Bromeliaceae

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The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc.

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GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE Society are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month except for December, at the Uniting Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, Brisbane, commencing 7:30 pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is held immediately before the February General Meeting

Front Cover: *Guzmania* Neptunus	**By: Nigel Thomson**
Rear Cover: *Vriesea fenestralis* NZ clone	**By: Nigel Thomson**

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CONTENTS

Committee Details	2
Presents report to AGM – John Olsen	4
Nancy Kickbusch – a little bit about the lady	5
Panama – Part 2 – Bruce Dunstan	6
Judging The Mini Show January Meeting 2014	12
Judges Notes by Narelle Aizlewood	
Most Ananas are Cultivars –	14
By Derek Butcher & Eric Gouda	
The Royal Queensland Show "Ekka" – Glenn Bernoth	17
Top Ten Tillandsia Hybrids – By John Olsen	18
A Note from the Co-editors – Chris & Jennifer Coulthard	23
Mini-show results – Fred Thomson	24
Competition Schedule for 2014	27
Back Page	28

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March Meeting

Guest Speaker –	Cheryl Basic – Intergenerics
Plant of the month –	Cryptanthus, commentary by Glenn Bernoth
Popular Vote Commentary –	Peter Ball

April

The Autumn Show -	13th – 14th April, The Brisbane Table Tennis Centre, 86 Green Terrace, Windsor Qld
April Meeting -	17th April, Uniting Church, Merthyr Road, New Farm

May

May Meeting -	15th May, Uniting Church, Merthyr Road, New Farm

2013 President's Report to AGM 20 Feb 2014

By John Olsen

When I review 2013 activities of the Society, I recall a comment passed to me by a visitor at one of our meetings – "You have a very busy Society with a big range of activities". These things don't just happen but are achieved through the efforts of our members. As President I have had great support from the members of the Management Committee and our meetings and shows are supported by many volunteers which allows the Society to remain vibrant. Thank you all!

Key achievements for 2013 include:

- Review and revision of the Constitution;
- Species based events for Tillandsia and Billbergia;
- Conduct of a "next year Strategy Review" by the Management Committee;
- Consolidation of Bromeliaceae under new editorial arrangements;
- Making our Xmas Party a stronger social event;
- Further development of the Judges school;
- Equipment updates with new projector and display banners;
- Commenced electronic registration for events and increased use of the website and Facebook;
- Well received displays for Ekka and our own 2 shows;
- Re-introduction of practical sessions at meetings;
- Revitalisation of the Mini Shows and Popular Vote segments of our monthly meetings.

The increased level of participation in the monthly shows is a great outcome. These competitions bring a range of plants along to meetings for us to see and hope we can get one like that in the future. This is a feature of our Society's activities which together with the plant of the month brings a wide variety of bromeliads to our attention. I encourage every member to participate and learn from active participation.

The Management Committee has considered a letter of 28 October 2013 from Mr Peter Paroz and the matters contained in it; specifically, the matters pertaining to the expulsion process against him and his request for placement of the outcome of proceedings on the public record. As things stood the notice of intended proceedings was on the public record but subsequent actions were unreported. The Management Committee has taken legal advice and has issued the following statement: *We confirm that on the 7th day of February 2007 the Management Committee approved the expulsion of Mr Paroz from The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. However on the 17th day of May 2007, the Special General Meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc failed to pass the expulsion motion.*
The matter is now closed.

If we simply always do what we always did we get what we always got. The need for refreshing of activities to provide benefits to members is the key challenge of the Management Committee. As you see from the list above we are continuing with nibbling at the fringes to continue to improve our Society activities. Our Strategy Day canvassed some significant departures from the status quo. The outcomes have largely been to do things better rather than make wholesale changes. I raise this not to frighten you with the prospect of change but to explain that the Committee has been carefully reviewing activities. We welcome suggestions and give proper consideration to ideas which come forward. We'd like more feedback.

Nancy Dawn Kickbusch 1942 -2013 – a little bit about the lady.

Many thanks to the members who had something to say about Nancy

To those who knew her well, Nancy was special. Being very private person, Nancy was one of those silent workers; you know, the ones you see pottering around keeping out of the limelight but always in the background doing something. Nancy became a member of the society over 30 years ago and her passion for Bromeliads flourished. She was always a willing participant, contributing to any event, show, propagation class, whatever was running, you would find Nancy at the heart of it. For many years she took charge of the plant sales at the show. To the delight of many she held a couple of open days at her residence. Nancy was the Field Day Coordinator for many years. One unforgettable year she organised for a group to pack their bags and head off to Norfolk Island for a 7 day trip.

Nancy was a devoted mother who wanted nothing but the best for her sons Mark and Brian. She would go to the Mt Gravatt markets to sell plants her plants so she could help provide funds to put her boys through school.

Nancy's favourite genus was Neoregelia, although if truth were told, she was also very fond of Tillandsias. During her later years she developed a love of Guzmanias. Nancy shared her passion with many, and even during an illness that kept her bedridden for approximately 2 years, she remained in contact with many members of the society. She was a lady with a mission and a true love of bromeliads that she generously shared to those who cared to listen. Nancy will always be remembered by those whose life she touched.

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.
PRESENTS

THE AUTUMN SHOW
12-13TH APRIL 2014
COMMENCING 8:00AM

Panama – Part 2

By Bruce Dunstan

In the last Bromeliaceae we left Bruce and his companions downing a few rums and contemplating a new day. We now take up the second part of his Panama adventure. Ed

The walk out the next day *was* punishing. Once again I was taking painkillers for breakfast as we headed off in very still, humid conditions. With aching feet and a need to keep moving to create some air flow over me, the humidity was stifling. Bill and I found we were stopping regularly to treat water at the numerous creek crossings. As the morning warmed up and getting closer to Garachine, we walked out of the forest into the sun. The local store was first stop on reaching town to buy a cold drink that didn't need a steri pen before drinking. Since we were in town at a reasonable time of day, we were able to go to a local restaurant and have a great meal although the ambience lacked a little as the restaurant was just across the road from the town generator; a roaring diesel.

We then had to wait an or hour so for the tide to come in to allow our dugout enough water to get out through the mangrove creek and begin the return journey back to La Palma and onto Puerto Kimba. We left Angel and Bill in La Chunga, the village along the Rio Sambu where our guides lived. They told us they had FARC guerrillas come and stay at their village 3 years ago during the dry season. These days they have visitors from a cruise liner come in once a month so 'times are a changing'. I was keen to gain some elevation, as the lowland forest wasn't likely to contain anything I was looking for. Carla and I headed back up the highway and out of the province. This meant another stop with the military police and a 10 minute wait while they checked out our paperwork and us to see if we looked nervous or potentially guilty. Once we had convinced them that we were just deranged plant nuts we were free to keep travelling.

Carla and I then headed to Cerro Chucante and a privately owned mountain top forest reserve. It is in a very isolated range called the Serrania de Maje, which has the only tall mountains on the Pacific side of Panama between Panama City and the Darien. I was particularly interested in seeing if the mountain contained any locally endemic plants of which Panama has a few.

Below: The Serrania de Jungurudo in the distance from the Rio Sambu

Below: Gerro Chucante

We had booked our accommodation and guide in the weeks before the trip but only got confirmation when we came back into phone range after getting out of the Darien. After a quick stop to buy food and supplies and another stop at the Fronterizo to get our details recorded again, we met our guide, Luchio and the horses that were going to carry all our gear and us up the mountain.

Once again we were close to sea level and although it was the start of the wet season the temperature was hot with hardly a cloud in the sky. We had about 1000 m altitude to gain and a 4 hour horse ride to endure. As we gained altitude thankfully it cooled off a little and the forest duly changed. We were lucky to ride right under a group of black spider monkeys as they jumped energetically from tree to tree. From the forest above we could also hear the roaring of howler monkeys as they called out to each other. The other sound that dominated was that of chainsaws. All the surrounding hills were being logged and cleared for cattle. The new settlers in this part of Panama have come from the Azuero Peninsula, one of the driest parts of Panama and they know how to clear forests as none remain in Azuero anymore. When the land reserve was purchased, Guido the new owner, then had to buy the logging rights for the mountain. This cost $12 per tree deemed big enough worth logging. Money well spent about 10 years ago.

The remote location means there are some very interesting heliconias growing in the forest that Carla had found 6 years ago when she visited. After getting our gear and food stored Carla and I headed up the trail to look for more plants.

The main trail that is maintained is a loop track that takes you up to the peak and across the ridge then back down. This track takes 8 hours as it is quite steep getting up to the peak and ridge and very steep coming back down. My toes had settled down but an infection on my instep caused by constant rubbing was making walking painful still. Carla and I headed up the very steep side hoping to get to as much altitude as quickly as possible. We could see what we thought was the summit through the forest but it turned out to be the edge of the forest reserve with a border of forest meeting a farmer's cleared land. Onwards we went, upwards, until we decided we weren't going to make it in the remaining daylight and we turned for home making the descent much quicker than the uphill climb.

Waking up to howler monkeys is quite a surreal experience, better than a clock-radio alarm, but still a little disturbing for an urban dweller like myself. After breakfast we headed back up the mountain but, this time, via the slightly easier route. As we climbed once again we saw more interesting plants, stopping for calatheas, anthuriums and renealmias. I couldn't get over the number of frogs we saw. Obviously the chytrid fungus that has wiped out huge numbers of frogs around the world hasn't made its way to Cerro Chucante. The number of turquoise and black poison arrow frogs was wonderful as I generally had only been able to spot the odd individual on previous trips in Panama. Getting further up the hill we spotted what appear to be *Tillandsia tricolor* that had fallen out of the tall trees along with *T. anceps* and *T. bulbosa*. A little higher and we were starting to see Guzmania species with *glomerata, butcheri* and what may be *circinnata*. We stopped to photograph a *Heliconia spathocircinata* and while we were engrossed in doing that, a coati, a raccoon relative, climbed down one of the adjacent trees and ambled

around completely ignoring us and then wandered back up the same tree. Once again the remote location was allowing us to see wildlife we generally don't see.

Higher up we found a green guzmania that resembles *G. mitis* but has some varying characters. As we reached the peak we spotted large numbers of *Guzmania elvallensis*. Originally thought to be only found at El Valle in Panama, but I have seen it growing at El Cope to the west of El Valle and now way down on the Panama/ Darien province border. We also saw what will probably turn out to be *Guzmania circinnata* flowering up in the trees, but Chester Skotak holds out some hope it might be *Guzmania derooseii* ined., a new species he found way down in the Serrania de Jungurudo near the Colombian border and one of the reasons I was keen to go to Cerro Sapo. At the top we could see out across the cleared plains right to the Pacific Ocean. For the wet season we were having fantastic luck with the weather. Also growing up on the wet ridge was *Guzmania darienensis* another species we saw on Cerro Sapo.

As we climbed along the ridge the trees shrank and turned into the low twisted canopy of elfin cloud forest. Once again we started to have to climb in, around and through the trees, finding ourselves up in the rocks and trees again. Also growing along the wet ridge was a different Werauhia with grey foliage tipped with pinkish fingernails and a club like inflorescence. Orchids, cyclanths, ferns, utricularias, peperomias, dwarf anthuriums, a pretty bright fuchsia and pink psychotria made up a strange collection of plants growing along this wet ridge. The ridge seemed to go on forever as we made our way along and ever so slowly we started to lose altitude on the way down. We wandered past the remains of two American helicopters that crashed into the mountain back in the '60s that are slowly being taken over by the forest. A Guzmania was growing happily on what would have been the fuselage of one of them. As we headed downhill closer to our lodgings we noticed cat tracks on the path that weren't there yesterday. They were only 50mm wide so not big enough for jaguar or puma, more likely an ocelot or margay. Still very exciting to see them on this path and even more exciting when we realised it must have walked right past our cabins in last night's darkness.

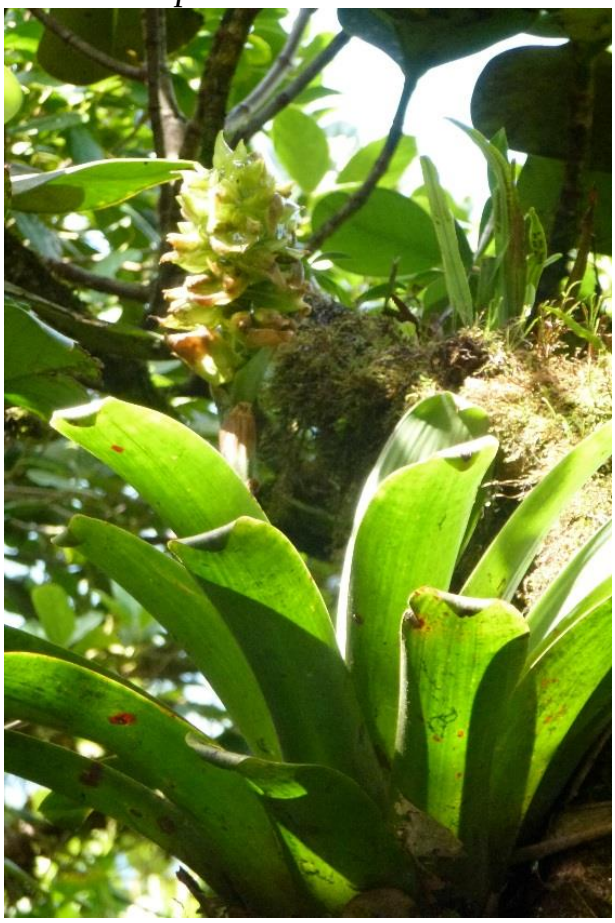
The next day my foot was very painful and some hot compresses were used to try to get the swelling down on my instep. The thought of trying to get it into my rubber boot was not a pleasant one. As we had done the only trail the day before and we were still getting over our Darien adventures we decided to spend the day bird watching and cleaning seed while we sat on the veranda of the lower house and looked out across to the peak and ridge that we had climbed yesterday. Filling up a bird feeder with sugar and water was quickly rewarded with an emerald green hummingbird making plenty of visits during the afternoon. Carla also spotted howler monkeys in the adjacent trees pulling up the flowering racemes of mucuna vines to eat the flowers while I had a well-deserved siesta.

The next morning was time to leave so everything was once again loaded on our horses and we were off down the hill. Carla and I decided to walk for the first part through the forest rather than slip and slide down the muddy trail on the back of our horses. About an hour into our downhill journey the heavens opened in a huge rainstorm complete with lightning and thunder.

Guzmaina butcheri growing on Cerro Chucante

Guzmaina sp aff. Mitis

Werauhia sp.



Cat tracks on the path descending from the peak of Cerro Chucante towards our accommodation

1st Left: *Guzmania darienensis*

2nd Left: *guzmania circinnata*
? growing on Cerro Chucante

3rd Left: Coming down from Cerro Chucante in a wet season thunderstorm.

4th Left: *Tillandsia flexuosa* growing on a Plumeria on an exposed cliff along the Pacific coast towards Garachine

Below: *Guzmania elvallensis*
The image was taken by Carla Black who is pictured above.

Carrying my lucky umbrella, which comes with my on me trips and generally does a good job of avoiding rain, suddenly didn't feel such like a good idea with lightning thundering down around us. We struck trouble when the little brown mare carrying our bags trapped a rear hoof between two long tree branches that had been laid down to improve the muddy trail. Luchio and the boys weren't carrying a machete, which was a very un-Panamanian thing Carla thought, as they seem to be a necessity to any working man, so we had to dig with our hands and some sticks to free the mare. Luckily for her she was only bruised above her hoof and by the time she walked down without her load she seemed to have recovered from what was a very scary situation.

We dropped our guides at the local store with a little spending money in their pockets and started back up the Interamerican Highway towards the capital city. I had seed to clean and prepare and needed some air conditioning to help dry out my seed as well as all my gear. This was by far the hardest trip I had had in Panama; as Carla said to me in the planning phase, 'Well, you've done all the easy places we can do from a car on the side of the road.' We figure if we are to go to even newer places or up mountains again we'll need to take some camping gear and stay out in the forest to be able to find new areas and plants.

I'm encouraging Carla to think about taking groups of people on trips as she knows exactly where to see amazing plants (right next to the road!) and also knows where you can stay as well as where the best cheap food is found. When more details become available I'll pass them on as I can recommend her services as being a fantastic guide and travel companion over the years I have travelled with her. For me I'm already thinking about doing another 'softer' driving trip in the western range of Colombia with Emilio and no horses.

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Judging The Mini Show January Meeting 2014

Judges Notes by Narelle Aizlewood

Plants tabled for the January Mini Show were of very good quality considering some of the adverse weather conditions that we have all been experiencing at this time of year, what with hail storms affecting many gardens and also the extremely hot weather of late. There were a wonderful number of plants entered in both the Advanced Section and also the Intermediate Section, with a very small number of plants entered in the Novice Section. We do have a lot of Novice Growers and I would strongly encourage members to table plants. It is a lot of fun and you certainly get to know your plants a little better with the competition.

Classes for competition for April Mini Show are:
Class 1. Bromelioideae not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species and hybrids.
Class 2. Guzmania species and hybrids
Class 3. Pitcairnia species and hybrids
Class 4. Any other flowering bromeliad species and hybrids.

Please check the competition schedule for 2014 on the back page of the Bromeliaceae.
As you would all be aware the next show for the B.S.Q. at the Table Tennis Centre Windsor, is on the 12th and 13th of April. Plants for competition need to be at the hall and tabled on Friday afternoon 11th April.
I have set out below points that are taken into consideration by the Judges when carrying out judging of members plants for your interest. This may help you to take just a little more care with the presentation of your plants onto the competition tables. These guidelines are followed not only at the major shows throughout the year, but also the Mini Shows held regularly at three monthly intervals at our meetings.

1. Cultural Perfection:

Container needs to be clean, not chipped cracked and the appropriate size for the plant. Mix should be the right depth, clean and top dressed if need be. The bromeliad ideally should be in the centre of the pot, straight and the correct depth in the container. Damaged leaves should be carefully trimmed and leaf removal complete. There should be no excessive removal of lower leaves. Leaves should not have wide and narrow areas, or elongated leaves. No gaps between the leaves.
Plants should have mineral deposits removed from the plant and pot. Should have no water spots, algae, dust or debris and be free of disease i.e. scale infection.

2. Conformation:

From above the plant should be symmetrical. In profile the plant should have the typical shape of the species. The stem should be straight, the cup should not be pulled off centre. The natural contour should not be destroyed by gaps between the leaves. Points would be taken off by too much leaf trimming, and excessive and incomplete removal of basal leaves. Leaves should be of the appropriate shape, width, length, and in the right number for the plant tabled. Inflorescence should be correctly shaped, sized, and coloured for the species.

3. Colour and Marking:

The colour should be maximal, not bleached, faded, evenly distributed, not lighter on one side with colour breaks and scurf disturbed. Markings should be clear, intense, evenly distributed, bars, hieroglyphs, longitudinal lines, brightly coloured leaf tips, all typical for the variety in question.

4. Inflorescence:

Size should be optimal – not larger than usual, undersized, or blooming prematurely. The quality of the bloom present should have mature flowers present with dead scape bracts removed. Quality of the scape and floral bracts should be fresh. Spent blooms and bracts and pollen on foliage look old. Colour needs to be vibrant, not washed out, uneven and with colour breaks.

5. Maturity:

Plant needs to be of optimal size and maturity. Points would be deducted for ¾ grown, ½ grown, and very immature.

6. Overall balance and symmetry:

Plant should be extremely well balanced with equal growth all around. You would need to pay attention if the growth was slightly or drastically unbalanced. Mounted plant(s) should be presented so that the natural growth habit is enhanced, and the plants appear to be "at home" and well established. Plants should not look like they were only recently attached. The size, shape, and weight of the mount should be appropriate for the plant, and plants should appear to be stable.

I do hope that these points are of some interest and help when preparing your competition entries.

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Most Ananas are Cultivars

By Derek Butcher[1] & Eric Gouda[2] 1/11/2013

1. Honorary Trustee of the Bromeliad Society International, and Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar 1998-2008. Email: tillands@bigpond.com
2. Curator of the Utrecht University Botanic Gardens; Subject Editor Bromeliaceae for Phytotaxa. Email: e.j.gouda@uu.nl

The naming of cultivated plants had its origins in 1862 when Alphonse de Candolle wrote a letter which was subsequently placed before the International Horticultural Congress of Brussels, 1864. De Candolle wished to reserve Latin names for species and varieties and to use only non-Latin `fancy' names such as `Bijou', `Rainbow', etc., for garden forms. He suggested that this common, traditional and ancient practice should be made the only practice. It was not until 1952 for the ICNCP (International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants) to be born. It was not until 1979 that the Bromeliad Society produced its first Check-list of hybrids entitled 'International Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids'. The following year they were appointed International Cultivar Registration Authority for Bromeliaceae but it was not until 1998 did we see the first Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR) published, closely followed by the on-line register in 2000 with as many photographs as we could find. It has been totally renewed in 2010, see Lawn, Butcher & Gouda (cont.upd.).

Registration is easy and costs nothing but time. It is voluntary and if you have a hybrid that is distinct and you have several asexual plants then consider giving your progeny a name and register it. You would need a couple of photos and all you need do is contact the Registrar. Pineapples are unique in that they are mainly grown for their fruit and these cultivars are best listed in the Brooks & Olmo (1997), "*Register of Fruit and Nut varieties*". But if your hybrid or selection is primarily an ornamental then registration in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register is recommended.

Now let us look at the definition of a Cultivar according to the ICNCP - International Code for Nomenclature of Cultivated plants:

cultivar: Produced in cultivation as opposed to one growing in habitat; – an assemblage of plants that has been selected for a particular attribute or combination of attributes and that is clearly distinct, uniform, and stable in these characteristics and that when propagated by appropriate means retains those characteristics.

cultivated plant: deliberately selected plants that may have arisen by intentional or accidental hybridization in cultivation, by selection from existing cultivated stocks, or from variants within wild populations that are maintained as recognisable entities solely by continued propagation. These are sometimes referred to as cultigens.

Coppens d'Eeckenbrugge & Leal (2003) produced a monumental work on Pineapples in the book "The pineapple: botany, production and uses". They researched deeply and made the decision that *Ananas* was really a genus with only two species.

The following are the changes that were proposed from that in Smith & Downs (1979). The major change is that the genus *Pseudananas* becomes one of the only two species in *Ananas*. Because the writers saw little difference in the listed species of *Ananas* these are now treated at varietal level under species *A. comosus.*

Smith and Downs	Present classification
Pseudananas sagenarius	*Ananas macrodontes*
Ananas ananassoides	*Ananas comosus var. ananassoides*
Ananas nanus	*Ananas comosus var. ananassoides*
Ananas lucidus	*Ananas comosus var. erectifolius*
Ananas parguazensis	*Ananas comosus var. parguazensis*
Ananas comosus	*Ananas comosus var comosus*
Ananas monstrosus	Invalidated by Leal (1990) and treated as a form of *A. comosus*
Ananas bracteatus	*Ananas comosus var. bracteatus*
Ananas fritzmuelleri	*Ananas comosus var. bracteatus*

The big change is in variegates because although treated at varietal level in Smith & Downs (1979) they have not been addressed in this work. We know that variegation is not a trait consistently transferred in sexual reproduction and as such is perhaps better catered for under the ICNCP rules.

This means that Ananas comosus var. variegatus becomes either *Ananas como*sus var. *comosus* 'Variegatus*'* or *Ananas* 'Variegatus'. Likewise *Ananas bracteatus* var *tricolor* becomes *Ananas comosus* var. *bracteatus* 'Tricolor' or *Ananas* 'Tricolor'. These changes only apply to plants currently known by these names. However, if you have lost the label on your variegated pineapple, plants can be linked to 'Variegatus' if the plant is like 'comosus' but the leaves are variegated. They can be linked to 'Tricolor' if the plant is like 'bracteatus' and the leaf blades are variegated with longitudinal stripes. There are already accepted Cultivars of these two varieties but, no doubt, there will be other Cultivar forms of these and other varieties that will arise from time and time in the future.

Coppens et al (2011) updated their work from that in 2003.

In 2013, ten years later, these recommendations have been largely ignored by non-Pineapple specialist botanists where current Binomial lists (Luther 2006) produced by Marie Selby Gardens show 7 species, *ananassoides, bracteatus, comosus, fritzmuelleri, lucidus, nanus,* and *parguazensis* and two variegates and 1 *Pseudananas*.

On the other hand, Kew Gardens, in the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (Govaerts et all., cont.upd.), have accepted that *Pseudananas* is really *Ananas* and quote 6 species, *ananassoides, bracteatus, comosus, lucidus, parguazensis* and *sagenaria* and no variegates.

Lista de Especies do Brasil (Reflora, cont.upd.), shows 7 species, *ananassoides, bracteatus, comosus, fritzmuelleri, lucidus, nanus,* and *parguazensis* and no variegates and 1 *Pseudananas.*

In fact, the only place where the 'Pineapple People's' proposal is accepted at the moment is in the New Bromeliad Taxon List (Butcher & Gouda, cont.upd.)

None, of course, show any reasoning for synonyms but does show varying opinions. The only one to make comment, as far as we can trace, is Elton Leme (Filho & Leme, 2007).

However, Elton Leme has ignored the existence of two variegates mentioned in Luther (2006) and Smith & Downs (1979) and the ICNCP code which we quoted at the start of this article.

In 2009 Coppens d'Eeckenbrugge and Marie-France Duval presented an excellent paper on 'The Domestication of Pineapple' in Pineapple News Issue No. 16, 2009 which showed the differences between domesticated and wild species. However, the domesticated plants were still identified under species names not cultivar names.

In 2014 in looking at the whole of *Ananas*, we have come to the conclusion that all descriptions in the past have been based on cultivated material with the possible exceptions of *A. ananassoides*, *A.parguazensis* and *A. macrodontes*. These are not known for their edible fruit and would have had minimal selection by the native population. We should not underestimate the influence of man on (semi) natural vegetation, especially when they have nutritional value. Therefore we propose the following:

Bromelia ananas L. Sp. Pl.: 285 (1743) = basionym of *Ananas comosus* must be considered a manmade Cultivar, which makes *Acanthostachys ananassoides* Baker Handb. Bromel. 25 (1889) = basionym of Ananas ananassoides, the only real *Ananas* species to be recognized besides *Ananas parguazensis* Camargo & L. B. Smith, Phytologia 26: 464, fig. 1. 1968. and *Ananas sagenaria* Schult.f. Syst. Veg. vii. 1286 (1830).

Accordingly we designate a new lectotype for the Genus *Ananas* as *Acanthostachys ananassoides* Baker.

The new Cultivars will be Ananas 'Bracteatus', 'Comosus', and 'Erectifolius'One variety of *Ananas ananassoides* is recognized here: *Ananas ananassoides* var. *nanus* L.B.Sm. *Bot. Mus. Leafl*. 7: 79 (1939), which is a small form from Surinam and Brazil and often seen as ornamental because of its size.

Clearly the Pineapple fraternity are more interested in *Ananas* than its relationship within Bromeliaceae as a whole but should still look at the whole picture. Not only do they have the "Pineapple News" but are more likely to read mainstream horticultural journals such as Scientia Horticulturae and HortScience. But there is a danger they may get further away from the general botanical picture.

Perhaps, the concept of an ICNCP solution could be discussed as part of the international symposium in Brisbane next year as part of the IHC2014.

Acknowledgements:
Thanks to Garth Sanewski of Brisbane and Duane Bartholomew of Hawaii, who gave advice as to how we should proceed with this proposal.

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Below: This is what Glenn and his team put together last year for the show.

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Top Ten Tillandsia Hybrids

By John Olsen

In a 2013 edition of Bromeliaceae (Vol XLVII (3)), I reported on a survey of Tillandsia enthusiasts as to their "Top Ten" Tillandsia species. This note reports on a similar survey in relation to Tillandsia hybrids.

One of the comments I got in the survey made me think more generally on the matter of hybrids in both bromeliads and orchids. One of my stipulations placed on respondents was that the hybrids had to represent an improvement on the parents. That is often advanced as a reason for making a hybrid and attests to it having sufficient merit to be registered.

One comment which got me thinking was that
"I haven't seen any hybrids which appeal more to me than the species T tectorum".

The respondent went on to draw some comparisons to orchids where hybrids are usually larger, more colourful and more prolific than the species orchids. Hybridisation of orchids has been going on since the 1800s. There appear to be a few aspects of orchid hybridisation which lead to a difference to Tillandsia. The genetics is complicated but to simplify the matter, think only of "traits" which are carried by the chromosomes. For humans these traits include colour of eyes, hair, skin, and physique to some extent. In orchids, the traits which are the focus of hybridisation relate almost exclusively to the flower – colour, shape, size, spots, wrinkled edge etc. In Australia breeders concentrate on shape as that attracts more points in judging. In the US, colour dominates judging so shape is less of a factor for their hybridists. Over time the orchid hybridists have assembled knowledge on which traits of particular species and hybrids are dominant and which are recessive. So firstly they have the advantage of elapsed time over which to garner information. Secondly the turnaround time from flower to subsequent hybrid is generally shorter than for a tillandsia. Orchid growers have access to more generations of experimental knowledge.

An article in Bromeliaceae Vol XLVI 2nd Quarter 2012 provides some guidance on dominant traits of Tillandsia species. Interestingly the trait which has great appeal in relation to *Tillandsia tectorum* (voted top species in 2013) is the lepidote leaves. That trait is noted as a recessive trait which means the strong appeal of the species is unlikely to be carried through to a hybrid. No hybrids using *Tillandsia tectorum* were nominated in this survey.

In other bromeliad genera, the use of hybrids in breeding is more common. In Neoregelias and the pattern leaf Vrieseas for example the hybridist also has advantage over a Tillandsia hybridiser in that the time per generation is much less. Further, in both cases the traits which are being targeted are in the leaves (variegation, bars, spots and blotches) and there is an opportunity early in the growth of the hybrids to assess results at the seedling stage. We know that the specialist hybridisers of bromeliads are very careful with their knowledge as it is part of their commercial edge but it is clear that they use many hybrids in their crosses.

However, most registered cultivars in Tillandsia are primary hybrids ie the product of two species. Why is this so? There are a variety of factors at play. Our hybridists are experimenting with crosses of hybrids but comments made suggest it is more difficult than the primary cross and more difficult than with orchids. "I have many failed attempts" commented Barry Genn. Some hybrids are infertile or "mules" so do not produce viable pollen. Some have receptive ovaries but don't produce viable pollen and vice versa. The pool of hybrids from which to draw high quality parents is also smaller.

Survey results

In contrast to the species survey of 2013, only 12 respondents provided their lists. From the twelve, some 68 hybrids were nominated indicating diversity of opinions. The plants in the top 5 of the 2013 species survey were all nominated by a majority of the respondents. That hasn't been the case with the hybrids where only the top ranked plant – *Tillandsia* Ty was nominated by a majority of respondents.

Table 1 below shows the rankings and parentage of the Top 10.

Table 1 Top Ten Hybrid Tillandsia

Rank	Hybrid	parent 1	Parent 2	Hybridist
1	Ty	*ehlersiana*	*bulbosa*	Isley
2	Barry's Gem	*kautskyi*	*geminiflora*	Genn
3	Curly Slim	*intermedia*	*streptophylla*	Dimmitt
4	Eric Knobloch	*brachycaulos*	*streptophylla*	Carrone
5	Creation	*platyrachis*	*cyanea*	Bak
6	Dimmitt's Talent	*rothii*	*concolor*	Dimmitt, Koide Hyatt
7	Mayan Torch	*imperialis*	*deppeana*	Arden
8	Queen's Delight	*carlsoniae*	*chiapensis*	Koide-Hyatt
9	Showtime	*bulbosa*	*streptophylla*	Dimmit; Isley
10	Silver Queen	*jalisco-monticola*	*xerographica*	Arden

Our own member Barry Genn can be well pleased that one of his treasures came in at number 2.

Tillandsia Barry's Gem

Table 2 Top Hybridisers

Hybridiser	Nominations
Arden	9
Paterson	9
Dimmitt	7
Isley	4
Flower	3
Genn	3
Ryan	3

Above: *T Tillandsia* Showtime

Above: *Tillandsia* Silver Queen (photo by John Arden)

Right: *Tillandsia deppeana x imperialis* (Mayan Torch)

John Arden is among the elite of bromeliad hybridisers and his hybrids are spectacular and sought out in Australia and in the US. Pleasingly some 25% of the nominations were for "Australian Made" hybrids with 9 of Margaret Paterson's hybrids nominated. There may be some statistical bias in the results towards the Aussie product.

Most respondents made nominations from hybrids they had actually seen. Some spectacular hybrids didn't appear. An example is T Samantha which was featured in an earlier edition of Bromeliaceae. Seedlings of this plant have been widely available in 2013 in Australia, but it seems none have matured to flowering yet. Two of the respondents who are keen importers nominated plants which others in Australia are yet to actually see. We can look forward to some exciting new plants in the coming years.

Comments on the Top Ten

T Ty – the parents of this hybrid seem closely related and for some time there was argument as to whether they were separate species. T Ty exhibits the interesting shape of *T ehlersiana* and the inflorescence is more like *T streptophylla*. It displays hybrid vigour being quicker to produce offsets than its parents. Ty is in many collections and so is reasonably widely available. Interesting for both shape and a nice pink inflorescence.

T Barry's Gem – Barry Genn discussed this hybrid at one of our Tillandsia Workshops and said his objective was to produce an attractive small plant, regularly flowering – a success on both fronts. This hybrid has the steel grey slightly recurved foliage but a more open form than *T kautskyi* and a very nicely coloured flower with red/pink petals and bracts protrudes from among the leaves. Widely available in SEQ at least.

T Curly Slim – this hybrid was made in 1981 and so is widely available in Australia. It has curly leaves inherited from *T streptophylla* and an elongated form from *T intermedia*. Interesting more for its form than the inflorescence.

T Eric Knobloch – made in 1969 so another oldie. The BCR lists this as *a 20-30cm tall plant favouring the T streptophylla parent - thick leafy scape is erect and straight with the inflorescence forming a tight head of flowers - sepals are green to rose red w/deep blue to violet petals - the upper half of the plant blushes yellow orange then orange scarlet then deep rosy red at anthesis - Named to honor Eric Knobloch, Louisiana collector and grower*. In common with most Tillandsia, better colour with more red is seen in strong light (50% white shadecloth works best for me).

T Creation – this is a product of the major Dutch breeders Corn Bak and registered in 1985. It combines the almost fluorescent pink colour of *T cyanea* in the inflorescence but has more larger leaves and a branched inflorescence. Spectacular in flower in February each year. Peter Tristram has made a similar looking hybrid – T Feather Belle – but with *T laxissima* as the second parent. The BCR notes as follows - *Differs from 'Creation' in plant smaller, scape shorter, more branches, floral bracts more imbricate and bright pink.* Both are reasonably available in SEQ.

T Dimmitt's Talent – this is a hybrid I have not seen, so rely on the BCR notes and photo - *Mature rosette to 30cms diameter x 30cms tall in spike. Inflorescence has multiple red branches with purple flowers. Entire rosette turns red when blooming and in strong light. Reg. Doc. 9/2012 by P. Koide Hyatt.* The photo in the BCR is spectacular. It evidences the strong red colour to plants and inflorescence that *T rothii* gives to its hybrids.

T Mayan Torch (Arden) – this is a green leaf Tillandsia sometimes with some reddish tinges to the outer margins of the leaves. As seen in the photo the inflorescence is spectacular with a central column of the inflorescence rising to a point (like *T imperialis*) and additional side branches to the inflorescence tightly surrounding the centre. The plant photographed came to me labelled *T imperialis x T deppeana* so is possibly only of the same grex and not exactly T Mayan Torch. Photos on the BCR show some differences. Nice plant in any case but not widely available.

T Queen's Delight – this 1990 hybrid by Pamela Koide Hyatt combines the larger inflated pink inflorescence which is usually a single spike in *T chiapensis* into a branched inflorescence as is seen *T carlsoniae.* In *T carlsoniae* the spikes nestle down in the leaves, but this hybrid has a taller inflorescence. It truly meets the criterion of being an improvement on both parents. Foliage is silver grey. Not commonly available.

T Showtime – the shape of this hybrid resembles a slightly open form of its *T bulbosa* parent. The inflorescence and colouration of the plant at flowering is improved by the other parent – *T streptophylla.*

T Silver Queen – an Arden hybrid from 1987, this is a large plant with silver grey leaves resembling more *T Jalisco-montecola* than the more tightly coiled leaves of *T xerographica*. A specimen was among the champion plants at one of our recent shows.

Top Parents List

Parent species	Nominations
T streptophylla	8
T capitata rubra	6
T rothii	5
T bulbosa	5
T concolor	5
T chiapensis	4
T stricta	4
T brachycaulos	4
T ionantha	4
T xerographica	3
T jalisco-monticola	3
T deppeana	3
T duratii	3

T bulbosa

In the Top Ten list only T streptophylla and T bulbosa appear as parents more than once. Only 4 of the Top Ten Species Tillandsia list made it to the top parents list. Interestingly the most popular species tillandsia - *T tectorum* didn't feature in the nominated hybrids at all!

A Note from the Co-editors

Chris and Jennifer Coulthard

Welcome to the first edition of the 2014 Bromeliaceae. As in other years the Annual General Meeting was held in February with some changes to the Committee.

Barry Kable was elected to be the new President. John Olsen (past President) was appointed Vice President / Treasurer. He also is a Co-editor of Bromeliaceae. Barbara Murray is the new Secretary. Committee members are: Pam Butler, Peter Ball, Mal and Michelle Cameron, Rob Murray, David Vine, Olive Trevor, Chris and Jennifer Coulthard. We would also like to welcome our new committee member; Roland Anthony.

As co-editors, Jennifer and I confess to a lack of technical bromeliad knowledge. We grow bromeliads for their beauty rather than technical perfection. Consequently, we often make mistakes in the naming and occasionally the classification in the magazine. We would like to thank those members who have offered their services in pre-production proof reading and we certainly will be calling on you in the future to help us provide a better product. To the rest of our readers, if you do spot an error that has slipped by, drop us a line to let us know. We won't get upset, and you will be helping us achieve our goal of providing you with correct information.

If you have something of interest that you would like to be published, please contact us. If you need a hand with an article or perhaps you would like to share a photo or two of your garden, plant, candid shot; again all you need to do is let us know and we can help you put it together.

There are a great many activities and events on this year, so bring your friends along to join in. We hope you have a wonderful 2014 and don't forget to drop us a line.

Below: Missing from this photo are Jennifer & Chris Coulthard

Mini-Show Results 30/1/14

By Fred Thomson

Advanced		**Name**	**Plant Name**
CLASS 1:	First	Mal & Michelle Cameron	*Aechmea* 'Loie's Pride'
	Second	Mal & Michelle Cameron	*Aechmea fasciata* 'Skotak Pink'
CLASS 2:	First	Mal & Michelle Cameron	*Vriesea* 'Milky Way' 'Arctic Blast' x 'Hawaiin Sun Glow'
	Second	Mal & Michelle Cameron	*Vriesea fosteriana* hybrid (David Fell hybrid)
CLASS 3:	First	Bruce Dunstan	*Tillandsia xerographica*
	Second	Bruce Dunstan	*Tillandsia bermejoensis*

Intermediate

CLASS 1:	First	Barbara McCune	*Aechmea lueddemanniana* 'Mend'
	Second	Maxim Wilson	*Aechmea* 'Burning Bush'
CLASS 2:	First	Barbara McCune	*Vriesea* 'Precious Pearls'
	Second	Ron Jell	*Vriesea saundersii*
CLASS 3:	First	Barbara McCune	*Tillandsia acostae*
	Second	Ron Jell	*Tillandsia fasciculata* 'Magnifica'

Novice

CLASS 1:	First	Barbara Murray	*Aechmea serventensis var. exigua*
	Second		
CLASS 2:	First	Kayleen Courtney	*Vriesea correia-araujoi*
	Second		

The BSQ Web Site

Don't forget that the society has a website. We place urgent and general information on this site. Browse through our site for upcoming events, tips & FAQS and resources. www.bromsqueensland.com.au

Popular Vote Aggregate - Results 29/11/13

By Fred Thomson

Advanced	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Nov	Total	
Len & Olive Trevor	2	8	8	8	7	6	8	**47**	1st
Bruce Dunstan	8		1		4	3		**16**	2nd
Peter Paroz								**0**	
Barry & Ann Kable	3		3				1	**7**	
Cheryl Basic								**0**	
Nigel Thomson								**0**	

Intermediate	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Nov	Total	
Fred Thomson				5	2	4	3	**14**	
Maxim Wilson	7			3		4		**14**	
Mal & Michelle Cameron		7		7		7		**21**	1st
Pam Butler	1	2	7	2		2		**14**	
Greg Aizlewood	3				1			**4**	
Pat Barlow	5	3	3	1			3	**15**	2nd
David Vine				3	2	4	2	**11**	
Narelle Aizlewood					3			**3**	
David Rees					5		2	**7**	
Evelyn Rees					1			**1**	
Michelle Cameron							3	**3**	
Mal Cameron							7	**7**	

Novice	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Nov	Total	
John Olsen	5			3			7	**15**	2nd
Jenny Ottensohn						3		**3**	
Norma Poole		1	3	2				**6**	
Brod Northwood		5		3	1	6	2	**17**	1st
Ron Jell				1	3	3	3	**10**	
Rick Cairns					3			**3**	
Charmain Rooney		3	1	1	1	1	2	**9**	
Linda Wilkes			5	2	3		3	**13**	
Barbara Murray				1				**1**	
Janet Richter			2	2				**4**	
Narelle Edmonds				1				**1**	
Margaret Kraa				5				**5**	
Sharon Born			1	2	1			**4**	
Kayleen Courtney	5		2	1	2			**10**	
Betty Shepherd		1						**1**	
Dorothy Andreasen					9		3	**12**	
Lesley Gibbs					1		1	**2**	
Barbara McCune						4	3	**7**	

Decorative	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Nov	Total	
Bek Trevor			5		5	8		**18**	1st
Sharon Born			3		3			**6**	
Ron Jell & Barbara McCune		5						**5**	
Brian Wallace				9				**9**	2nd
Betty Shepherd		3						**3**	

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Have you got information about forthcoming events?
Email the Bromeliaceae Editor using the email address below.
editor@bromsqueensland.com.au

SEEDBANK

Peter Ball is our Seedbank Coordinator
Look him up at the next meeting, he is always up for a chat.

Is there something you would like to share with us? Perhaps a photo, or something you would like us to discuss. Drop us a line, we will do our best to make it happen for you.

Competition Schedule for 2014

January - **MINI SHOW**
Class 1 – Aechmea species & hybrids
Class 2 – Vriesea species & hybrids
Class 3 – Dyckia species & hybrids

February - **POPULAR VOTE –** any genus species & hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

March - **POPULAR VOTE**

April - **MINI SHOW**
Class 1 – Bromelioideae not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species & Hybrids (*Acanthostachys, Ananas, Androlepis, Araeococcus, Bromelia, Canistropsis, Canistrum, Edmundoa, Fasciculariа, Hohenbergia, Hohenbergiopsis, Neoglaziovia, Nidularium, Ochagavia, Orthophytum, Portea, Quesnelia, Ursulaea, Wittrockia)*
Class 2 – Guzmania species & hybrids
Class 3 – Pitcairnia species & hybrids
Class 4 – any other flowering bromeliad species & hybrids

May - **POPULAR VOTE**

June - **POPULAR VOTE**

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 & hybrids

August - **POPULAR VOTE**

September - **POPULAR VOTE**

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**

December - **No competition - Christmas Party**