

The aims of the society are:

- (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 2010



Secretary, GCS&BS Inc.
P.O. Box 94,
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Gloria Dunbar, Monica Mead,
Gail Young, Julie Hewetson,
Ann Schenk.

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PLANT DISPLAY CO-ORDINATORS..John Crawford, Berice Bragg
and Karin and Paul Van Tol

PLANT SALES CO-ORDINATOR.....Julie Hewetson
(General Meetings and Sales Days)

PLANT SALES STEWARDS.....Carmon Burke, Norma Fleet,
Maree McFarlane, and Helen
Mueller

SALES TABLE.....Tom and Marilyn Rivett
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RAFFLE CO-ORDINATORS.....Judith and John Patterson
HOST/HOSTESSES — DOOR.....Ann and Harry Schenk
NAME BADGES.....Harry Schenk
PUBLICITY OFFICER.....Ann Schenk
OFFICIAL SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHER.....Paul Van Tol

LIFE MEMBERS R. Reilly, M. Nicholson, G. Besgrove, J.Catlan
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Mr. Glen Mylne - HONORARY MEMBER

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A warm welcome to our New members.

**Mark Geide
Bruce and Jane Edgecombe**

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.

27TH MARCH 2010
is our FIRST CENT AUCTION.



Our first cent auction takes place at the club meeting on the 27th March 2010. for all our new members and current, here's how the auction works.

Members are asked to donate plants of reasonable quality on the day by handing them to the stewards at the door on arrival.

You will see Judith and John Patterson (pictured) going around selling raffle tickets, these are purchased at \$2.00 per 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 the tubs provided next to your selected box of auction plants. You can put as many tickets you want into each tub you choose.

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 maybe called again.

Please support your club by bringing in plants for the auction.

GOOD LUCK!

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General meetings are held every 4th Saturday of the month at -
Robina Uniting Church, 4 Greenwich Crt; Robina.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2010

DATE

EVENT

February 11,12 &13	Tweed Mall Shopping Centre - Display and Sales.
February 27,	General Meeting, Robina Uniting Church. Plant sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
March 11,12 & 13	Pines Shopping Centre – Display and Sales.
March 27	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
April 24	General Meeting -- Robina Uniting Church. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
MAY 2	Our first field trip for 2010 will be to the garden of Allan Robinson, 3 Delnote Crt; Varsity Lakes. More info in later Bromlink.
May 6, 7 & 8	Southport Park Shopping Centre – Display and Sales.
May 15 & 16	Oasis Orchid and Trade Fair, Oasis Shopping Centre, Broadbeach
May 22	General Meeting -- Robina Uniting Church. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
June 26	General Meeting -- Robina Uniting Church. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR.

Happy New Year every one, lets hope it is as good as the last one and we all have an abundance of pups to keep our collection of these wonderful plants going.

Once again we have some wonderful gardens to visit on our Bus Trips as well as field days coming up. Although Karin van Toll could still do with a couple more, so open up your gardens for all members to visit. They don't have to be large, some smaller gardens are just as spectacular. Let every one see how and where you grow your plants and how proud you are of them. So if you would like to show off your garden see Karin. Don't be shy!

If you have an article about any thing you would like to share just give it to me or email/post it. We do not get enough input from our members for our news letter and after all it is **your** news letter. Show other clubs that we can put in an article instead of me having to find articles through other clubs. Look at the articles and say "Hey, I can write some thing like that". It doesn't have to be large, just a few words. You may have a hint on how you get the best results from your plants. So come on every one support you news letter.

Your Editor.



Please have your articles to me no later than the **6th March, 2010**
You can hand it to me at the meeting or post/email to address below or hand it to me at the meeting.

brommad@optusnet.com.au
19 Garoona Gve;
Slacks Creek, Qld. 4127 **Ph: 33883575**



settle in before the extremes in temperature hit them. (Remember, tropical plants often find the very high temperatures stressful, too).

If the mother is green and healthy, and the pup is a good size, then remove it. If the mother is yellowing it may be best to leave the pup on for the reserves of the mother to be passed on to the pup. If you can provide the right conditions then pups should survive whenever you take them. Some options to try to maximize your chances may be:

Leave the pup to callous before planting (3 to 7 days – do not allow the centre to dry out). It can be a difficult decision if the pup has come away with roots, as it may be better for the plant to be potted straight away to keep the roots alive, however you may choose not to water it in.

In cold months, put new pups in a bright warm spot. In summer put them in good filtered light, in a spot that doesn't get too hot.

You may use a fungicide, or a rooting hormone. Often rooting hormones are not long lasting, so that after a short time the only element that works in them is a fungicide. I often use sulphur as a fungicide for bromeliads. Note: Do not use copper based fungicides.

Use a heat pad, glasshouse, shade house, or any other aid you may have. However, if you are removing the pup from a hardy type of bromeliad and it is a good time of year, these things should not be needed.

With acknowledgement to Bromelieceae Sept/Oct 2009.

MESSAGE FOR ALL MEMBERS

COULD YOU PLEASE BE SURE AND WEAR YOUR BADGES TO ALL MEETINGS INCLUDING OUR ANNUAL SHOW DAY. THIS WILL HELP TO MAKE IT LESS COMPLICATED FOR THE HOST/HOUSTESS ON THE DOOR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

COMMITTEE.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2010 CONT..

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
July 24	General Meeting -- Robina Uniting Church. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
August 12, 13 & 14	Tweed Mall Shopping Centre – Display and Sales.
August 28	General Meeting -- Robina Uniting Church. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
September 12	Our second field trip for 2010 will be to Hank Ouwerling's Whole sale Nursery at Murwilumbah and Brad Preswich. More details in later Bromlink.
September 25	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 23	Annual Show -- Display and Plant Sales Competition/ Popular Vote judged show.
October 31	Second Bus Trip for 2010. 1. Terry Tierney at Jimboomba and 2. Colin and Monica Mead's garden at Acacia Ridge in Brisbane.
November 11,12 & 13	Southport Park Shopping Centre – Display and sales.
November 28	Annual General Meeting / General Meeting, Robina Uniting Church. Christmas Party and Large Plant Raffle. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.



lant 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 Neoregelias.
March	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias, Full sun Aechmeas and Canistrums,
April	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias and Succulents.
May	Spotted neoregelias, Orthophytums, Tillandsias, and Canistrums.
June	Alcantearareas, Foliage Vrieseas, Dykias, Hechtias, and Asterias.
July	Billbergias, Pitcarinias, Cerepegias, Hoyas, Nidulariums, and Agaves.
August	Billbergias, Foliage Vrieseas, Catopsis and miniature Neoregelias.
September	Billbergias and Guzmanias.
October	Vrieseas, Neoregelias, Nidulariums, Guzmanias and Crassulaceae
November	Not often seen Bromeliads and Succulents.

DETAILS OF OTHER SOCIETY SHOWS / EVENTS FOR 2010

FEBRUARY 27 AND 28 Wavell Heights Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights.

MORE IN NEXT ISSUE OF BROMLINK.

reason that they are more vigorous than the subsequent pups. At work, where we have a regular foliar fertilisation program, all pups tend to perform equally, no matter where they came in the order of removal.

One of the problems with milking the pups is knowing when to stop. It is best to leave the last pups on the mother giving them a little more support, when the mother is not going to produce any more anyway. I never take a pup off a yellowing mother, just before winter, or in the middle of summer. Sometimes this backfires on me because the mother dies taking the pups with it. Multi planting. Some people wish to get a pot full of plants, especially of plants of genera such as Billbergia and Quesnelia.

The way, I find, to get the result more quickly is to separate the pups, then plant them into a larger pot but spread out around the pot. This way the individual plant's foliage is fuller, and in some cases makes for a better display. By the time these form individual clumps it looks fantastic. I find this method is the best one to use to quickly fill a good sized area in the garden.

Hanging baskets of stoloniferous plants. I find that after a couple of years stoloniferous plants often have 'bald spots'. I regularly take out some of the leads to replace the dying mothers in the middle of the pot, or create a balance on a side where previously the pups have not grown.

Picking out the eyes. Often I get a plant which was slow to form a clump, and with the techniques mentioned above I have a small clump, but there is still only one lead coming from each mother. In this case I will leave the clump together while taking out each of the leads. The general principle that I have found, even if the plant usually only throws one pup after you take off the first pup out it mostly throws 2 or more pups. This way your clump gets even bigger, and you have some more spares.

When to take pups and what are the right conditions. Most people will tell you to take your pups in spring, but most people with large collections will remove pups at all times of the year. The trick is to know which ones to do in what I term the hostile months and which ones to only do in the most favourable conditions. This knowledge you can usually only gain by experience. But remember that there is only one way to get to know the limits- by experimenting. I find, as I mentioned previously, that there are two stressful times of the year – winter and summer. If a plant is difficult to strike, or is cold tender I will leave it to take either in October to December, or March to early April. These I find to be the best times for the plants to

Stoloniferous offsets. These are produced on stems from the base of the plant.

They often make good hanging basket specimens.

Central offsets. Some plants offset from the centre of the cup, making it difficult to remove them without destroying the plant.

Adventitious offsets. Produced out of unusual or abnormal places, such as some roots or buds, or from stems or leaves. Most commonly, this refers to seedling-like growths that are common on such bromeliads as most species of *Alcantarea* and some species of *Tillandsia*.

Viviparous offsets. These are produced from either the scape bracts (flower stem) or from the actual inflorescence. Prior to discussing the motivation for taking the pups it is necessary to look at what I call the one-third rule. This is a commonly held belief that a plant should be left on the mother plant until it is at least one-third of the mother. It works on the assumption that a plant needs to have gained a degree of strength before it is removed from the mother, and I think as a general rule it is good to abide by, though there are exceptions. When the pups have formed, the decision on when, or in fact if, you should remove them is dependant on what you wish to achieve. Some aims which might lead you to remove pups are:

Single Specimen. Usually for plant competition, and often for plants such as the majority of non-stoloniferous neoregelias, people prefer them as single specimen plants. This is due to an opinion that the shape is at its best when solitary, or, in the case of competition, due to the rules. To achieve the best results it may be necessary to remove the plant before it is one third of the parent's size, that is, before it is too distorted by growing beside the parent. This will allow it to reach a nice conformation by the time it flowers.

Propagating quantities of plants. Some plants are shy to pup. If left to their own resources some plants only produce one or two pups, particularly species, so that you never have a backup in case one dies. Often it is advantageous to remove an offset to put in another spot (where you may experiment with other growing conditions), or give to a friend so that you know where there will be another if you kill the original.

If you mark a plant for harvesting the pups it is important to take the pups off at around 1/3 size, allowing as much time as possible for the plant to produce more pups. This way, in the couple of years most bromeliads have to produce pups, you will get the maximum number out of them.

Some people think that the first couple of offsets are the strongest and that all subsequent offsets are weaker and therefore should be destroyed. My experience is that these first offsets get the best 'kick start' from the mother, and that is the only

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

JANUARY: Kerry Tate will be speaking on tips for epiphytic culture of Bromeliads.

FEBRUARY: Neville Ryan will be speaking on *Tillandsia Fasciculata*.

MARCH: Bruce Dunstan will travel to speak to us on his latest collecting trip to Ecuador and also present a Power Point Presentation.

APRIL: Terry Tierney will travel from Jimbomba to speak to us on the topic of "Pachypodiums"

MAY: Kevin Patterson will speak on Floral Art.

JUNE: Kerry Tate will be speaking to us on Cold Tolerant Plants and will present a power point presentation "A Frosty Experience, Before, During and After"

JULY: Greg Plevy from WORMTEC will speak on the subject of Worm Farming and Vermiculture and the advantages of using worm products .

AUGUST: Len Waite will travel from Caboolture to speak to us on the topic of "Dyckias and Orthophytums"

SEPTEMBER: Greg Aizlewood will give a presentation on the 2010 World Bromeliad Conference.

OCTOBER:

This is our Annual Show with display and sales and also the Annual Popular Vote Competition. No Guest Speaker today.

NOVEMBER:

This is our Christmas Party and Giant Plant Raffle for 2010. No Guest Speaker today.

President's Report

A very big welcome to 2010. Last year was a tough year given the financial problems world wide. Our club had a excellent finish to 2009, with our annual sales above predictions. The Christmas raffle went off well with large numbers of lovely plants going to new owners. Thanks Narelle .

The new activities should keep us all very busy, loads of guest speakers and garden visits. We can always fit in more so if you have a garden for us to visit see Karin Van Tol.

Our special projects team John Crawford and Julie Hewetson have great news. John will give us a report at the January meeting.

Over Christmas I have been collecting the mail for our club and have been reading the news letters from other garden clubs and it is very obvious all clubs are suffering the same problems ; THE COST OF RUNNING THE CLUBS, LACKOF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, and GENERALAGEING OF MEMBERS .

These news letters are packed with information and make a good read.

The committee did a great job last year and I am confident 2010 will be the same with Anne Schenk joining the committee for 2010.

The club members come from a vast area around the Gold Coast and maybe we, as a club could look to do a community project .

If you have any project in mind let us know . The same goes if you have any great ideas to help the club.

Lets get our teeth into it

President Tom Norris

Some Tips on Why, When and How You Take Pups

(by Chris Larson)

Most bromeliad species reproduce themselves vegetatively (by offsetting), which gives them a greater chance of survival than if they relied only on seed. When you consider that for the seed grown in the wild successfully, even if it is viable, it needs to land in a satisfactory place then get the right climatic conditions to grow into a mature specimen. Seedling plants in the wild would find it hard to tough it out in adverse situations such as droughts. Of course it would be of advantage to most species for the plant to evolve with a back mechanism such as offsets. There are some species that either die after flowering, or continue to grow, i.e. not producing offsets, but these are by far the minority of bromeliads. However, this article is only concerned with those that produce offsets, or as offsets are more commonly called "pups".

There are many advantages of reproducing plants vegetatively in your collection. Firstly, when growing by seed you are not ever sure of who the father is until the seedlings have matured. Secondly, the seedlings may damp off, and unless you have kept an offset, you have lost the plant. Thirdly, some hybrids are sterile, and some species need another clone to pollinate it, so seed is not always the way to achieve your aims. Fourth, mutations or particular cultivars are usu usually only reproducible vegetatively.

At this point I feel it is necessary to bring in the subject of apical dominance, which is present in varying degrees in bromeliads. Apical dominance is the principle where the plant will allocate the best resourcest o the highest point of the plant. To achieve this, the plant produces auxins which inhibit the growth of offsets seemingly in an effort to give free reign to the main plant, without having to support offsets. Only when the plant has a damaged growing tip, the growing tip has turned into a flower, or there is a sufficient shock to the plant's usual growing environment does it stop producing this auxin to allow the production of offsets. Thus, offsets are produced by most bromeliads when the growing point turns into a flower or has been removed. Then the dormant buds at the base of each leaf become stimulated because the plant can't grow from the apex any longer. Many of you will know of plants where apical dominance does not seem to apply at all. For example, *Tillandsia kirchoffiana* pups prolifically, but seldom flowers. Some plants do not produce pups at all, and others only produce pups in their seedling stages.

There are a number of types of offsets:

Basal offsets. Most bromeliads produce these offsets directly from the base of the plant.

SAD NEWS ON THE PASSING OF GOOD FRIENDS.

It is with much sadness that I need to inform the members of the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society Inc. of the loss of society members.

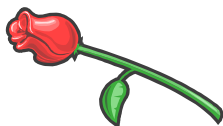
We had a field day to Janne and Keith Redhead's lovely garden in 2009. Keith was extremely proud of his beautiful garden and peaceful surroundings. I regret to advise that Keith passed away on the 20 November 2009 after a battle with ill health.

He was 72 years old on the 12 October. Besides his love of gardening he was also a fine singer and spent many years singing with the Queensland Light Opera Company. He loved aeroplanes and spent much of his retirement making and flying model planes.

Also older members will recall Roy Wenzel who joined the society on 12.8.89 when we met at the Red Cross Rooms at Palm Beach. Roy was instrumental for many years as our Raffle seller. Sadly his wife, Alma passed away on the 16 December 2009.

Alma was born in 1918. She married her sole mate Roy, in Grafton in 1940. Roy and Alma celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 2000, She was 91 years old.

Our heartfelt sympathy go to the families of Keith and Janne, and Roy and Alma, and may the strength of God, family and friends help to get them through this very difficult time.



OUR FIRST BUS TRIP FOR 2010
20TH MARCH.

This will be our first bus trip for 2010, and me as organizer. Thanks Narelle for your help, you have so great.

We will be heading to Billinudgel to Tru and Bob Grant who are members of our Society. This is a Wholesale Nursery. They have a lot of stock of Deroos from Belgium. We will have lunch there, then we will head further up the road to Kathleen Henderson, Cactus Kate who is also a member of our Society for the rest of the afternoon. This should be a very interesting day and one not to be missed.

Our pick up is as follows:

7.00 AM BP Service station Coomera. This pick up point is outside McDonalds. There are picnic tables and car parking available.

7.20 AM Robina railway station bus stop which is on the eastern side of the railway station. Car parking is available.

7.30 AM Tugan pick up is on the service road parallel to the highway 200 metres south of the Shell Service station. The park is called Rotary Park. There is suitable off street parking in small car park.

If we have new members coming on this trip, please allow plenty of time to find the location, or better still do a dummy run and time your self to allow plenty of time to get there. It is difficult to allow for delays. These are estimate times, so please be patient if there are unforeseen delays. Jim our driver, is very efficient.

Members need to BYO lunch and coffee cup. There will be tea, coffee and milk available.

There will be plant sales on both locations so bring carry bags or boxes with your name to store your plants. While Jim takes every care it is the responsibility of the members to secure your own plants.

Cost of the trip is \$20 per person, and I, Karin van Toll is keen to take your money. Please pay promptly to ensure your seat. I hope all members attending will have a great day. I can be contacted on 55206849 or mobile 0409206849. Karin van Toll

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)

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.)

CONGRATULATIONS!

A big congratulations to John Crawford and Julie Hewetson for obtaining grants for The point of sale equipment and a Laptop plus accessories for the editor.

A job well done John and Julie.

