

Bromeliad Newsletter

Results popular vote November:

Advanced:

First: Len & Olive Trevor—Neo (Carolinae X Johannis X Bobby Hall X Carcharadon Silver)

2nd: Len & Olive Trevor—Neo (Jeffery Block)

Intermediate:

Equal First: Barry Kable- Aechmea (Mariae Reginae)

Mal & Michelle Cameron- Neo (Carolinae X Hannibal Lector)

Novice:

1st: Maxim Wilson—Neophytum (Galactic Warrior)

2nd: Maxim Wilson- Neo (Red Macaw)



November 2010

BEGINNERS CLASS THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2010

Guest speaker was Greg Aizlewood who spoke on Cryptanthus. Greg said that this genus has been swept into the background. Originally Grace Goode started over 20 years ago in Australia and over the last 10 years Bob Paulsen became one of the better growers. Greg is hoping to regenerate interest and possibly workshops similar to the Tillandsia ones might encourage people.

These plants mainly originate in Brazil, South America, are terrestrial (some growing on rocks). There are two types - those growing in arid regions have tougher more succulent leaves and those found in more moist areas of tropical rainforest growing in company with Neoregelias have softer leaves.

Growing - Greg says that how you grow them depends on how you will water them. eg. If you are not going to be watering frequently use sphagnum moss. He uses a good quality potting mix to which he adds some peat moss to stop drying out - 2 handfuls of peat moss to a 2 gallon bucket of potting mix. To moisten the peat moss it is best to use hot water to speed up the wetting process. It is essential to always check the Ph - close to neutral ideal so that all the elements will be available to the plant. The potting mix is neutral when bought but will be slightly acid after adding the peat. Add gypsum to neutralise and perlite can be added as well.

Greg advised not to water overhead but to water from below, best to sit the plant in a shallow saucer of water. He brought in a drowned plant to show that had been in a saucer that was too large and the roots were black. Mealy bug is a pest to watch out for.

The pups fall off when ready. Greg showed a trick shown to him in America on how to anchor the pup in a pot as quite often a wind will blow them right out of the pot. Firstly, get a stick about the size of a matchstick, wind some plastic tie wire around this, leave a short length of wire, then wind the other end around the base of the plant. Bury the stick and wire in mix and pup is safely anchored in pot. This method could also be applied to other difficult pups.

When preparing pups for planting, remove the lower leaves around the base, dip in rooting hormone or pure honey (which has antibacterial properties). After filling with mix, do not pack down but rather let settle naturally. Top up at a later date.

Feeding - They are hungry feeders. Osmocote is good, worm juice is magic but must be diluted with water. The roots spread and some people are growing in bonsai pots. Hanging baskets are also a good idea. Organic extra will not burn the plant. The succulent types will take full morning sun, the other type should be grown in bright light.

In Winter, cover to keep warm. They will tolerate air conditioning more than other bromeliads.

Once again we had a wonderful meeting on 18th.November. BRUCE DUNSTAN spoke about and showed slides of his recent trip to Panama. My notes cannot compare to viewing his slides for the colour and size of the inflorescences. Some of these plants have only been seen in the wild by approx.10 people and Bruce is the first Aussie, what a privilege. We were shown a map of the forest coastline that still has vast areas that have not been discovered. Bruce had on display 3 different clones of *Guzmania Fortuna*. Other people on this trip with Bruce were Carla Black, Bill Fity, Peter Tristram, Chester Skotak and Mark Paul. Chester has 3 people in his employ whose sole job is to daily pollinate species and to cross pollinate for breeding. Photo of Peter climbing trees to see if any viable seed on plants. During the wet season there are lovely clear mornings, then by midday the heavy mists would come down so umbrellas are used against the heavy rains, more photos of the group (sitting-squatting) on the forest trails stopping to eat lunch. Photos of *Melastemes* which is like a *Tibouchina*. *Columnnea* with yellow flowers growing up into the trees. A great photo of a black *Cyclanth* (looked a bit like a *Cycad*). A variegated form of *Rhoeo cochliostema* growing to 1 metre across. I must not forget the photo of the very very large snake "fer de lance" next to the walk trail with Bruce trying to tell/yell at the group "SNAKE SNAKE" coming along the track, but they were busy chatting ,finally catching their attention, but the smaller snakes were more venomous. The group kept crossing back and forth seeking different plants suitable for growing in pots. *Guzmania lingulata* which had lots of pollen, so encouraging the beautiful birds to visit for the pollen. *Tillandsia fasciculata* magnifica high up in the trees, so many, they fall off and lay on the side of the road. Trucks passing with loads of bananas. They also wandered into a citrus grove and the *Guzmania Sanguinea* were like glowing lights. So many variations and growth .*Pitcairnia* throughout the forest with their inflorescences hanging down and the beautiful hummingbirds yipping in and out tasting and collecting the pollen. Some of these plants were 1 metre plus tall, but might not grow here. Variegated *Pitcairnia* growing up in the mountains near Panama. All the different forms and patterns were amazing. *Vriesea monstrum* 18"long inflorescence. *Racinaea* very bright and strong U.V. light grows high up. *Tillandsia anceps* quite common through Panama and *Till.monodelpha*. Orchids growing everywhere and some of these even fall out of trees (make you cry) Geckos, spiders ,poison arrow frogs, caterpillars and turtles which loved eating the frogs eggs in the puddles. The *Heliconias* ,many different types, colours and sizes of the flowers, they found 2 new species in the space of 2 hours. An ornamental shrub related to the *Ixora* family, had a flower the size of a basket ball. Thanks Bruce for the great slide show and talk.

LUCKY DOORS----Canistrum Triagulare. Ray Krafft—Norma Poole.
RAFFLES----D.Gerdhart(2) S. Boothy (THREE) S. Born ,N. Poole, P. James, F.
Thomson, R. Cairns(2)D. Hargraves, M. Hemley.



A special photo of Josiah



Annual Results popular vote:

Advanced:

1st: Len & Olive Trevor

2nd: Anne Mc Burnie & Phillip Beard

Intermediate:

1st: Mal & Michelle Cameron

2nd: Barry & Anne Kable

Novice: '

1st: David Vine

2nd: Fred Thomson

Decorative:

1st: Emily Thomson

2nd: Janet Richter

Annual results Mini Show

Advanced:

1st: Anne Mc Burnie & Phillip Beard

2nd: Len & Olive Trevor

Intermediate:

1st: Barry & Anne Kable

2nd: Pam Butler

Novice:

1st: Fred Thomson

2nd: Emily Thomson



Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year

From Bev & Ruth

A Big Thank-You

to my granddaughter

Aimee for all her help. Luv Nana <3

The Bromeliad Societies Xmas Party was held at THE ARANA HILLS LEAGUES CLUB approx. 71 members attended. A very large assortment of beautiful BROMELIADS were on display for the raffle. OLIVE TREVOR presented the certificates and prizes for the annual competition winners. Lots of laughs as certificates were presented, especially when LEN TREVOR came up to receive his.

RAFFLE WINNERS AT THE XMAS PARTY.

PHYLLIS JAMES (3) JOY UPTON(2) DAVID REES, PETER BALL(2) DIANE MUIR (2) SELGA BOOTHY BARRY KABLE (3) FRED THOMSON(4) ROB MURRAY, EMILY THOMSON, NANCY KICKBUSH, MAXIM WILSON, BARBARA PUGH, BOB CROSS, GLENN BERNOTH, BEV. MULCAHY, JAN CALOON(2) HELEN MORIATY(3) NARELLE AIZLEWOOD, PAT BARLOW, DEIDRE GERHARDT, OLIVE TREVOR, LESLEY GIBBS, JOHN OLSEN(2) GREG AIZLEWOOD, MIRIAM GARNHAM, CHARMAINE ROONEY, JANET RICHTER, NORM DAVIS(2) RAY KRAFFT, DAPHNE LUDWIG, RUTH KIMBER, JAN DUNCAN.

Any queries or problems email to: gardennut@live.com.au

Type of Seed	Quantity	Date Prepared	Provided
Vriesea			
seideliana			
Pahoa beauty			
Miscellaneous			
Portea silverae	3		
Pitcarnia of hitchcockiana el re-ventador	3		
Catopsis floribunda	4		
Werauhia sanguinolenta	7		
Aechmea mulfordii hybrid	2		
Tillandsia			
variabilis	6		
tricolor	3		
bryoides	3		
butzii	6		
scheidiana	5		
butzii var Roseiflora	2		
iuncea	5		
fasciculata(Florida)	7		
grandis	6		
gardneri	5		
festuloides	2		
belloensis	4		
pseudobaileyii	3		
utriculata	5		
fasciculata densispica panama Cathcart	2		
fasciculate var. fasciculata	2		
Alcantarea	5		
One of olives	5		
extensa	2		
geniculata	1		
glaziouna	1		
imperialis	7		
Vriesea			
seideliana	5		

Anyone looking for seed call seed coordinator Peter Ball 3205 2218