



Newsletter

December 2018

Dear ASA Members

Welcome to our December newsletter, we hope everyone (and their plants) are enjoying the warm weather.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

On the 8th of October, the ASA held their last general meeting for 2018. It was an exciting meeting with a number of new members attending and a great spread of plants showing their springtime growth.

Bruce Dunstan also gave an impressive presentation on Aroids of Southern Colombia and Bacterial Blight on Anthuriums. Unfortunately, we had a technical glitch and this is not available for viewing, but all future presentations will be.

Plus, it was our first attempt at the newly conceived Popular Vote, which gave members the platform to showcase their best plants for the chance to win a prize. Congratulations to Brad Mayger for winning with a nice specimen of *Philodendron islemanii*. There were some stunning entries (images right) and we look forward to doing it again next meeting. Thanks again to Bec Kos for helping to organise this.

GOING PLACES!

The ASA is extremely excited that we have held the greatest number of events in the most amount of states this year. This year we have also been able to hold events in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia! We wouldn't have been able to do this without an immense amount of help from our interstate members, particularly Iain McGregor in WA, so thanks to all involved. We're not going to stop here though! If you are in NSW, ACT or TAS and want to see something happen in your state, please contact secretary@aroids.net. More details about recent interstate events on pages 3 and 4.

Some of the entries in the Popular Vote contest at the October meeting





ASA NEWS

AROID NEWS

Things are always happening in the aroid world! It is an exciting time to be following aroid botany, and so to keep our members updated with all the exciting news happening in aroid research, all of our newsletters will now have a section of 'AROID NEWS'. This will include summaries of new research, significant name changes, and special contributions by prominent researchers. Turn to page 7 to see!

ASA ONLINE LIBRARY

We are now starting to collect an impressive back catalogue of Newsletters, information sheets, and presentations. While we will upload these to Facebook so our members can read them, Facebook doesn't allow us to catalogue them, so they can be messy and things can be hard to find. In response, we have dedicated a section of our website to hosting these files. If you are looking for any of our prior documents, just go aroids.net/files.html. To ensure these files are only accessible for ASA members, you will be asked for a username and password.

Username: ASA

Password: 2019

This will be active in a week or so. If you experience problems using this site, please contact us.

BEST WISHES FROM THE ASA

It has been such an exciting year for the ASA. We have held more events than ever, and have grown into multiple states across the country. We couldn't have done this without the passion and excitement of our members, so the ASA would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year, and to thank you all.

CHANGE OF VENUE

Due to scheduling incompatibility, from 2019 the ASA will no longer meet at Moorooka community centre. Instead, all of our meetings will be at the Sunnybank RSL, located at 19 Gager St, Sunnybank QLD. We apologise if this inconveniences anybody.

FACEBOOK PSEUDONYMS

Some of our members have expressed confusion as a result of people using different names on Facebook. Being a tightknit community as we are, some have expressed that they want to know who they are talking to, so that they can build relationships. We couldn't ask people to change their Facebook names, as people have legitimate reasons for doing so. In response then, we are looking at publishing a list of Facebook pseudonyms and associated real name to the members only Facebook group. This list will only be visible to ASA members, so no-one outside of the ASA will see this list.

We will contact each person directly to get their permission to do so before publishing this list, so if you have any concerns please discuss them with us.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

We love our members, you have all contributed in your own ways to making this an excellent year for the ASA, to thank you all. And so, to thank you all and to celebrate the end of the year, we threw a bunch of Christmas parties across Australia.

BRISBANE CHRISTMAS PARTY

In mid-November, the ASA held a Christmas party in Brisbane for those members in the south of Queensland. Judy Allen graciously hosted this celebration, and the ASA provided catering. It was a great day and everyone was impressed by Judy's garden.

We also held a special online raffle for the Christmas party, and congratulations to the 1st prize winner Karissa Baddeley from Victoria (who also won 5th prize), who received an extra special *Philodendron verrucosum*.



VICTORIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

In the first weekend in December, our Victorian members held a picnic in the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. It was a very hot day but they found a lovely spot under the shade of a Moreton Bay fig and ate cheese and drank cider. Many plants were given out as raffle prizes and there was a brief trip to the Tropical glasshouse.





NORTH QUEENSLAND CHRISTMAS PARTY

The ASA had planned to hold a Christmas party for our FNQ members in the first weekend of December also. Unfortunately, due to the extreme weather in the region on that weekend, the strong winds and baking heat, this party was rescheduled. Our sincerest apologies go to those who were affected the weather, and who missed out.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

We were so excited to see something happening in Western Australia. All of the members that I have spoken to from WA have been passionate and friendly, so it is amazing to see them coming together. Our man on the ground in WA, Iain McGregor, says that they had a very pleasant afternoon and that all that did attend were enthusiasts and, consequently, there was some great discussion.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

On the weekend just past our South Australian members had their first meeting also, hosted by one of our committee members, Neil Crafter. I know we were all oozing with jealousy that they got to see Neil's impressive garden. Neil says that it was a lovely lunch and he is excited to see more things happening in SA.



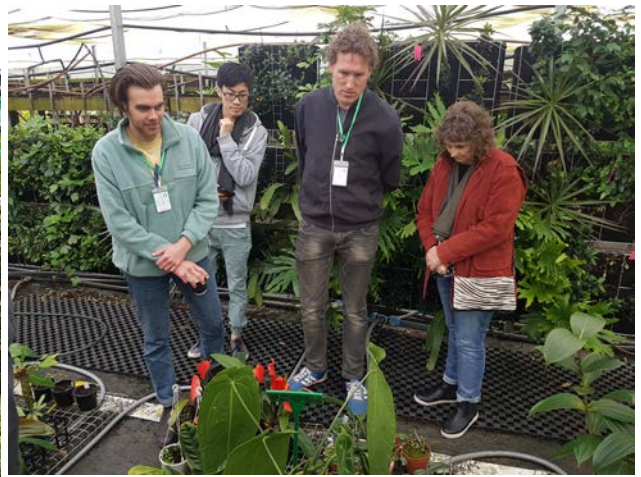
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the ASA ☺



*Clockwise from right:
Monstera deliciosa yellow
variegated; ASA members
taking in the sights;
Philodendron verrucosum;
Erik taking us on a tour;
an example of a green wall.*

VICTORIAN FIELD DAY

In late September, the ASA held their first field day in Victoria at the Fytogreen Facility in Somerville. We were graciously invited there by ASA member Erik Van Zuilekom, who took all attending on a tour of the facility. The facility itself specialises in building vertical gardens, and thus experiments with different species and growing conditions, with very impressive results, as can be seen below.



Erik giving a great presentation



Clockwise from left: *Monstera pinnatifida*; *Rhaphidophora australasica*; *Philodendron gigas*; *Philodendron hybrid* on a wall; ASA members enjoying a chat; and *Alocasia macrorrhizos*.



The ASA would like to express thanks to Erik for inviting us and showing everyone around, and to Fytogreen for opening the venue to us and for providing catering.



AROID NEWS

The world of Aroids is an exciting and constantly changing place. To keep you up to date, each newsletter will have a section on Aroid News. This inaugural issue was contributed by esteemed botanist and researcher Peter Boyce.

2018 Tropical Asian Research Round-up

By Peter Boyce

It's been an active research year for aroids from the Asian tropics. In terms of new species described (a meagre six) perhaps at first sight it may not appear a bumper year, but 2018 is certainly noteworthy for changes to generic boundaries within tribe, for which 11 new genera:

Bakoaela, *Bidayuha*, *Burttianthus*, *Gosong*, *Hera*, *Kiewia*, *Nabalu*, *Pursegloveia*, *Naiadia*, *Tawaia*, and *Toga*, and five resurrected genera: *Colobogynium*, *Gamogyne*, *Heteroaridarum*, *Hottarum* and *Rhynchopyle*, were proposed in January⁽¹⁾.

Hobbyists will no doubt be reassured to learn that *Bucephalandra*, currently hugely popular aquarium plants, although gaining one new species in 2018 (*B. danumensis* ⁽²⁾), is otherwise unaltered by what we have dubbed 'the chaos paper'. The same holds true for the horticulturally significant species of *Schismatoglottis* (also recipient of one new species this year⁽³⁾).



Page 7 *Burttianthus purseglovei* in habitat



Bidayuha crassispatha in habitat (above) and spathe (left)

Of the rest, while *Bidayuha* is both a new genus and a newly discovered species, the majority of the changes result from the reshuffling of pre-existing species of the genera *Aridarum*, *Bakoa*, and *Piptospatha*. Of these only the last-named is considered in any way commercially significant: *Piptospatha* (now *Kiewia*) *ridleyi* is used as a variegated aquarium plant. The above changes are largely based on species native to (and restricted to) Borneo. Further afield single new species in each of *Lagenandra*⁽⁴⁾, *Steudnera*⁽⁵⁾, and *Typhonium*⁽⁶⁾ appeared in publication.

Aside from purely taxonomic publications, the year has seen a further output resulting from pollination research into



Burttianthus purseglovei, the strings on the spadix are pollen (left) *Gamogyne bella* in habitat during the wet season with the plants under 1m or more of turbid water (below).



Schismatoglottis⁽⁷⁾, through which we are beginning to make headway in understanding at least some of the ecological characteristics that enable this and other medium to largish genera to be so diverse and in particular what might contribute to the remarkably levels of localized endemism apparent in the genus.

Floristic surveys of Singapore as part of the on-going Flora of Singapore project have resulted in finding *Scindapsus lucens*, a new record for the Republic⁽⁸⁾. It is interesting that while Singapore undeniably must have one of the best-understood floras of any tropical Asian country previously unrecorded species continue to come to light. It is remarkable that when *S. lucens* was originally described in 1994⁽⁹⁾ it was done so from cultivated material of unknown origin, only late in proof was note added that it had just been located in Sumatera. Subsequently fieldwork located wild populations in Peninsular Malaysia⁽¹⁰⁾. Another outcome of floristic-inventory fieldwork, this time in Vietnam, was re-finding *Alocasia decumbens* after almost 8 decades⁽¹¹⁾.

Despite their vital nature, living research-collections do not feature largely in academic publications other than as foot-notes in the acknowledgements. This year proved an exception with a paper dealing with the historically important aroid collection at Bogor Botanic Garden on Jawa. In the early 20th C Engler and Alderwerelt described numerous aroid species from the garden's living collection, and to this day many "living types" are still present.

Peter Boyce



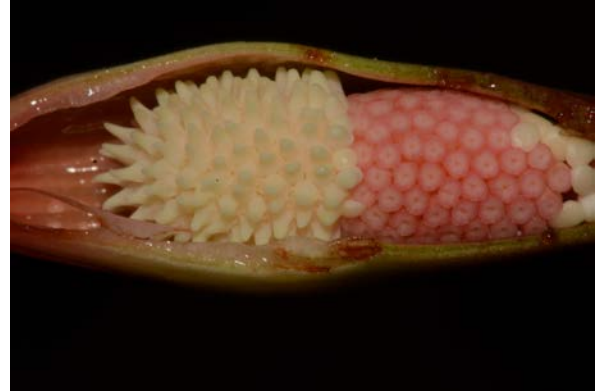
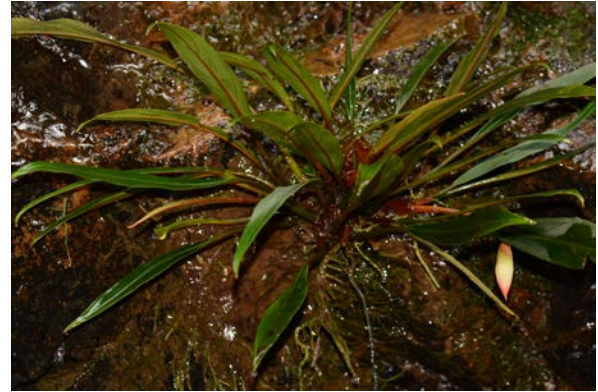
Page 8 *Nabalu corneri*: one of the largest terrestrial aroids in SE Asia, often reaching more than 3 m tall (Top left), inflorescence (bottom left), sterile male flowers scattered among the fertile female flowers (left)



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Gamogyne bella (top right), *Piptospatha insignis* in habitat (2nd right), *Piptospatha insignis* with nearside spathe removed to reveal the spadix (3rd right), *Tawaia sabahensis* habitat on greenish nickle-rich rocks (bottom right)



Pursegloveia orientalis (far left), *Rhynchopyle elongata* (middle left) *Tawaia sabahensis* (left)



CALENDAR OF ASA EVENTS

- ASA Meeting: 13 February 2019 (New venue: Sunnybank RSL)
- ASA Meeting: 3rd April 2019
- ASA Annual General Meeting: 7th August 2019
- ASA Meeting: 9th October 2019

ASA MANAGEMENT TEAM

President - **Michael Pascall**

Vice President - **Lee Thorneycroft**

Secretary - **Steven Best**

Assistant Secretary - **Trevor Crawford**

Treasurer - **Jim Edwards**

Editor/Tech support - **Aaron Grinter**

Assistant Editor/Tech support - **Jace Cowen**

General Committee - **Neil Crafter** and **Mim Stocks**

QUICK GUIDE TO FACEBOOK GROUPS

Community group: For the general public and non-fee paying members to discuss aroids and ask aroid related questions. Strictly no selling or advertisements.

Members Only group: For fee paying members of the ASA for any discussion. Also used for communication about ASA events and uploading of newsletters.

Marketplace group: For fee paying members of the ASA to buy, sell, swap, and give away aroids. Also for posting businesses, sales, promotions and recommendations.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to send our upmost appreciation to Trevor Crawford, Arden Dearden, Chris Hall, Steve Flood, Michael Pascall, Jim Edwards, Lee Thorneycroft, Peter Boyce and Neil Crafter for your kind contributions and ongoing donations to our online raffle and auctions. Proceeds from these raffles and sales are invaluable to keep our Society functioning.

We look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of 2019 on **13 February 2019** at our new venue, the Sunnybank RSL.

Yours sincerely

The Aroid Society of Australia Inc Committee