



BROMELETTER

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**Photo Front
Cover
Aechmea ‘Del
Mar’
Grown by Gordon
Blanch and
photographed by
Pauline Blanch
See page 19 for more
information.**

Hello to all members, far and wide,

We had a great meeting this April, with good member attendance, lots of interesting 'Show and Tell' items and many good competition entries. This month's theme was the '**Old varieties of bromeliads**'. These are ones you might find in most Australian gardens and often are the varieties that first caught our interest and then cemented our love of bromeliads. They may be common, but they are still beautiful and worth appreciating. The amount of information covered in the talk cannot be replicated in a Bromeletter, so all the more reason to attend meetings.

This issue has combined a member profile with a travel section looking at a bromeliad garden in Balmain. Next issue we will return to seeing another members private garden.

Remember we now have a 'just for show table' in addition to competition and sales tables—this is for those of us who don't wish to talk about their broms or show them. It's another way we can all learn from each other.

Suggestions for topics for the Bromeletter are always welcome, as are members photos and 'tid bits'.

Larissa (Editor)

Life Members:

Allan Beard
Carolyn Bunnell
Terence Davis
Ron Farrugia
Ian Hook
Graham McFarlane
Bill Morris
David Scott

REMINDER

OUR SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Will be on the 12th June, 10th July and
 14th August, in the Federation building.

In November we will have a bus trip to the
Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens to see the Puya in flower.

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/>



LETS TRAVEL CLOSER TO HOME

Gardens of the Support Unit of the Balmain Unit of Sydney Secondary College

Source: Interview with Bryan Alchin and Laurie Smith. Photos: L.Victoria



When BSA member Bryan Alchin (Photo: next page top left) retired, he was looking for a worthwhile pursuit when a friend, who knew that he and Laurie Smith were keen gardeners, suggested they might help establish some gardens in the Support Unit of the Balmain Unit of Sydney Secondary College. At the Balmain Campus, the Support Unit provides classes for students with physical disabilities or autism. Each class has a specialist teacher and school learning support office.



Bryan and Laurie started with the central garden island (x2 Photos: middle right) where the buses come to drip off the students, then gradually took on the perimeter driveway gardens and then other sections of the campus.



The Campus despite being large only has a staff of 1.5

maintenance persons, so there isn't time for much, if any, garden maintenance.

It's now over 10 years since Bryan and Laurie started this project and they have achieved a lot in this time.

Initially the driveway central island was dust and dirt, with a lanky banksia, a sad grevillea and cacti. Now this is lush and green (Photos: x2 left).

The side driveway gardens had a few trees and strelizias, the rest has been planted by Bryan and Laurie. (Photo: x2 below right)





Walking through a narrow passage (Photos: x3 above) you come to an area where the staff rooms overlook garden beds built up against a tall brick wall with a rocky embankment now covered with lush vegetation.

A *Neo. carolina* is creeping up the rocks forming a great show when the centres colour up. (Photo: right).



Usually they come early on Sunday, as it's easier to water and tidy without buses and people to contend with. To establish the gardens donation of plants came from friends and BSA members, the school supplies fertiliser otherwise it's all up to Bryan and Laurie. Presently it is mostly maintenance work rather than creating new spaces. (Photo: middle left—Laurie pruning).



The school is on a steep block so there are many levels and pockets of gardens everywhere.



In one particular spot Bryan and Laurie were given the brief '**plant something to stop the kids walking through and jumping over the barrier!**'

As we know there are a number of bromeliad species used in South America as livestock fencing, so it was easy to find something tough and very spiky to do the job!

(Photo: top left)

One large shady area can be viewed from the stairwell, this has a large tree fern canopy and a number of alcantareas

growing but is a bit of a chore to get to, in order to maintain. (Photo: top right)



The sensory /herb garden was designed to be at wheelchair height (Photo: middle and bottom left) and is planted with a variety of great smelling plants - oranges, lemonade, kaffir lime and lemon trees are interspersed with herbs. An unusual one is the 'mother of herbs'. (Photo: bottom right)



Guzmania hollinensis

Source: FNCBS April 2020 by Ross Little Photos: fcbs; R.B Foster.

This very tall guzmania in its natural locality is found abundantly near streams and flooded areas where it grows both terrestrially and as a low epiphyte. Plants within a single population may have uniform coloured green leaves or some, usually a minority, may have striking bronzy red foliage. Sun exposure is not a factor as red plants may be lightly or very densely shaded. Usually the foliage is a shiny deep green with prominent ridges running the length of the leaf. The inflorescence (flower stalk) can grow up to 9', and is greenish grey with a grey-purple flower that emerges close to the stalk.

The general aspect of the plant resembles a large, coarse grass or sedge, especially when growing terrestrially in swampy areas. Except for its impressive size, this plant has no qualities recommending it as a horticultural plant. Due to the reduction of its habit *G. hollinensis* has been placed on the Red List of threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is also rare in cultivation.

Pronounced:
oy-yeen-en-see



Guzmania hollinensis at Marie Selby Gardens with Aussie for scale! Photo courtesy Marie Selby Gdn's
Photo by Bub Wandis



Plant of the Month Competition April

Open Judge's Choice

| | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 1st | Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman' (photo no 1) | Elizabeth Mudriczki |
| 2nd | Dyckia delicata x Hechia 'Scorched Sunset' (photo no 2) | Harold Kuan |
| 3rd | Tillandsia 'Laurie' (photo no 3) | Carolyn Bunnell |

Member's Choice

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| = 1st | Dyckia delicata x Hechia 'Scorched Sunset' (photo no 2) | Harold Kuan |
| | Tillandsia 'Laurie' (photo no 3) | Carolyn Bunnell |
| 2nd | Neoregelia 'Scorcher' (photo on page 12) | Bob Sharpley |
| 3rd | Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman' (photo no 1) | Elizabeth Mudriczki |



Novice Judge's Choice

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st | Neoregelia 'Zeppo' (photo no 5) | Bob Sharpley |
| 2nd | Tillandsia 'Victory' (photo no 6) | Craig Cameron |
| 3rd | Tillandsia 'Scion' (photo no 7) | Craig Cameron |

Novice Member's Choice

| | | |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1st | Neoregelia 'Zeppo' (photo no 5) | Bob Sharpley |
| = 2nd | Neoregelia 'Groucho' (photo page 12) Neoregelia 'Royal Burgandy' (photo no 8) | Bob Sharpley Gordon Blanch |
| = 3rd | Dyckia maracasensis (photo no 9) | Ian Hook |
| = 3rd | Tillandsia 'Victory' (photo no 6) | Craig Cameron |

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

| | | |
|-------|--|------------------------|
| 1st | 'The Fanfare' (photo no 10) | Janet Kuan |
| 2nd | 'Easter Bunny Did Come' (photo no 11) | Larissa Victoria |
| = 3rd | 'xNeostropsis B-Fire' (photo no 12) 'Bouquet' (photo no 13) | Ian Hook Anna Ernst |



SHOW and TELL



Above left: *Nidularium angustifolium* Above right: *Nidularium viridipetalum*

Two very similar looking but different nidulariums, shown by **Kerry McNicol**. This demonstrated the need to look carefully at all parts of the plant in order not to make hasty judgements on the identification of bromeliads.

Kerry's *Nid. viridipetalum* came from John and Jenny Catlan and has inner wine coloured central primary bracts.

Nidularium viridipetalum: from the Latin viridis(=green) and petalum (=petal)

DISTRIBUTION: endemic to Angra Dos Reis and Parati (Brazil) where it grows on rocks or as an epiphyte in the Atlantic slope forest understory from 100m to 400m altitude

LEAVES: 16 to 20 ; suberect-acuate, forming open, funnellform rosette.

SHEATHS: elliptic 5-6.5cm mainly light grey, inner ones dark wine

INFLORESCENCE: 16cm in diameter slightly elevated above leaf rosette

PRIMARY BRACTS: base broadly ovate, triangular, apex subacute to acute 13-14 cm long. Dark wine toward base, centrally green, red toward apex

SPINES: 0.5mm long

PETALS: 34mm long, ovate, green toward apex, becoming cream after anthesis (floral maturity).

Knowing different parts of a bromeliad will help you with identification.

In issue 2:2020 the bromeliad structure called bracts was explained. You can find all our past Bromeletters on our website: Go to <http://www.bromeliad.org.au/> click left side box 'Club News' then click "Australia (BSA)", then scroll down to find past newsletters.

SHOW and TELL

Here is what **Ray Henderson** had to tell us about his 3 Peter Tristram hybrids. **Neo. 'Bahia Opal'** (Photo: top left) - Ray purchased the original one from P. Tristram (\$300), the one shown at the meeting is a 3rd or 4th



generation one and according to Ray they just get better and better with each generation.

Neo. 'Hacksaw' x 'Pabst' (Photo: right)- the pups have the toughness of Pabst and the beauty of Hacksaw. Ray feels this is one of the best neoregelias.



Neo. 'Firecracker Silver' x

'Tiger' (Skotak) (Photo: middle left) - another beauty.

Allan Beard, one of our life members bought in a ***Aechmea macrochlamys***, (Photo: middle and bottom right)- the spike of which was large (40 –50 cm) and



Perlite is made from volcanic rock, which is heated and crushed, therefore it doesn't deteriorate like bark chip.

quite heavy and was grown in full sun. Often this one is mislabelled and sold as a *Portea*. Alan had taken the spike off the this one to bring in. Then Alan showed how the roots in his pot of **Neo.**

'Walking Tall' grew around the perlite in the pot. Allan suggests if your broms are **doing well**, in the potting mix you use, **don't change anything**. However if they are doing poorly or drainage is a problem (crown rot) try use some perlite in your mix. Sometimes



dipping the roots in water then perlite helps the perlite to stick around the roots

better. Allan buys his perlite in bulk from ACE landscaping in McGraths Hill, others suggested ANL and Bunnings. All agreed bulk bags were more economical. Another hint from Allan was to encourage the curling of the leaves on his ***Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'** by carefully curling young leaves and keeping in place for several weeks using a paper clip.



On our newly introduced **'just for show table'**, is set up for those that just want to



show a brom they love, but don't necessarily wish to talk about it or enter it into competition. **Bob Sharpley** brought in three large colonies of neoregelias for this table. While monthly competitions mainly centre on single plants, bromeliads also look wonderful in a colony and are a spectacular when grown like this.

Bob says he is doing this more and

more, particularly with varieties that send their pups out a bit from the mother. Here are some he has grown in a colony.

Why? - he loves the look and it's a way he economises on space too. (Bob says he is running out of space - unbelievable!)

When the mother dies he finds the pups seem to fill



the empty space. He repots when/if the colony starts to distort the pot and might use that opportunity to slightly change the position of the colony, if it is growing off to one side, to get a better shape.



What constitutes a colony? - all the plants came

from the one original parent/grandparent/great grandparent and remain connected by roots or stolons, without ever being separated. Putting several **single** plants into a pot **'does not'** constitute a colony and in competitions judges will test this! During our BSA Shows there is a separate category for 'growing a colony'. Many bromeliads grow in colonies in the wild - such as billbergia and quesnelia. When you are next bemoaning your lack of space, try growing some of these in a colony.

Top left: *Neo.* 'Amazing Grace' x 'Narelle';
Top right: *Neo.* 'Scorcher';

Bottom left: *Neo.* 'Groucho';
Bottom right: *Neo.* 'Ice White River'

THE COMMON BROMELIADS

Photos: BCR and BSA websites, L.Victoria

The topic for April's meeting was 'the common bromeliads', ones which have been around since the 1960's. This proved to be a large theme which Ian and Kerry covered with their usual wealth of knowledge. Some of the ones we looked at were:

- * ***Aechmeas - recurvata, nudicalis, gamosepala* (matchstick), *caudata, fasciata* (Pink Lady);**
- * ***Billbergia nutans* (Queens Tears), 'Breuteana', *spectabilis, pyramidalis*;**
- * ***Neoregelia carolinae, spectabilis*, 'Fireball'/'Hojo Rojo';**
- * ***Nidularium procerum*;**
- * ***Tillandsia - usneoides, bergeri, scheideana*;**
- * ***Vriesea phillipo-coburgii*.**



Aechmea gamosepala



Our talk started with the *Aechmea* genus and ended with some *Vrieseas* - *Aechmea gamosepala* is commonly known as the matchstick plant, and has pink and blue berry like flowers at the end of horizontal type pink bracts. This *Aechmea* came into Australia around the 1930's and is a prolific pupper, providing a quick ground cover. When grown in a shady spot the leaves become long and strappy, whereas grown in the sun the leaves get smaller. Other varieties of *Aechmea gamosepala* include:-

- ◆ *Aechmea* 'Lucky Stripes' - a variegated variety (Photo: left)
- ◆ *Aechmea gamosepala* var *nivea* - white rather than the blue tip (Photo: left middle)



- ◆ a giant matchstick
- ◆ *Aechmea* 'Gympie Gold' - yellow rather than the blue tips. Gympie Gold was found and brought into Australia by Marjorie McNamara, a Bromeliad society member and an intrepid traveller and collector of broms and seed from the wild in South America. (Photo: right)

Aechmea recurvata (Photo: top right) is the ultimate tough, very prickly, rockery plant and will grow well in rock cracks without much soil. In a pot it will clump up well, until it's virtually spilling out of the pot. After about three generations it needs to be turned out and started again. This aechmea hosts ants, that make their nest in



the bulbous part of the brom, providing nutrients to the brom. Leaves will be long and strappy if grown in poor light, but the colours become better in full sun and can be triggered by a light frost.



Photo above—*Aechmea recurvata* var *benrathii* - orange and purple forms

Aechmea recurvata has many variants and hybrids. The *Aechmea* 'Rock



Photo above—*Aechmea recurvata* var *orgtesii*



Lobster' was registered by Ray Henderson in 2018. (Photos:—left and right). It is a larger, very spiny form of a regular *Aechmea recurvata* var. *recurvata*, growing to 40cm diameter with a wider

inflorescence (7cm across), broader vermilion orange leaves (15cm long) at blooming and a flatter side profile

(shorter floral stem / semi-recessed inflorescence).



Billbergia pyramidalis



Billbergia 'Breuteana'

Look at past issues for information on *Vriesea Phillipo-coburgii* (Issue 1: 2021); *Tillandsia usneoides* (Issue 6: 2020; *Aechmea fasciata* (Issue 3: 2021)

DISAPPEARING ACT

Source: Wikipedia; B.Crew Australian Geographic. Photo: QLD museum, Wikipedia



Have you ever been surprised when a spider disappears into a water filled brom tank, then doesn't come out for what seems like ages, here is why and how!

The Dolomedes genus of spiders (fishing spiders) can submerge themselves underwater for close to one hour. They do this by holding bubbles of air on the hairs of their body. This mechanism also allows them to glide or

skim over the surface of water, which looks like they are running across water.

Their short, velvety hairs are unwettable (hydrophobic). This allows them to use surface tension to stand or run on the water. When they submerge under water, air becomes trapped in the body hairs and forms a thin film over the whole surface of their body and legs, giving them the appearance of fine polished silver. Dolomedes breathe with book lungs beneath their abdomens, which open into the air film, allowing the spiders to breathe while submerged. The trapped air makes them very buoyant and if they do not hold onto a rock or a plant stem they float to the surface where



A book lung is a type of respiration organ used for atmospheric gas exchange that is present in many arachnids, such as scorpions and spiders. The stacks of alternating air pockets and tissue are filled with hemolymph and gives the respiratory organ an appearance of a 'folded' book.



they pop onto the surface film, completely dry.

Fishing spiders can be quite large, some stretching their legs up to 70 mm (a bit larger than the palm of your hand) but their poison is not dangerous to humans unless you are allergic to it.

These spiders generally spend most of their time at the water's edge (freshwater streams, ponds, lakes, swamps) eating small fish, frogs and aquatic animals. They are found all over the world but the biggest fish on record caught by one of these spiders, yes you guessed it.....in a Sydney garden pond a fishing spider caught a gold fish 9 cm long and weighing 10 grams!

WERAUHIA HABERI

Pronounced
wher-ow'he-a

Source: Wikipedia, Journal of Bromeliad of Bromeliad Society Vol 69-2019.



Werauhia haberi is endemic to humid and cloud montane areas of Costa Rica (Tilaran and northern Talamanca mountain ranges), the populations of this species are severely fragmented and known to occur at only 5 locations. This separation and potential habitat reduction due to forest loss impacts its survival. It is considered endangered.

This species was first collected in 1988 by William Haber and then tentatively identified as *Vriesea cf burgeri*, then renamed in 1999 as *Vr. haberi* and soon after transferred to the new genus *Werauhia*. Up to 2015, it was only known from a single flowerless collection, and its floral morphology and basic natural history remained a mystery.

In 2015, small population was found during a study of epiphytic plants being conducted in a montane forest in the Central Valley. Specimens in flower were found and full specimens about to flower were collected and taken to a laboratory where they were grown and anthesis (flowering) time and analysis of its floral structures were undertaken. It was found that in this species anthesis occurs at night (18:00-20:00), the flowers remain open until next morning, fading by midday.

The *Werauhia* genus is named for Werner Rauh, a German botanist (1913–2000).

Based on molecular evidence, a number of species previously classified within other bromeliad genera, especially *Vriesea* and *Tillandsia*, were placed in *Werauhia*.

NB - Flowers lose their characteristic morphology after pressing and drying, reducing their use for plant identification. The nocturnal behaviour and short life span of some flowers prevent collection of fully opened flowers during the day when botanists are in the field. Because of this, floral morphology of some rare and poorly collected species has been scarcely documented and in some cases remains unknown. However knowledge of floral structure is essential for proper placement of species in their taxonomic group and in understanding the reproductive ecology and phylogenetic relationships.



A: Fruiting individual
B: Mature fruits

The floral morphology suggest a nocturnal pollinator, perhaps bats and despite only a single flowers opening per night, it receives a high and effective pollinator



visitation as evidenced by the high fruit set. Fruit development may take more than one year in this species. The floral morphology which helped to place *W. haberi* within the genus *Werauhia* included nocturnal anthesis, lack of brilliant colours, stigma with cupulate-type morphology lacking papillae, dactyloid petal appendages.

C: View of inflorescence from both sides

D:D. Flower (floral bract partially removed). Photos by A. Cascante-Marín

Glossary

Anthesis - the flowering period; the time when the flower is fully open, usually the time of anther maturity when the pollen is ripe.

Morphology - study of the form and structure of organisms and their specific structural features.

Cupulate - cup-like or cup-shaped.

Phylogenetics - from Greek - phylé/phylon = "tribe, clan, race" and genetikós = "origin, source, birth";

- is the study of the history and relationships among/within groups of organisms (eg species or taxa) using observed heritable traits DNA sequences or morphology.

Papillae - a conical protuberance like a minute hair.

Dactyloid - finger like in form or arrangement.

UPDATE ON WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE

The WBC has now been officially rescheduled. There is no longer a World Bromeliad Conference in June of 2021. it has now been rescheduled for June 8-12, 2022.

We
would
like to

welcome our most recent bromeliad
enthusiast:

Karen Czarneki!



IN THE WILD

We can all relate to the joy we have when we find a bromeliad we don't have in our collection, so imagine the joy of finding a new species in the wild. Here are two relatively recent finds in Ecuador and Columbia.

Racinaea neilli

Source: *Journal of Bromeliad Society*, Vol 69 (4) - New Species from Ecuador - J. Manzanares



In the province of Zamora Chinchipe, Ecuador the remote sandstone plateau of Cerro Machinaza is a sparsely vegetated, bare sandstone or quartzite bedrock area with nutrient - poor sandy soil. (photo left)



This area has phytogeographical links to the sandstone 'tepui' of the Guiana Shield.

This newly found species has adapted to its harsh landscape that has strong radiation, little water, a poor soil with leaf sheaths forming a basal pseudo-bulb, shorter inflorescence compared to other racinaea (5-7 v 28-50 cm), shorter spikes (1-1.5 v 4-6) and fewer flowers (3-6 v 7-10).

Discovered in 2005, at 2400m elevation, during field work conducted by Dr David Neill (1953-), a professor of botany and conservation biology in Ecuador and named after him.

The leaf blades form an amphora to decrease water evaporation and to capture it in the leaf sheaths. They grow terrestrially on top of the summit of Cerro Machinza, covering a large area but as isolated plants and propagating by one shoot at a time.



Aechmea nallyi

Source: *Journal of Bromeliad Society*, Vol 69 (4) - First record of *Aechmea nallyi* L.B.Smith by A. Villalobos and J. Ardila

Columbia ranks 4th fourth in bromeliad diversity (693 species) amongst the countries of the Americas, with Brazil having 1734 species, Ecuador 733 species, Peru 738 species. In 1977 a national law was passed in Columbia for the protection of certain classes of plants growing in areas where natural habitats remain.

As a consequence companies planning projects with impact on the natural environment must carry out 2 studies in such areas to:



1. Find all protected flora species in the area undergoing development and its surrounding neighbourhood.

2. Identify the plants in the specific area where the habitat will be destroyed/disturbed during construction, including how they can be moved and managed to preserve the species in the wild.

During such a study (2018-2019), at a site of a future oil development, specimens of the *Aechmea nallyi* L.B.Smith were

found, whereas previously this species had only been reported in Peru.

This species was found growing in lower trunks and branches on host trees, but not seen in the top canopy, as this was the only part of the host tree (photophore) capable of holding the weight of this large aechmea. Its large rosettes constantly filled with water by the frequent rains in this zone of the Amazonian forest in Columbia. No samples were found growing on rocks or terrestrially in organic soil.



Aechmea 'Del Mar'

From front cover - Grown by Gordon Blanch Photo: Pauline Blanch

Source: BCR; bromeliad.com; bullisbrom.com.

Exact parentage uncertain, probably seed parent *dichlamydea*.

Cultivar grown and shown at World Bromeliad Conference in 2002, by Bullis Nursery, Florida and arrived in Australia via Olive Trevor.



This cultivar is similar to the *Aechmea* 'Blue Tango', but smaller and the bloom has a different flower structure. The inflorescence is hot pink rising in the above the foliage, with vivid cobalt blue and hot pink berry shaped bracts and can last up to a year. This cultivar has bright light green leaves that are broad and leathery edged with small, very sharp spines. This cultivar grows to about a foot high and thrives in light shade.

A patented plant. United States Plant Patent USPP13,421P2

Asexual Propagation Strictly Prohibited



**More broms from Gordon Blanch (photo Pauline Blanch)
Photo top left - *Wallisia cyanea*: top right *Neo. 'Gunpowder'***

THIS MONTH'S HINTS

PREPARE FOR THE FROSTS

Source: A. Boon-Bromeliad Newsletter July 1991.

As we head into the colder months, depending on your location, you may now have to contend with frosts. So is time to get creative. Makeshift tents can be made from hessian or old cloth sheets tied to/draped over wire makes a good cover to protect broms if frost are expected.

REPOTTING

Source: 'Bromeliad Cultivation Notes' by L. Hudson. Photo: dreamstime.



When you pot up or repot a bromeliad it grows roots which are white and fluffy, the rest are old and don't provide stability or feed the plant, so can be cut off. As you may have noticed when reading the member sections there is not one potting mix that suits every grower. Each member who has success growing bromeliads has worked out their own mix which is best in their

environment. To make matters trickier some genus/species like something different. The main criteria is to have a mix that drains well and has a bit of acid. Pine tree products are acidic, which is why pine bark, crushed pine cones and pine needles are used in bromeliad potting mixes.

REPURPOSE - RECYCLE IDEA

Source: Bromeliaceae Vol LIV 2020.



Pots left standing on soil can attract worms which can speed up the breakdown of your potting mix, or may build mud castles that block drainage holes.

Here is a good use for left over or old shade cloth.

Cut a circle of old shade cloth and place in the bottom of the pot, as a barrier to worms entering. When you find worms repot and throw dirt into compost heap where they can do their job. Then line the bottom of your pot with old shade cloth, which will act as a barrier to worms.

HINTS FOR BILBERGIA AND GUZMANIA

Source: Bromeliads - A Cultural Manual, BSI 2007.

Bilbergias look great hung up high in pots or attached to high tree branches as the light shining through the leaves is particularly beautiful. These are prolific puppers and will make a good clump even in a small pot, so consider leaving them to clump.

(Photo: middle right - *Bilbergia* 'Beaut Ruby', K. Jacobsson)



Guzmanias are found growing in montane tropical forests in wetter, cooler, shadier habitats than most other bromeliads, so they can adapt to darker growing conditions than most other bromeliads. For this reason they will grow well indoors, even in darker spots.

Intolerant of hard, alkaline or salty water, so flush central tank with rain or distilled water frequently to prevent build up of salts.

A bromeliad that absorbs water rapidly, so it's best to keep leaf axils filled with water.

Benefit from a more regular feeding regime than most other bromeliads. Some species and cultivars of guzmania are sensitive to phosphorus, so use fertilisers with reduced phosphorus. (ie 20-10-20 or 20-10-30)

(Photo: bottom left - *Guzmania conifera* Terry Davis)



If you have seed to donate please contact Terry .

Below is the list of seeds in our Seed Bank.

| | | |
|---|----------|--------------|
| <i>Neoregelia kautskii</i> | 5.10.19 | Terry Davis |
| <i>Al. imperialis rubra</i> | 15.10.19 | Terry Davis |
| <i>Pseudalcantarea viridiflora</i> (red under leaf) | 23.10.19 | Terry Davis |
| <i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> | 28.5.20 | Steve Molnar |
| <i>Tillandsia setacea</i> | 22.5.20 | Steve Molnar |

Seeds cost 50¢ per packet (plus postage) for Members and Seed Bank supporters
or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other enquiries:
Contact Terry Davis (02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809
For a full list please go to bromeliad.org.au

April report from our treasurer Maureen Johns

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Opening Balance at Bank | 1.04.2021 | \$18798.25 |
| Add Income | | \$ 869.73 |
| Less Expenses | | \$1359.88 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Closing balance | 30.4.2021 | \$18,308.10 |

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| Annual Membership (Single/Family): | 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.

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.)

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 BACK! | | \$20.00 (member price) |

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