

Bromeliad Newsletter

April Meeting

MINI SHOW RESULTS

ADVANCED :

Class 1-2-3 No entries

Class 4: 1st. Dorothy Cutcliffe *Tillandsia exserta* x *chiapensis*

2nd. Peter Paroz *Vriesea Mariae*

INTERMEDIATE

Class 1 : 1st. Mal & Michelle Cameron *Hohenbergia Correia-Araujo*

2nd. Mal & Michelle Cameron *Wittrockia leopardium*

Class 2- 3- 4 No entries

NOVICE

Class 1 : 1st. David Vine *Nidularium schermetiewii*

2nd. David Vine *Acanthostachys strobilacea*

Class 3 : 1st. David Vine *Pitcairnia* sp.



Beginners Class THURSDAY 21st. April 2011

A big thank you to Norma Poole for her note taking at the beginner's class given by Greg and Narelle Aizlewood. They had bought along some very interesting pieces of mallee wood which had been collected on a property near Dubbo in N.S.W. They demonstrated how some types of bromeliads really lend themselves to being mounted as an alternative to the usual planting in a mix. Some species to try were Tilland-

sia, Orthophytum, Neoregelia, Nidularium, Canistrum, Billerbergia and Vriesea. Plants that are stoloniferous were very suitable. Dyckias and other terrestrials are not suited. Some other mounts are suitable such as volcanic rock, cork, grape vine, coral, citrus, mangrove roots, frangipani, but tiles are not suitable. Even flimsy pieces will do as long as they are clean. A pressure cleaner will do the job. However, it was pointed out that the removal of material from beaches is not allowed. If there are signs of termites, exposure to sunlight will soon get rid of them. When attaching, make sure that the plant is secure. When attaching clear seal co-polymer sealant, waterproof glue, liquid nails, nylon stocking and cable ties were some of the suggestions. Sometimes the glue can be disguised with sphagnum moss. On some, they had drilled a hole through the timber at an angle and secured the stolon this way. If the plant is not secured thoroughly, it may die. After a short space of time new roots should be sent out. Ensure that the stolon is not put in a depression as water may build up and is likely to cause rot, good drainage is essential. Foliar fertilizing regularly was recommended. When attaching the plant try to imagine how it will look when fully grown so as to get the best possible placement. Also, it is important that the timber will outlast the life of the plant. Aechmea Bert and Neo fireball were a couple of these recommended to try. Something to be aware of is that some glues break down over time. Narelle and Greg bought along a very large specimen of Aechmea orlandiana which was quite spectacular.

Narelle spoke about the Darwin Conference attended by our members. The conference was organised by approx. 35 Darwin members, the food was great, venue very nice (which all conferences are) like a big friendly family reunion. The next conference will be in New Zealand in 2013 so think about coming along to these great events. You will be surprised. They have already booked four international speakers for the conference. Malcolm Cameron also commented on the Darwin Conference, saying that it was very good, well run, they had good speakers- the social life ,entertaining and of course the food YUMMY. Malcolm did say the fishing wasn't too hot as heavy rain caused flooding. At Kakadu the water was up to their knees and the tour bus had to wait at The Bush Hut for the all terrain vehicles to arrive and collect everyone, so their 12 hour day tour ended up being over 16 hours. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Back to our meeting, we were given a digital report via the computer, touring around Chester and Dorothy Cutcliffe's garden in 2005 titled " Our little Paradise". RUTH KIMBER.

Samples of the Bromeliads bought in by Greg and Narelle



LUCKY DOORS DAVID VINE PETER PAROZ

RAFFLE WINNERS-----JOHN OLSEN MATT O'BRIEN SELGA
BOOTHY ROLAND ANTHONY DAVID VINE MARK SMITH[2]
MAXIM WILSON RIC CAIRNS NARELLE AIZLEWOOD.

Any members wishing to contribute to our newsletter and who would like to have a story or photo or any queries you may like an answer to/for, please contact Bev 32087417 Ruth 32080546 [after 4p.m.]

OR send email to : gardennut@live.com.au

If you have any seed to share with members please bring to next meeting or contact PETER BALL 3205 2218

Bromeliad Oddities

Bromeliads are the only plants where flowering can be induced by chemical treatment. The first report was the effect of smoky grass fires on pineapples. Locally in spring with the burn off of fuel for bush fire control, smoky grass fires have caused occasional premature flowering in my ornamental bromeliads. The active agent is minute traces of ethylene in the smoke.

Most bromeliads have terminal flower spikes but a few plants such as *QUESNELIA lateralis*, *TILLANDSIA complanata* and some *DYCKIAS* and *HECTIAS* flower laterally.

All bromeliads produce seed and most are perennial by way of producing offsets. However, a few bromeliads such as *Puya raimondii* and *Tillandsia utriculate* are monocarpic; flowering once with no offsets. Such plants produce copious flowers that are self fertile and seed very freely.

At maturity, the fruit of *Ronnbergia exulans* [Bromelioideae], spontaneously explodes and squirts the mature seeds away from the mother plant.

Tillandsia bryoides is reputedly the smallest bromeliad and can flower from a plant only 15mm long and 5mm in diameter. The name derives from its similarity to some mosses.

Puya raimondii is at the other end of the scale. Imagine a bare trunk 300mm in diameter, 3.5metre tall topped with a one metre umbrella of very spiny leaves two metre long; and topped again with a 2.2.5 meter flower spike with 10,000 + flowers. Locally (Andes in Sth. America) this *Puya* is referred to as the 'century plant' reputedly taking 150 yrs. to flower. There is a reliable report of a plant in a U.S. Botanic garden flowering in about 70 years.

Within the Bromeliaceae, *Pitcairnia macrochlamys* is the most prolific nectar producer with over 160mg. Per blossom.

The pineapple [*Ananas comosus* smooth cayenne] develops interfoliar roots in the lower whorls of the leaves. These roots have copious root hairs and readily absorb any moisture from dew enabling the plant to survive in dry climates. These root hairs also readily absorb nutrients and foliar fertilising is common in commercial pineapple plantations.

PETER PAROZ

Plant Of The Month



NEOREGELIA MAYA ?

COMPETITION RESULTS AUTUMN SHOW 2011

SPECIAL AWARDS

NEZ MISSO MEMORIAL TROPHY

-Best Tillandsioideae.....Tillandsia Silver Queen—Greg and Narelle Aizlewood

HUDSON TROPHY

Best Bromeliadeae.....Neoregelia Zoe——Barry and Ann Kable

GRACE GOODE TROPHY

Best Cryptanthus.....Cryptanthus Ann Collings—Len and Olive Trevor

BEST PITCAIRNIOIDEAE

Pitcairnia sp.Barry and Ann Kable

RESERVE CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF SHOW

Neoregelia Zoe.....Barry and Ann Kable

CHAMPION BROMELIAD OF SHOW

Tillandsia Silver Queen.....Greg and Narelle Aizlewood

TOM SCHOFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD [PRESIDENT'S AWARD]

Bruce Dunstan.....Vriesea Smudge Grub

Robert and Mellisa Dilling.....Vriesea forrest [highly commended]

Greg and Narelle Aizlewood.....Cryptanthus Black mood [Highly commended]

Cheryl BasicVriesea Snows of Mauna Kea F2 [Highly commended]