



“Broms are addictive”

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc Newsletter

June 2015

June Meeting

Unfortunately, I was attending State of Origin duties for the June meeting and so there is little information to provide. I can tell you that it was cold in Melbourne (we won't talk about the game) and I think Brisbane would have been the better option. (*Editor Update: We did win the final game so that makes things a little brighter.*)

Special Talk

Well known members of the society, Greg and Narelle Aizlewood provided the meeting with an insight to travelling for bromeliads. Narelle provided an overview of some recent travels while Greg provided the slideshow. Both were excellent.

They are now away on another adventure touring Ecuador. So, I am sure we will have the opportunity of seeing the results of that trip next year.

Plant of the Month

The plant of the month was Vriesea. Mal Cameron provide an insight into some of his new releases and the challenges faced growing them.

Mal also mentioned how rewarding hybridising is given the range of plants (colours) available now.

General

Lucky door prizes were awarded and the raffle was drawn with many lucky winners.

A review of show plants was provided by Narelle Aizlewood.

Peter's Pointers

This month sees the start of a new, small section that is designed to help us with growing bromeliads. It has been gained from many years of logical experimentation in the brom patch. These will not be full blown articles but short sharp helpful hints designed to meet seasonal needs.

All plants grow from sunlight energy. We have just passed the winter solstice.



Many bromeliads can be grown in full sunlight. If you want to experiment, now is the time to move plants to a brighter situation.

This will ensure the best chance of the plants of acclimatising to the change.

Remember, sunlight energy = *intensity X day length.*

Healthy Gardening

Here are some notes on Legionnaire's Disease as a reminder to practice safe gardening. Worth reading given Health Department warnings over recent months.

Legionnaires' Disease (Legionellosis)

Hot water system to blame after Camira woman contracts Legionnaires disease

A Camira woman has contracted the potentially deadly Legionnaires' disease this week after a break down with her hot water system.

Ipswich residents are being warned about the dangers of underperforming hot water systems as an inspection by a plumber revealed that, although Australian standards require hot water to be stored at more than 60 C, the temperature in the woman's tank was only 40.4 C.

Legionella bacteria are known to proliferate in hot water tanks; with optimal temperatures for growth between 30 C and 40 C.

The woman's solar hot water system circulating pump had failed, therefore no solar gains were applied to heat the water; and the woman was unaware of the process to manually boost the system.

As of June 14, Queensland Health data showed 36 that Queenslanders had contracted the disease this year; with last year's total standing at 94. There are over forty strains of Legionella bacteria but only a few cause disease in humans. The strains that are most commonly associated with the human disease are *L. pneumophila* and *L. longbeachae*.

Symptoms for the disease can be flu-like, including fever, headaches, muscle aches and sometimes a mild cough. As the disease progresses, some may experience vomiting and diarrhoea, and sufferers may rapidly gain pneumonia like symptoms: high fever, shortness of breath and chest pain. If left untreated, Legionnaires can be lethal and anyone experiencing these symptoms should see a doctor. The mortality rate is about 10%.

Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland technical services manager Ernie Kretschmer warned residents to keep an eye on their hot water systems. "This bacteria becomes a problem when it is in an aerosol state and is able to enter a person's lungs. This is most likely to happen when washing the face or showering," Mr

Kretschmer added, "It is important for owners and occupants to be aware that their hot water systems are operating correctly and reaching the required temperature."

Homeowners are advised to check:

- If water is leaking from the system case
- If valves are continually leaking
- If the water is not very hot — it must be stored above 60 C
- If steam is emanating from the system
- If there is a strange colour or smell to the hot water

If a hot water system has any of these issues home owners should contact their local plumber.

Because Legionella bacteria are commonly found in *soils and potting mix*, gardeners should:

- Always wear a face mask and gloves when using compost and potting mix, including opening the bag
- Moisten the contents of potting mix bags to avoid creating dust
- Always wash hands after handling potting mix

Compiled by Peter Paroz

Seedbank

Peter Ball has seed available for collection. See him at the next meeting.

Show Results

Unfortunately, I have no photos from the meeting to include. We will provide an update of scores in the next newsletter.

This month is a Mini-show (schedule below) so let's see what we can do to make it great. Lots of plants!!!

BSQ on Gardening Australia

During 2014, David Vine arranged for members of BSQ to assist the Roma Street Parklands with the relocation of the bromeliad garden. After a number of meetings, the work commenced in February, 2015. Gardening Australia was there to record the event and the result is to be broadcast in August. We believe that this will be Saturday 22nd. For those who don't watch the show it is on Saturday evenings at 6.30pm. There is also a repeat on the Sunday (about 1.00pm I think but check your local TV guide).

Bromeliaceae Deadline

The next edition of Bromeliaceae is "under construction". Material should reach the Editor by early August. *(If you can't meet this one then aim for the next one – 1 October.)*

- Can you write?
- Do you have some brom stories to tell – and share with others?
- Why not try your hand and put pen to paper and provide the editor with some material?

The Editor is always looking for original material to include in the journal. If you can write something then forward it to The Editor – editor@bromsqueensland.com.au

Photos are always worth including so write your story around some of those good photos you have sitting there. If you're not sure what to write see John at the meeting for more information.



Coming Events

July Meeting – 16th July 2015

6.45pm	Start plant sales commence
7.00pm	Information session on Pot Selection and Potting Material by Barry Kable
7.15pm	Show entries close
7.30pm	Start meeting
7.45pm	Presentation – George Stamatis on Intergenerics. George provides an excellent overview of plants and is well respected for his hybridising.
9.00pm	Plant of the month is intergenerics. Bring plants for a show and tell. This will flow on from the guest presenter.
	Raffle - 8 plants + 2 Plant of the Month specials
	Popular Vote – Comments by

Brisbane Ekka Display - 7th to 16th August 2015

The society sets up a display at the Ekka. This is a great opportunity to promote bromeliads and also get to meet a lot of nice people. Plan to help with the setting up, provide some plants and/or work on the display through the Ekka. Reward is a free pass for entry to the show.

Amanda Meads has developed the design and is looking for plants to include. If you can help, speak to her at the meeting.

Some additional volunteers for the staffing roster are still required. If you are able to help, contact Peter Ball at the meeting.

BSQ Spring Show – 13th to 15th November 2015

Some early warning to set these dates aside for the Spring Show. Time is getting closer now and so you should have those special plants identified for the competition – the more the merrier.

Remember if you are *selling*, now is the time to contact **Pam Butler** and let her know what space you will require and also ensure that you have sufficient barcodes. *Barcodes* are available from **John Olsen**.

2015 Meeting Schedule

Here are the shows planned for 2015 meetings.

January - MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Aechmea species and hybrids

Class 2 – Vriesea species and hybrids

Class 3 – Dyckia species and hybrids

Class 4 - any other flowering bromeliad species and hybrids

February - POPULAR VOTE

– any genus species and hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

March - POPULAR VOTE

– any genus species and hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

April - MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Bromelioideae not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species & Hybrids

(Acanthostachys, Ananas, Androlepis, Araeococcus, Bromelia, Canistropsis, Canistrum, Edmundoa, Fascicularia, Hohenbergia, Hohenbergiopsis, Neoglaziovia, Nidularium, Ochagavia, Orthophytum, Portea, Quesnelia, Ursulaea, Wittrockia)

Class 2 – Guzmania species and hybrids

Class 3 – Pitcairnia species and hybrids

Class 4 – any other flowering bromeliad species and hybrids

May - POPULAR VOTE

– any genus species and hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

June - POPULAR VOTE

– any genus species and hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

July - MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Billbergia

Class 2 – Tillandsioideae not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species & hybrids

(Alcantarea, Catopsis, Mezobromelia, Racinaea, Werauhia)

Class 3 – Neoregelia up to 200mm diameter when mature, species & hybrids

Class 4 – any other flowering bromeliad species and hybrids

August - POPULAR VOTE

– any genus species and hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

September - POPULAR VOTE

– any genus species and hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

October - MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Neoregelia over 200mm diameter when mature, species & hybrids

Class 2 – Tillandsia species & hybrids

Class 3 – Pitcairnioideae not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species & hybrids

(Brocchinioideae, Lindmanioideae, Hechtioideae (= Hechtia), Puyoideae (= Puya), Navioideae, Pitcairnioideae (= Deuterocohnia, Encholirium, Fosterella)

Class 4 – any other flowering bromeliad species & hybrids

November - POPULAR VOTE

– any genus species and hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

Plant of the Month

At each meeting, there will be a feature plant of the month. Where possible, special plants will be included in the raffle. For some meetings, the general discussion on these may be incorporated into the key presenter for the evening. If you have plants that require identification, use these evenings to bring them in.

Month	Plant
January	Aechmea
February	Tillandsia
March	Cryptanthus
April	Dyckia/Orthophytum/Puya
May	Alcantarea
June	Vriesea
July	Intergenreics
August	Rare Genus
September	Billbergia
October	Guzmania
November	Neoregelia/Nidularium
December	Hollioides (S. Claus to present)

Meeting Dates 2015

To help ensure you don't miss a meeting, here are the dates for 2015. Note that we changed the April meeting because of the conflict in dates with Bromsmatta.

Month	Date
January	15 th
February	19 th – AGM
March	19 th
April	23 rd
May	21 st
June	18 th
July	16 th
August	20 th
September	12 th
October	15 th
November	19 th
December	10 th – Christmas Party (planned)