donate please send it in or bring it to our next meeting.

What's ON

14th January - BSA Meeting - Castle Hill Showground Federation Pavilion. Sales from 11.00a.m. Meeting 12noon

*** BROMELIAD SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA Autumn Show 14th 15th April**

Material for Bromeletter - address to: editor@bromeliad.org.au

All other correspondence to: **The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc., P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.**

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