

The aims of the society shall be:

- (A) *To stimulate interest in the conservation, and to promote the culture and development of the succulents and bromeliads.*
- (B) *To acquire and disseminate information regarding these plants and to encourage their production and propagation.*
- (C) *To ban totally from our collection any such plants which become noxious.*
- (D) *To enlighten members and the public on the dangers of cultivating certain noxious species.*
- (E) *To give exhibitions, arrange field days, and other events, and to make such publications as are deemed desirable.*
- (F) *To associate, affiliate or otherwise joint or connect ourselves with similar bodies or societies.*
- (G) *To make seeds and plants available to members under the control of the Society.*
- (H) *To foster family membership and members.*

BROMLINK



January - February 2009



Secretary, GCS&BS Inc.
 P.O. Box 94,
 Southport Business Centre,
 Southport, Qld, 4215
 www.bromlink.org.au

Office Bearers 2009

PRESIDENT.....Tom Norris 07 55295446
 VICE PRESIDENT.....Graeme Bullen 07 55257815
 TREASURER.....Jim Adams 07 55783797
 SECRETARY.....Narelle Aizlewood 07 55461161
 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.....Gloria Dunbar 02 66899281
 EDITOR.....Gail Young 07 33883575
 COMMITTEE.....Carmon Burke, John Crawford,
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Message from Cactus Kate

Hello everybody, Happy New Year from Cactus Kate.
So, how are all your CAUDICIFORMS growing? You know, those lovely 'fat bottomed' plants you won in our Christmas raffle.

CAUDICIFORM – having a caudex for water and food storage.

CAUDEX – enlarged root and stem combination.

CAUDICIFORMS are found in many plant Genera eg: Adeniums, Pachypodiums, Pelargoniums, Crassula, Bombax, Plectranthus, Nolina, Ficus, Plumeria to name a few.

CAUDICIFORMS are fascinating, curious plants which all have very individual growth habits, with swollen stems, they all can make spectacular Bonsai specimens with very little training.

Care of these CAUDICIFORMS is the same as for any other succulent plant. At least half day sun, a well draining potting medium and water when dry. If you are growing your 'fat bottomed' plant as a Bonsai then fertilise to promote flowers rather than foliage.

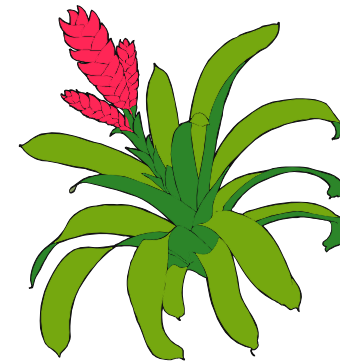
Hope you all have great success with these plants, they are so rewarding with little care, also, I hope to see some of these 'fat bottomed' plants at our next show.



Please have your articles to me no later than the **8th March, 2009.**
brommad@optusnet.com.au
19 Garoona Gve; Slacks Creek, Qld 4127
Ph: 33883575

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General meeting every 4th Saturday of the month held at -
Robina Uniting Church, 4 Greenwich Crt: Robina.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009

DATE

EVENT

January 24	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
February 12,13,14	Tweed City Shopping Centre. Display & Sales.
February 28	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
March 14	First Bus Trip to Bruce Dunstan. Stockade Nursery Bellmere (Caboolture) then to Ningi (Bribie Island)
March 28	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. CENT AUCTION TODAY
April 25	General Meeting -- Robina Uniting Church Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
May 10	Our first field day for 2009 Garden 1 Lee and Cheryl Duffy – Helensvale. Garden 2 Tom and Kay Norris – Paradise Point Garden 3 To be confirmed.
May 23	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
May 23,24	Oasis Shopping Centre. Display & Sales.

months of June, July and August when the only moisture is mountain mists, fog or the rare rainfall. With consideration of their natural habitats, for optimal growth of this terrestrial genus, a medium, which is able to retain moisture while still able to drain well, should be utilized. I have noticed, however that there is a slight difference in the type of growing medium preferred by most of the orthophytums and that small group, which includes *Orthophytum burle-marxii* (see photograph on p. XX), which has an inflorescence nestled in the centre of its rosette. In habitat these plants were noted growing in rocky ground with their roots invading the crevices of the rocks. The soil at locations where others were growing was more sandy or coarse than the loamy soil one would expect; this suggests that these prefer a less water retentive mix in cultivation. This will prevent the biggest problem with growing the group – rot! Epiphytic mixes are, however, to be avoided.

Orthophytum, like Cryptanthus are fertilizer hogs. A time release formula such as Nutricote, either 6 or 9 months is ideal with an occasional soluble ¼ strength dosing of something like Peters for good measure.

The desire for N-P-K is so great with the orthophytums, that we see with bi generics of orthophytums and neoregelias (neoregelias routinely should not be fertilized due to loss of colour and lanky growth) that these hybrids such as *xNeophytum* ‘Galactic Warrior’ (see photograph on p. YY), flourish with heavy feedings.

Once you have achieved the aptness of growing these variable plants, they will reward you with offsets on the scape, from underground stolons and from the base of the mother (see photographs on p. ZZ). Seeds are easily set from species or new hybrids.

To date bigeneric crosses have been made with Aechmeas (*xOrthomea*), Cryptanthus (*xOrthoanthus*), neoregelias (*xNeophytum*) and Nidulariums (*xOrtholarium*); many are worth owning.

So, with water, fertilizer, sun and a selective growing medium for the type of orthophytum you have, you can easily grow and enjoy for generations this unusual and quite distinct group of plants, either outdoors in the warmer climates or indoors in seasonal areas under lights.

about 3,000 ft (900m) along the north and central eastern coastal areas of Brazil. Orthophytums tolerate cold better than their closest relatives – the crypthanthus and if provided sufficient moisture, will endure higher temperatures.


Orthophytums require as much moisture as do cryptanthus and are usually found growing in moist areas near rivers, streams and waterfalls. Although they may be found clustered on rocky ledges basking in the sun, these environmentally hostile areas during the dry season, are most likely watered by mountain mists. On a recent trip to this area of Brazil, I did note species of Orthophytums growing on rocky outcrops, where they were receiving infrequent waterings; in addition, I also saw orthophytums growing along the dusty roadside among cacti.

They may be found clustered on rocky ledges basking in the sun, these environmentally hostile areas during the dry season, are most likely watered by mountain mists. On a recent trip to this area of Brazil, I did note species of Orthophytums growing on rocky outcrops, where they were receiving infrequent waterings; in addition, I also saw orthophytums growing along the dusty roadside among cacti.

Some horticulturists consider many bromeliads, including orthophytums as semi-succulents or succulents. Penrith Goff of the S.E. Michigan Bromeliad Society has answered the question – What is a Succulent Bromeliad? “Logically, any bromeliad capable of storing large amounts of water in the leaves is a succulent. Thus, it is fair to call the atmospheric tillandsias, the airplants, succulent, as J. Riha and R. Subik do in their book The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Cacti and Other Succulents (London: 1992). However, the term succulent has become so closely associated with earth-bound desert dwellers that we will use the term for those terrestrial bromeliads which have developed succulence as an adaptation to a hostile climate (sunny landscape) to which they have adapted. In general they do not develop the degree of succulence which is common to agaves and aloes, yet there are many which can easily be mistaken for these because the plant structure is so similar.”

Orthophytums, especially from the States of Minas Gerais and Bahia, Brazil along with other terrestrial bromeliads such as encholiriums, cryptanthus and dyckias have adapted using succulence for survival during their winter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009 continued.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
June 27	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
July 25	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
August 22	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
September 26	General Meeting Robina Uniting Church. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m. CENT AUCTION TODAY.
October 17	Field day to John and Genny Catlan’s garden 17 Pelican Parade, Jacobs Well.
October 18	G.C.S. & B. Soc. to do a display at Rosser Park for Gardens Alive hosted by Gold Coast Regional Botanical Gardens.
October 24	Annual Show Display and Plant Sales Competition/ Popular Vote judged show.
October 31	Second Bus Trip for 2009 - Brisbane Bayside. Garden 1 Tracey Renn at Redland Bay Garden 2 Mal and Michelle Cameron at Victoria Pt. Garden 3 Anne McBurnie at Capalaba.
November 28 	Annual General Meeting / General Meeting, Christmas Party and Large Plant Raffle Robina Uniting Church Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.



Plant of the month. A reminder to all members if you also have a good specimen from the nominated genera, please do not hesitate to bring it in to exhibit. The plant doesn't necessarily have to be in flower, we also grow for their foliage.

January	Aechmea, flowering Vriesea, Tillandsias and Hohenbergias
February	Ananus, Intergeneric plants, Tillandsias and full sun Neoregalias.
March	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias, Full sun Aechmeas and Canistrums.
April	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias and Succulents.
May	Spotted Neoregalias, Orthophytums, Tillandsias and Variegated Bromeliads.
June	Alcantareas, foliage Vrieseas, Dykias, Hechtias, and Asterias.
July	Billbergias, Pitcarinias, Cerepegias, Hoyas, Nidulariums and Agaves.
August	Billbergias, Foliage Vrieseas, Catopsis, and Miniature Neoregalias.
September	Billbergias and Guzmanias
October	Vrieseas, Neoregalias, Nidulariums, Guzmanias and Crassulaceae
November	Not often seen Bromeliads and Succulents

Bromeliad Expose :
Orthophytums
 by Larry Giroux

Reprinted, in part, with permission,
 from Meristem, September 2007, pp 6 – 11.

The genus *Orthophytum* was first named by Beer in 1854. The name comes from the Greek – ortho, which means straight and phytum, which means plant; the entire name refers to the erect inflorescence. Since the mid 1800's when this genus was given its name, several additional species have been included in this group, whose appearances no longer adhere to the meaning of their genus name.

That being said, the majority of plants of this genus have an upright inflorescence, which bear the floral bracts and flowers. These tend to have soft spines along the edges of the easily fractured leaves. The stalk of the inflorescence is usually 6 to 15 inches (15 to 30 cm) tall with small rosettes of floral bracts with predominantly white petalled flowers. Pale and bright green petals are found on a few of this group of species.

In contrast there is a small group, which have the flowers and floral bracts nestled in the centre of its flattened rosette. This group has been considered some of the most eye catching bromeliads. Most have 40 plus narrow pointed leaves edged with sharp hard spines. At blooming, the centre of the plant and sometimes the entire flattened rosette can flush with red, rose, pink or coral leaves with similar shaded floral bracts. The visually contrasting white flowers draw pollinators from miles away.

There is a third set of plants in which the inflorescence is only slightly elevated above the rosette and has a spreading growth habit. One of these is *Orthophytum supthutii*. It is very unique in that it has large yellow flowers within the centre of a green rosette that does not change colour at anthesis. For nearly four decades after its description was first published, it was considered to be a *cryptanthus*.

The natural habitat of these terrestrials, mimics closely that of another terrestrial genus, *Cryptanthus*. The 35 or so species grow from sea level to



Welcome back. We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and that the New Year will be as good as 2008, if not better.

As you will see in your Bromlink there are some very interesting gardens and field trips to look forward to in 2009 that our secretary Narelle Aizlewood has planned for throughout the year.

Welcome to our many new members and we hope you enjoy the meetings and the interesting talks given by Guest speakers.

The Editor

March 28th, 2009
Is our next Cent Auction.



Our next cent auction takes place at the club meeting of March 28th, 2009. For all our new members and current, here's how it works.

Members are asked to donate a plant/plants on the day by handing them to the stewards at the door on arrival. You will see Jill Gordon (pictured) or maybe Ian Gordon, going around selling raffle tickets, these are purchased at \$2.00 for one page. The pages will be different colours, each starting with the number **one**,

you **must** retain all number **one** tickets of each page. All remaining tickets go into tubs provided next to your selected box of auction plants.

When the raffle is called the last three digits of the serial number and colour is called out. **To win**, match these details with your number one ticket. Please remember when you collect your prize you keep hold of your number **one** ticket as this serial number may be called again.

GOOD LUCK!



Program for Guest Speakers coming up over the next few months.

JANUARY:

Herb Plever's Presentation as presented at the World Bromeliad Conference 2008 in Cairns.

FEBRUARY:

John Catlan will present a power point presentation of "Colour in Neoregelias" as presented at the World Bromeliad Conference 2008 in Cairns

MARCH:

Beryl Batchelor will be our Guest Speaker on the topic of "How She grows her Cryptanthus"

APRIL:

Kay Fleming will speak on "Succulents"

MAY:

Mr. Barry Genn will travel to speak to us on "Tillandsias"

JUNE:

John Catlan will speak on the topic of "Foliage Vrieseas"

JULY:

Arno King will give a power point presentation of "Endangered Bromeliads"

AUGUST:

Neville Ryan will be our speaker on the topic of "Tillandsias."

SEPTEMBER:

Greg Aizlewood will introduce us to the "Wonderful World of Billbergias" (Plant of the Month)

**DETAILS OF OTHER SOCIETY
SHOWS / EVENTS FOR 2009
Dates for your Diary**

MARCH 7 AND 8

Wavell Heights Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights.

APRIL 10, 11, 12, AND 13 "BROMADELAIDE"

APRIL 18 AND 19

Bromeliad Society of Queensland -- Autumn Show Mt. Coot-tha

MAY 2 AND 3

Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society – Bromeliad Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Community Centre, Millwell Road, Maroochydore.

AUGUST 28, 29, and 30

Gold Coast Show, Parklands Show Grounds.

OCTOBER 10 AND 11

Wavell Heights Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights.

NOVEMBER 7 AND 8

Bromeliad Society of Queensland -- Spring Show Mt. Coot-tha.

A warm welcome to our
New members for November, 2008



Dawn & Eddie Collas
Stephen Eardley
Brandon & Jessica Ngov

We hope you enjoy learning more about Bromeliads & Succulents from our meetings with our guest speakers, and look forward to seeing you on our field trips we organize through out the year.

Plant sales to finish after afternoon tea.

Plant set up to start at 11.00 a.m to 11.45 a.m

Plant sales to start at 12 midday to 1.00 p.m

Special plants ordered by a member which are to be commission free are **NOT** to enter the hall. In the spirit of the club activity this privilege is not to be abused.

Side gate to be guarded from 11 a.m and locked at 11.50 a.m before sales start. Locked gate to be supervised from 12 p.m to 1 p.m.


Unsold plants **MUST** not be removed until meeting is over.

All members that have setup their sales plants will leave sales area promptly. (the stewards will enforce this rule.) no plants to be removed or set aside before commencement of sales.

Only people with a special disability will be allowed to buy plants before sales start.

No other members will be allowed to buy plants before general sales start.

All sellers to be considerate of buyers, sellers and members at all times. (because without their goodwill the club will not exist.)



WHO AM I?

Don't know the name of a plant? Why not bring it along to the meeting and have one of our experts solve the problem by giving it a name.

RULES FOR PLANT SALES.

Club will not be responsible for any loss or damage to any plants.

All sellers **MUST** be financial club members.

Plants to be free of pests.

Plants must be drained of excess water.

Plants to be succulents or bromeliads (within normal description.)

Plants **MUST** be ticketed with the correct description (genera, plant name if known.)

Sellers **MUST** have plants ticketed with sellers name and price on top and bottom of stick on tickets.

Use of full name is to be used. (**NOT INTIALS.**)

Sellers to register at the gate at each meeting.

Payment will only be made on tickets collected at register.

Commission will be 10%.

Sellers will be responsible for their own area (tables, table covers, boxes, display equipment and for cleanup of same.

Shaded area is on a first in basis. (late comers your options may be limited.)

All sellers and members will be expected to help with hall set up and cleanup. Able bodied members to help with heavy items.

Payout for plant sales only after cleanup is complete (payout to be in reverse order every second time.) (A to Z) (Z to A)

FIELD DAYS AND BUS TRIPS FOR 2009.
LOCK THESE DATES INTO YOUR DIARY.

SATURDAY 14 MARCH — FIRST BUS TRIP

BRUCE DUNSTAN – STOCKADE NURSERY AT BELLMERE (Caboolture)

Bruce has kindly agreed to us doing a bus trip to his Nursery. It will be an open day for also the Queensland Bromeliad Society and the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society. The nursery is on a very large area of land and their speciality is Alcantareas (many varieties) together with a variety of large landscaping plants of mixed genera.

We will then travel to another very interesting garden at Ningi. This garden is owned by members of the Queensland Bromeliad Society – Gwen and Doug Parkinson. They have kindly offered for us to have lunch at this venue. Their property is 2 acres in area.

This will be a great bus trip – not be missed.

Bus pick up points are as follows as normal.

7.00a.m. Tugan – This pick up point is on the service road parallel to the highway approximately 200 mts. south of the Shell Service Station. The park is called Rotary Park. There is suitable off street parking in a small car park area.

7.10 a.m. Robina Railway Station. Bus stop is on the eastern side of the railway station. This is where we have picked up previously at Robina. Car parking is available.

7.30 a.m. B.P. Service Station Coomera. Please gather outside McDonalds restaurant as there are picnic tables for waiting. Parking here is a problem for some as there are signs displayed throughout, that parking is limited to 2 hours. Parking is to be at members own discretion.

These are all our usual pick up points and times and they normally work very well, however, it is difficult to allow time for delays. Please be patient if there is an unforeseen delay.

If we have new members coming along on the trip please allow yourself ample time to find the location and please endeavour to be on time. My mobile on the day is **0418193628**. If you have any problems please ring me.

If we have new members coming along on the trip please allow yourself ample time to find the location and please endeavour to be on time. My mobile on the day is **0418193628**. If you have any problems please ring me.

Members will need to **B.Y.O. lunch and coffee cup**. The society will provide tea, coffee, sugar, milk and biscuits.

There will be plant sales available at both locations and if members are intending to purchase plants, named carry bags or boxes would be handy to store plants on the bus. It is the responsibility of members to secure their own plants safely.

Cost of the trip is \$20.00 per person and Treasurer Jim, is keen to take your bookings. If you intend to take part in the bus trip, please pay promptly to ensure your seat. I hope all members attending have a great day out.

SUNDAY 10 MAY — FIELD DAY

This will be a self driving day to gardens on the northern end of the Gold Coast.

The first garden to visit will be Lee and Cheryl Duffy's garden at 15 Ashford Road, Helensvale, arriving approximately **9.30 a.m.** Approximately **11.00** we will drive to our second garden visit to Tom and Kay Norris's garden 8 Lakefield Crescent, Paradise Point.

It would be planned to have lunch in the park area behind Kay and Tom's which is close to the water. Members will need to **B.Y.O. lunch, fold up chair or blanket** and a coffee cup. Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be provided.

This will be a drive yourself day, so perhaps car pooling with friends would be a good idea. I hope to see lots of members both new and old at this field day. I really thank the members who so generously make their gardens available to us to visit. You can learn a lot when you see other peoples gardens. How they grow their plants and set out their gardens.

If any new members have any queries they could contact me on 55461161 or my mobile on the day is **0418193628**.

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER — FIELD DAY

This again will be a self driving day to two gardens on the southern end of the Gold Coast. Gardens to be confirmed and details set out in the newsletter at a later date.

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER — SECOND BUS TRIP FOR 2009

This bus trip will be heading to Brisbane Bayside going to two G.C.S. & B. Soc.members gardens. The first will be to Tracey Renn's garden at Redland Bay. The second garden visit will be to Malcolm and Michelle Cameron's home at Victoria Point and then to Ann McBurnie's garden at Capalaba. Ann is a member of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland and she has kindly offered us to visit her garden, which is set on one and a half acres of lovely landscaped gardens.

There will be updated information on this trip closer to the time when the bus times will be set out and published in the Bromlink.

Do Bandicoots eat Broms?

After 3 months of low rainfall in Spring 2005 I noticed a couple of my broms had damage to their outer leaves. I didn't take much pay too much attention as the were sited away from the main garden. However, within a few days I discovered many others were also damaged.

What ate broms? I know we have the odd Bandicoot but I don't care as I know they're only eating the grubs when they dig holes in the lawn. So, I decided to play "detective" and guess what? The bandicoots were having a field day (night), chomping merrily away on any Brom which took their fancy, getting to the vase, regardless of serrated leaf-edges.

Solution? Sprayed pot tops and ground around ALL broms with fly spray. In one month we relocated 15 bandicoots as far away from our garden as possible.

Carol Evans, Russell Island