

Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting September 19th 2019 at 11 a.m.

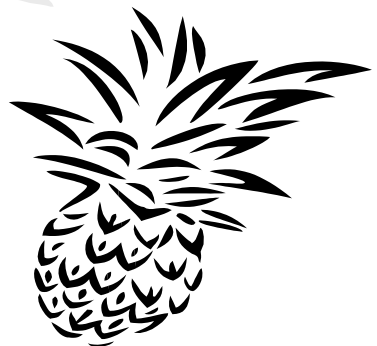
Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery
114 Pine Street Wardell 2477
Phone (02) 6683 4188

Discussion: August 2019
General Discussion

Editorial Team:

Ross Little
Helen Clewett
Drew Maywald
Michelle Hartwell

pinegrovebromeliads@bigpond.com



Statements and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Group.
Articles appearing in this News Letter may be used in other Publications provided that the source is credited.

Meeting 18th July 2019

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am
The 17 members present and one visitor were welcomed.
One apology was received.

General Business

The meeting opened with Ross tolling the bell, and wishing a warm welcome to all present.

A reminder was given for the Pop-Up Tillandsia sale at Newmarket school, 15 Bank street, Newmarket in Brisbane at 9:00 am Saturday morning.

Ross read to the Group an e-mail he received about our Study Group's decision to not allow plants in competitions that are under formula and not named.

It was agreed that we would continue to abide by the BSI rules for competitions, even if other Bromeliad Societies and Groups choose not to as indicated in the e-mail received. We all have plants under formula in our collections and these plants can be brought to our meetings for Show and Tell.

While we are only a small Group, it was agreed that if we continue to abide by the BSI rules it not only raises the level for our members, but hopefully may help encourage other Societies and Groups to follow suit. Our meetings, while being a social occasion, also play an important role in educating our Members and teaching them what is correct about all things Bromeliad.

Helen read out the Group's financial statement showing a balance of \$569.00

We reviewed the Newsletter and hearty congratulations were given for Grace Goode who turns 102 the week following our July meeting.

WARNING - Viewers Beware !!!

One would expect the gardening programs aired on Australian televisions to be up-to-date, informative and correct. One presenter is a well respected horticulturalist backed up with several awards and medals and was a gardening editor for several newspapers. With such credentials one would expect his advice given on gardening programs to be well researched - I'm not so sure on that.

One recent episode of Better Homes and Gardens showed Vrieseas being planted on the outside of two wire baskets with coconut fibre liners filled with sphagnum moss. What's wrong with that one might think - nothing until one basket was inverted and tied to the second to form a ball causing all plants

around one basket to be up-side-down. In this position the tank type Bromeliads e.g. Vrieseas, can't hold water in their centre vase which could cause them to dehydrate and die. Perhaps the advice here should have been "for a short time only then reset these Vrieseas in an upright position". Creating these ornamental displays like this for Shows or to beautify a party or function for a few days is fine but they aren't meant to be a permanent display. Some atmospheric Bromeliads e.g. Tillandsias are ageotropic which means they will grow in random directions not necessarily directly toward light. This growth habit is seen with Tillandsias growing on the underside of tree limbs but NOT mature tank type Vrieseas.

The same presenter has been viewed on a Youtube presentation showing how to tie Bromeliads onto a palm tree, in this case *Neoregelia compacta* was used. Yes a great presentation until the suggestion of "if you're finding it too hard to secure it, put the wire right through the base of the plant". Considering only a sentence or two of info prior was "Bromeliads must always be sitting up so water can go into them" - what changed? Somebody must've forgot that bit of info when putting the Vriesea basket together, and also how does the *Neoregelia compacta* hold water with a hole through its water well/vase for the wire? This is not the first time I have heard the same incorrect advice given albeit by another presenter several years ago on a television gardening program (BH&G).

Chris Larson posted on FB's - Tillandsia Addicts Australia BSS&S site 2-8-2019: "Interesting article on Better Homes and Gardens tonight with Graham Ross. Blows me out how anyone can recommend growing Tills in sea urchins or tight ceramic 'creatures' as a long term arrangement. I have asked here before if anyone has had a Tillandsia placed inside one of these arrangements for more than a couple of months and had them live. I have had no replies. Graham Ross says "lasts a life time". I really hope my lifetime is not so short. Nothing wrong with doing these things for a short term, as a play thing, but to give people an expectation of a lifetime is a bit rich.

I suppose it is a lifetime for the plant - a short one!!! "

Ed: Hopefully our gardening advisor "professionals" will get themselves better informed before making such ill informed statements in the future.

Show, Tell and Ask!

Keryn started off with *Billbergia* 'Eipperii' with its beautiful descending pink bract inflorescence. The plant is spotted and marked but the flower is excellent. Next she had *Aechmea* 'Ares' for identification, a large upright rosette to 50cm. high. Stiff bronze green / salmon pink pointed leaves. Erect, red-stemmed spike to 65cm. tall with short branches of scarlet floral bracts, red ovaries, pinkish white sepals and mauve flowers.

A recent discussion about the meaning of the term grex, led to the belief that most people in the brom world understand a formula is only a grex identification name and differences can occur. Ross disagreed, as too often we see on social media growers querying why their plant named..... differs to a friends plant name by the same formula. If all involved understood formulae they wouldn't query.

Grex: A group of species or hybrids; applied collectively to the offspring of a given cross; literally a flock or swarm. Generally identified by formula of parents names used by a hybridist before allocating a cultivar name. For example, a seed group from a plant. The term 'series' also refers to, or means a grex.

John showed a pot of *Billbergia nutans* in flower to support Drew's article in our July Newsletter. John's plant had been in the same place for 10 years and had never been fertilized. It is a hardy plant that requires little water. John also showed us his *Billbergia nutans* (mini) that was just coming into flower. John's plant was acquired from Jeanette Henwood who acquired her original *Billbergia nutans* from Pinegrove in the 1980's. The plant John refers to as 'nutans mini' seems a close fit to the description of *Billbergia minuta* which was reduced to synonymy under *Bill. nutans* in Smith & Downs. Harry Luther reported that plants he sent to Australia had been collected in Paraguay; Colonia San Antonio, South of Pto. Stroessner and goes under the number of SEL 84-538. Therefore it is recommended that John put SEL 84-538 on the label of his 'nutans mini' as it links the plant with the actual herbarium specimen. Who actually imported this 'mini' form of *Bill. nutans* is still a mystery. (SEL = Selby Gardens)

Drew gave a short talk about naming plants correctly as per his article beginning on page 12 - 15 in this edition of the Newsletter.

General discussion was held about how can you write plant tags/labels without the writing fading. The preferred methods suggested are as follows:

- Use a 3, 4 or 6B pencil.
- Engrave the tag using a hand held engraving pencil.
- Use the rougher side of the tag.
- Roughen smooth tags using fine sandpaper.
- Put the tag in the pot upside down with the writing facing the wall of the pot.
- Number your plants as the number is often easier to read, use either of the previous suggested methods and record the number in a ledger including all relevant details e.g. plant name, where from and date acquired etc.

It pays to check your tags frequently as they may deteriorate from the sunlight, if deterioration is evident, replace your tag and try one of the suggested methods.

Drew also mentioned that he is selling bags of 12 champagne corks usable for mounting Tillandsias at \$2/bag. Half of the proceeds will go to FNCBSG and half to the Moonbeam Community garden.

Drew brought in *Billbergia* 'Perriam's Pride' which is marginated but has no spots. Drew was advised that the albino pup on his plant will not survive alone if removed from the mother plant as the pup has no chlorophyll.



Helen showed seven Billbergias all of which had slight differences but all were correctly labeled as *Billbergia* 'Louise'. It is an unstable plant with the colour ranging from pink to green and some with spots and some without. *Billbergia* 'Louise' was named after the wife of Whitney Merrin.

Billbergia 'Louise' or is it 'Perriam's Pride' FNCBSG August 2014

To most of us one can't tell them apart. They are both variegates, approximately the same colour, size and shape.

So how do we tell them apart?

If you have both, the following may help with correct naming as these could easily get mixed up. Also take note of petal colour.

Billbergia 'Louise' sported from *Billbergia distachia* var. *maculata* in the U.S.A. It is noted as having very subtle white pinpoints on the green sections. It is unstable in its variegation with a tendency to give albino and 'novar' (non variegated) pups.

Billbergia 'Perriams Pride' sported from *Billbergia distachia* var. *straussiana* in Australia. It appears to be a much more stable variegate, giving mostly marginated variegation and reportedly easier to grow.

John recommended a craft glue called E6000 which is very good for sticking plants on cork or wood mounts etc. It dries clear and is available at Spotlight, Lincraft and on line sites like e-bay, Craft on Line and Poly Merclay.



Ross displayed these two Aechmea inflorescences to show the difference between them which had caused much confusion for many years.

◀ *Aechmea macrochlamys* and *Aechmea* 'Macfoster' ▶

Macrochlamys:

large, claspng bracts. No large claspng bracts on *Ae.* 'Macfoster'.



John was also supporting the inflorescence **Show and Tell** section this month with flower stems from:

Guzmania 'Firedragon' (lower front centre)

xGuzvriesea 'Happa' (left) a Herb Hill hybrid using *Guzmania wittmackii* as seed parent and *Vriesea* 'Eva' as the pollen parent.

Pitcairnia 'Rhubarb' (top centre and right) a John Catlan hybrid using *Pit. burle-marxii* as seed parent and *Pit. undulata* as the pollen parent. Being a thirsty plant John grows it standing in a saucer of water, the bonus being it also flowers a couple of times a year.



'Tree of Life' entered in Decorative by Dave Boudier

Tillandsia bulbosa grown by John Crawford



Goudaea 'Sons of Tiger Tim' shown by John Crawford



Neoregelia 'Sweet Vibrations' shown by Sue Mackay-Davidson



Tillandsia butzii grown by Gary McAteer



'Winter Starlights' shown by Helen Clewett



Billbergia 'Eipperii' shown by Keryn Simpson



Guzmania 'Orangeade'
1st Open Dave Boudier



Neoregelia 'Lines and Stripes' unreg.
1st Novice Drew Maywald



'Miriad of Tills'
1st Decorative Keryn Simpson



Aechmea warasii var. *intermedia*
Judges Choice Keryn Simpson



Tillandsia aeranthos var. *aemula* 1st Tillandsioideae Sue Mackay-Davidson



Billbergia 'After Glow'
grown by Coral McAteer



'Xmas in July'
by John Crawford



'Under the Brom Walk' created by Drew Maywald

The Day I Caught the Tillandsia Bug by Sue Mackay-Davidson 2019

Upon moving to Maclean, northern New South Wales from northern outback Queensland, I once again started my passion for all things gardening. At long last I had water from the tap I could use on the garden. My neighbour must have been keeping a close eye on the events happening across the road and she eventually came across and introduced herself whereupon she asked if I would be interested in attending a monthly Bromeliad Group.

I went along and she took me 'down the back' to see all the wonders of Bromeliad. Born and bred in north Queensland I was familiar with the common Bromeliad plant, however, was not aware of the wonderful array of colours and different plant types. My neighbour showed me a 'wall' of Tillandsias. I had not heard of them before, however, when she said they are also

known as 'air plants' I was taken back to my teenage years of an air plant I had sitting on my computer in the office where I worked. It was not very successful and eventually died. I thought they lived on air and therefore no water necessary. Well, I'm sure that's what the label said.

I looked at the little plants on offer while my neighbour was excitedly reading all the names of the plants and deciding which ones to add to her collection. I purchased one (*Till. brachycaulos*) to see if I could have better success as an adult. A few months later, I walked past a tree that was growing near our meeting area and spotted a tiny little plant that had a fantastic purple flower. How beautiful I thought and upon asking was informed it was a Tillandsia. OMG.....that was the day I caught the Tillandsia bug.



I searched everywhere for these little plants. I read whatever I could get my hands on, I thought about them, I even went to bed at night dreaming of them. Every time we travelled I was on the lookout for where I might be able to purchase these little plants. Hubby's head just shook.

I started purchasing online from stores

as well as other serious collectors. I was told of a nursery not far from me that 'may' have some for sale. I phoned and made arrangements for a visit taking with me enough cash to cover the exercise. Little did I know that this person had several shade houses of Tillandsias. Enough cash.....I don't think so. Thank God for electronic banking transfer. A second visit to the same nursery resulted in the same outcome. My little collection was growing. I needed to start a spreadsheet and keep tabs on all this history.

During one of the meetings with the Group it was mentioned that there was to be a Bromeliad sales and display expo in Brisbane. Maybe there would be some Tillandsias for sale went through my mind. We drove to the complex arriving a good half hour before opening time and found some 200 plus vehicles already in the car park and several people walking out to their cars with boxes. We entered the building and were asked if we needed a box. I shook my head but hubby had the sense to say yes. Once inside my bottom jaw hit the floor in 10 seconds flat. I could not get over the huge scale of the place and the various broms on offer. Hubby turned me in the direction of a wire wall and said that if I wanted any Tillandsias then *'I had better hurry as they were walking out the door'*. I turned and saw people taking plants and placing in their boxes without even looking at the names.

I started searching the wall for ones I did not have when hubby came along and started putting plants in my box. *"Don't bother searching, just put them in the box and sort them later, otherwise you are going to miss out"* were his words. Well thank goodness he was there because whoever put the 'wall' up must have been a giant. Now I know I am vertically challenged, however, without hubby there to get to the taller places I would never have stood a chance.

Now you would think that I would have enough Tillandsias to satisfy my needs wouldn't you. But sadly no - no way. This bug really gets a hold of you and there is no known cure. I am told the best you can do to manage the situation is to find like minded people who also have the 'bug' and use them as a support group. Hubby???? I can hear you ask. No – sadly he does not have the bug, however, he is more than happy to go searching for the right piece of wood to use or erect another area for me to hang the plants from and even install misting systems. Who knows, one day he may even catch the bug. For now, his head just keeps shaking.....



Naming Bromeliads

by Drew Maywald 2019

Adapted from Trish Kelly's article "Bromeliad Species Names and their Meaning" in the September 2011 FNCBSG Newsletter, with additional definitions and input by Derek Butcher.

Bromeliads have two names:

The Genus Name for example: *Aechmea*, *Neoregelia*, *Vriesea* etc. **AND**

The Species Name for example: *gigantea*, *nutans*, *stricta* etc. **OR**

The Cultivar Name for example: 'Rosy Morn', 'Hallelujah', 'Highway Beauty' etc.

Writing the Genus Name:

The genus name is always written starting with a capital letter and in *italics*.

For example, *Aechmea*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesea* etc.

Genus names are published under the International Code of Nomenclature (ICN) rules.

Writing the Species Name:

The species name always starts with a lower-case letter and is written in *italics*. The species name generally describes a prominent feature of the plant, although they are often named after the plant collector, discoverer or a noted Botanist etc.

For example, *fasciculata*, *latifolia*, *wilsoniana* etc.

Species names are published under the International Code of Nomenclature (ICN) rules.

Writing the Cultivar Name:

The cultivar name is written in ordinary script with quotation marks (') at the start and end of the name. If the cultivar name has two or more words each word starts with a capital letter.

For example, 'Galactic Warrior', 'Groucho', 'Tim Plowman' etc.

'**Cultivar**' names are published under the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) rules.

Writing the Genus and Species Name:

Billbergia nutans, *Quesnelia marmorata*, *Tillandsia aeranthos* etc.

If the plant is a variety of another plant the name is written as:

Aechmea recurvata var. *benrathii*

Writing the Genus and Cultivar Name:

Billbergia 'Helen of Troy', *Neoregelia* 'Rosy Morn', *Vriesea* 'Highway Beauty' etc.

Species Names and their **Meaning** describing a prominent plant feature are listed in the table below:

Name	Meaning
<i>acaulis</i>	Stemless
<i>aeranthos</i>	Air blooming - flowering without roots
<i>albida</i>	Whitish, dull white
<i>argentea</i>	Silvery white leaves
<i>bivittatus</i>	Two striped, length wise
<i>bulbosa</i>	Like a bulb
<i>capillaris</i>	Fine as hair; very fine leaves
<i>capitata</i>	Head shaped
<i>carinate</i>	Boat shaped
<i>complanata</i>	Flattened out in one plane, referring to the inflorescence
<i>concentrica</i>	Pressed together
<i>concolor</i>	All one colour
<i>cornuta</i>	Horned
<i>crispa</i>	Crisp, curled or crinkled leaves finely waved along the margin
<i>cyanea</i>	Cornflower blue; bright blue; azure
<i>dealbata</i>	Becoming white - powdery scaled appearance; whitish, or almost white, often with reference to flower bracts
<i>diffuse</i>	Loosely branching or spreading; of open growth
<i>discolor</i>	Leaves strong red coloured underside, green on top; having two different colours, usually referring to leaves that are one shade on top and another underneath.
<i>dissitifolia</i>	Loosely Flowered; well-spaced flowers.
<i>distachia</i>	Two part
<i>distichantha</i>	Flowers arranged in two opposite rows. e.g. <i>Aechmea distichantha</i>
<i>distichous</i>	Arranged in two ranks , as the flower spikes of many Vrieseas.

<i>echinata</i>	Armed with numerous prickles or spines; prickly
<i>elata</i>	Tall or tall in comparison with its near allies
<i>elegans</i>	Choice; attractive; elegant
<i>elongata</i>	Lengthened; elongated; stretched out
<i>exserta</i>	Protruding
<i>fasciata</i>	Marked transversely with broad parallel stripes of colour; banded
<i>fasciculata</i>	In close bundles or clusters
<i>fenestralis</i>	With window-like openings; referring to the light-green rectangular areas on leaves which give the illusion of windows
<i>filifolia</i>	Thread leafed
<i>flammea</i>	Fiery red; flame coloured
<i>flexuosa</i>	Arched; bent or twisted
<i>floribunda</i>	Many flowered
<i>fulgens</i>	Shining; glistening
<i>gracilis</i>	Delicate; slender; graceful
<i>grandis</i>	Large
<i>guttata</i>	Spotted; speckled; referring to the foliage
<i>heterophylla</i>	Having various leaves; with leaves of more than one shape
<i>imperialis</i>	Imperial; regal
<i>incurvata</i>	Curved inwards
<i>indularis</i>	Living on an island
<i>ionantha</i>	Violet flowered (wine coloured)
<i>ixioides</i>	Resembling plants of the iris genus <i>Ixia</i> (<i>Iridaceae</i>)
<i>juncea</i>	Resembling a reed
<i>laevis</i>	Smooth; having a smooth polished surface
<i>latifolia</i>	Wide or broad leafed
<i>macrochlamys</i>	Large clasping bracts
<i>marmorata</i>	Marbled
<i>minor</i>	Small
<i>monostachia</i>	Having one spike
<i>multicaulis</i>	With many stems
<i>musaica</i>	With mottling resembling a mosaic

<i>nana</i>	Small or dwarf
<i>nanus</i>	Small or dwarf
<i>nutans</i>	Nodding; generally referring to the inflorescence
<i>pauciflora</i>	Poor flowering; few flowers
<i>pendula</i>	Hanging; pendulous
<i>plumosa</i>	Like a plume; feathery
<i>pruinosa</i>	Covered with a fine white, frost-like powdery layer on bloom; excessively glaucous
<i>psittacina</i>	Parrot-like
<i>pubescens</i>	Covered with short, soft hairs; downy
<i>purpurea</i>	Purple
<i>rutilans</i>	Becoming reddish in colour, red with yellow admixture
<i>sanguinea</i>	Blood-red; bloody
<i>saxicola</i>	Growing on rocks
<i>sessiliflora</i>	With a flower having no stalk
<i>spectabilis</i>	Spectacular; deserving notice because of its intrinsic worth; showy
<i>spiculosa</i>	Covered with fine, fleshy, erect points
<i>splendens</i>	Splendid; outstanding; brilliant
<i>streptocarpa</i>	With twisted fruit
<i>streptophylla</i>	With twisted leaves
<i>stricta</i>	Upright; erect; very straight
<i>subconcolor</i>	Self-coloured
<i>tectorum</i>	Of roofs or houses
<i>tenuifolia</i>	Finely leafed; with slender leaves
<i>tricolor</i>	With three colours
<i>unca</i>	Hooked or crooked near the apex
<i>usneoides</i>	Like a goat's beard; resembling a lichen of the genus <i>Usnea</i>
<i>violacea</i>	Violet-coloured
<i>viridiflora</i>	Green-flowered
<i>vittata</i>	Marked with longitudinal stripes; but generally, in Bromeliad terms, banded
<i>zonatus</i>	Zoned; banded with distinct colours

Novice Popular Vote

1st	Drew Maywald	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Line and Stripes'
2nd	Sue Mackay-Davidson	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Sweet Vibrations'
3rd	Steve Davidson	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Galaxy' novar

Open Popular Vote

1st	Dave Boudier	<i>Guzmania</i> 'Orangeade'
2nd	John Crawford	<i>Goudaea</i> 'Sons of Tiger Tim'
3rd	Coral McAteer	<i>Billbergia</i> 'After Glow'

Tillandsioideae

1st	Sue Mackay-Davidson	<i>Tillandsia aeranthos</i> var. <i>aemula</i>
2nd	John Crawford	<i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i>
2nd	Helen Clewett	<i>Tillandsia neglecta</i>
3rd	Gary McAteer	<i>Tillandsia butzii</i>

Decorative

1st	Keryn Simpson	'Mirriads of Tills'
-----	---------------	---------------------

Judges Choice

1st	Keryn Simpson	<i>Aechmea warasii</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>
-----	---------------	---

Web Links for Checking Correct Identification and Spelling ?

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR): <http://registry.bsi.org/>
Refer to this site for correct identification and spelling of your hybrid or cultivar.

New Bromeliad Taxon List : <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>
Refer to this site for latest species name changes and correct spelling.

Bromeliads in Australia (BinA) <http://bromeliad.org.au/>
Refer to this site for its Photo Index, Club Newsletters, Detective Derek Articles.

Keep these web sites set as desktop icons for quick reference access.

Where do I Find the Dates ?

www.bromeliad.org.au then click "Diary".

Check this site for regular updates of times, dates and addresses of meetings and shows in your area and around the country.