



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2017 # 2

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Honorary Life Member - Kay Edington

Life Member - Lynn Hudson

Life Member - Robert (Bob) Hudson

**Society Aims Promote and Develop Interest in Bromeliads through Friendship
To Co-operate with similar Clubs throughout the World**

Membership Fee: \$15 Single, \$25 Family, Country Member \$25.
\$7.50 junior (if not in family membership)

Meetings start at 1.pm sharp first Saturday of the month.

Please bring a cup and a chair.

Library: All books & magazines borrowed are to be returned in good order to the following meeting. If not on wait list, they may be rebooked.

Plant Display/Sales: To participate, a member must be financial and circumstances permitting, have attended at least three meetings in the past six months.

Where the society is charged a stall fee - 20% of sales are deducted for club funds.

No charge venue & meetings - 10% of sales is deducted.

All plants to be clean, free of disease, named and price tagged.

Show Plants: Must be the property of and in the custody of the entrant for the past three months. For Society Shows the entrant must be financial and have attended at least three meetings during the past six months.

Pens, Plant Tags & Pots: available at each meeting.

If reprinting article, wholly or in part, please acknowledge Author & Newsletter.

Any article &/or Bromelcairns will be Emailed on request to

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or

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2. Club Activities & Around the Members

MARCH

MINI SHOW – Flowering Bromeliad

1st *Tillandsia* ‘Samantha’ - Brendan Leishman >>>>>

2nd *Tillandsia jalisco- monticola* - Marguerite Sexton

3rd. *xAnamea* ‘Raspberry Ice’ - Dave Weston

JUNIOR

1st. *Till ionantha* ‘Zebrina’ - Leilani Morris >

NOVICE - Nil entries

OPEN - Bromeliad

1st. *xAnamea* ‘Raspberry Ice’ - Dave Weston

2nd. *Neoregelia* ‘Morado’ – Steven French

3rd. *Neoregelia* ‘Alcatraz’ - Brendan Leishman

Cryptanthus

1st *Cryptanthus* ‘Witchdoctor’ - Dave Weston

2nd *Cryptanthus* ‘Anne Collings’ – Karen Stevens

3rd. *Cryptanthus* ‘Stars & Stripes’ x ‘Elaine’- Brendan

Tillandsia

1st. *Tillandsia jalisco- monticola* – Marguerite Sexton

2nd. *Tillandsia rihonoensis* - Brendan Leishman

3rd. *Tillandsia* ‘Bob’s Amigo’ – Bob Hudson



Tillandsia ‘Samantha’ top right flowers about to open. Brendan’s plant did not like our hot summer, it lost it’s pink spots and concentrated on flowering

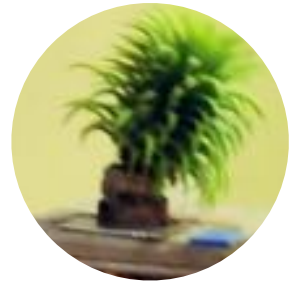
Tillandsia jalisco - monticola left had good colour.

xAnamea ‘Raspberry Ice’ - that flower head will become lots of new offsets. Not an easy plant to grow here but Dave has done well with it.

Neoregelia ‘Morado’ grown by Steven

Neoregelia ‘Alcatraz’ grown by Brendan. >>

Each had stiff thick leaves, excellent shape and colour.



Tillandsia 'Ron' *ionantha* seeding by Paul Isley

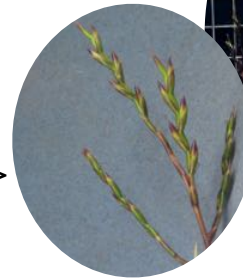
Tillandsia riohondodensis; Till. 'Bob's Amigo'; *Tillandsia* 'Amigo' by John Arden
Bob discussed the difference between the 'Amigo's' a crossing of *jalisco-monticola* and *rothii*. The one he is holding was done by John Arden, the other by himself. He also showed 'Ron' making members envious and adding to the 'wait' list.

Leilani Morris our Junior showed *Tillandsia* 'Zebrina' a striped *ionantha*. Like many collectors Leilani loves *ionanthas* and easily spots any different ones Bob has.



< Steven showed a perfect *Aechmea* 'Samurai' just poking up an inflorescence.

Kelly was fascinated by the zigzagged inflorescence of *Tillandsia makoyama*. >



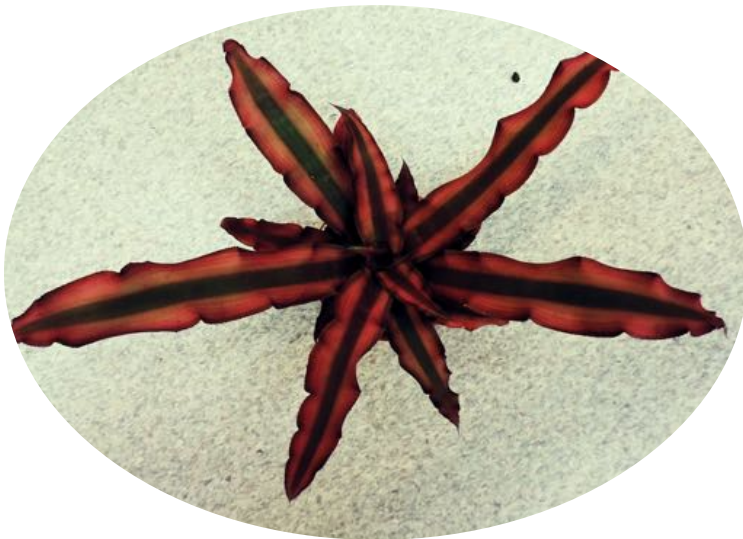
Popular Vote - Cryptanthus



Crypt. 'Witchdoctor' grown by Dave,



Crypt. 'Anne Collings' grown by Karen



Cryptanthus 'Stars & Stripes' x 'Elaine' grown by Brendan, 'Margaret' by Bernice.

Darryl showed another of his cryptanthus grown from the seed of *C. beuckeri*.

Me & Boms At the February meeting Vice President Matt suggested a member should discuss their first bromeliad and how they were 'hooked' on bromeliads.

Matt - Matt said he felt he should advise the members that he and Jodie would be relocating to Brisbane as his father is terminally ill. He said he had never been part of a group before and found our society very friendly and he really enjoyed learning with us. As a horticulturist he had never before thoroughly studied one plant genus. He was amazed at his reaction to Tillandsias and in learning of them he now viewed other plants more deeply. Matt suggested a member could give a short chat on how they started with bromeliads. He asked for a speaker and Christel offered for the first one.

Christel Venturi said we can all learn from other people as anyone and everyone share their experiences and knowledge. We value some persons opinions and ideas more than others, but that is natural.

The first bromeliad I was given was from a neighbour and was a *Neoregelia concentrica*. Paul and I are very different. While we can both get very passionate about some things, we have separate outlooks.

I love pretty, neat and tidy. Paul just loves, he is a collector and will collect anything that is different. He proceeded to fill the yard with every different bromeliad he saw. Some I did enjoy but not as many - and they proceeded to offset. With ageing we found we could not cope with his passion for everything so we sold the majority of the collection. We still have some lovely plants and some pretty ones. I enjoy the tillandsias and they are easy to cope with.

Paul loves plant propagation and does not mind doing the fiddly things that are involved. As long as I keep him from going overboard that is fine.

I still like pretty, neat and tidy.





Club Activities & Around the Members

APRIL: Brendan & Dave were attending SunnyBroms so Bob was President.

* **NEW MEMBER:** Welcome to **Des Boyle** who has already doubled her collection this year!

* With tillandsias as mini show we enjoyed some beauties, vibrant in colour and in varied shapes. Bob also did the photography and missed some that were not tillandsias! Steven's *Neo*. 'Inkwell' & *Tillandsia tectorum*; Darryl's very beautiful *Vriesea* 'Snow Goose' & his *Aechmea* 'Enoldo' with extruding inflorescence. Plus Paul's perfumed & delicate *Tillandsia mallemonii x crocata*

MINI SHOW – Tillandsia

1st *Tillandsia tectorum* – Nalda Wilson

2nd. *Tillandsia edithae* – Marguerite Sexton

3rd. *Tillandsia tectorum* – Steven French



MINI SHOW - Flowering Tillandsia

1st. *Tillandsia xerographica* – Bob Hudson

2nd. *Tillandsia riohondoensis* – Steven French >>>>>

3rd. *Tillandsia mallemonii x crocata* – Paul Venturi

POPULAR VOTE:

JUNIOR - Nil entries

NOVICE - Nil entries

OPEN - Bromeliad

1st *Neoregelia* 'Inkwell' – Steven French

2nd. *Vriesea* 'Snow Goose' – Darryl Lister

3rd. *Aechmea* 'Enoldo' – Darryl Lister

Cryptanthus

1st *Cryptanthus* 'Imposter Red' – Frances Boyd

2nd *Cryptanthus* 'Thriller' - Lynn Hudson

3rd *Cryptanthus* – 'Anne Collings' – Lynn Hudson

Tillandsia

1st. *Tillandsia edithae* – Marguerite Sexton

2nd. *Tillandsia* 'Phoenix' – Bob Hudson >>>>>>

3rd. *Tillandsia tectorum* - Nalda Wilson





Cryptanthus 'Imposter Red' grown by Frances had much brighter colour than this pic is showing (as often happens with red colouring in photographs). A really nice plant and well grown Frances - 11 members voted for it, 'Thriller' had 4 votes!

Cryptanthus 'Thriller' from one plant 18 months ago to a set of triplets.

Tillandsias - what else can I say? They were beautiful - varied sizes, shapes, colours and foliage - from fluffy and soft to firm and stiff; long and short, straight and curly. We have had a feast of well grown tillandsias this year.



Tillandsias edithae; riohondoensis; tectorum; 'Phoenix'; fasciculata x velutina



Tillandsias

'Bob's Amigo'; 'Samantha'; *xerographica*;

fasciculata var clavispica; jalisco-monticola;

xerographica x carlsoniae;
streptophylla.

Me & Broms President Brendan announced at the March meeting that whoever won the ‘first pick of the raffle table for wearing name badge’ would also be the one who spoke on their bromeliad. In March the happy winner was Robyn.



Robyn Forrester - Robyn has a varied collection of bromeliads that she has collected over the years. Most are in her garden but her favourite genus the tillandsias, are along the side of her home. She keeps them on stands and racks with most of them hanging on coiled wire. During our rain season she hangs the tillandsias upside down so they will not get water logged.



Wot is really in the garden?? You have problems, so does this lady in USA!

The raccoons pull my bromeliads over and claw out the center to get the little frogs, then the armadillos push them around trying to dig for grubs under them.

We put a game camera out there to see what was making the mess. It's wild kingdom for six hours! We have had bobcats, coyote, armadillos, rabbits AND raccoons that know ALL about traps. They spin the biggest trap from Lowes around and climb on it to flip it over trying to shake out the bait. I don't think one would even fit in the trap!

I took the stupid looking lovebirds off this old fountain and put some of my bromeliads up higher to get them out of the way to make it more inconvenient for the "illegal aliens" to root out the rest of my plants. I've been watching too much news ! (illegal aliens indeed!)



TRICHOMES

The scale or hair found on the leaves and other organs of most bromeliads. It is an absorptive organ. Here are some excellent photos from Lloyd Godman.

There are many different types of trichomes.

Macro shots

<*Tillandsia pruinosa*
Beautiful trichomes, like mini dishes.



Tillandsia crocata >
Isn't it amazing how these are arranged ?





The Reclassification of these *Orthophytum* species to *Sincoraeas* have generated changes to BCR entries of seed parents and /or pollen parents, thus the need for genera reclassification of cultivars listed below.

These are now *Sincoraea* - *albopicta*, *amoena*, *burle-marxii*, *hatschbachii*, *heleniceae*, *humilis*, *mucugensis*, *navioides*, *ophiuroides*, *rafaelii*, *ulei*.

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Andromeda
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Aurora
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Blushing Bride
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Burgundy Hill
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Burgundy Thrill
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Cosmic Blast
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Ecstasy
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Firecracker
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Galactic Warrior
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Gary Hendrix
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	George H Anderson
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Lisanne Kiehl
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Lymanii
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Medalist
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Mollie S
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Ralph Davis
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Rising Tide
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Shiraz
<i>x Neophytum</i>	<i>x Sincoregelia</i>	Supernova
<i>Orthophytum</i>	<i>Sincoraea</i>	Andrea
<i>Orthophytum</i>	<i>x Sincorphytum</i>	Blaze
<i>x Orthotanthus</i>	<i>x Sincortanthus</i>	Blazing Bonsai
<i>x Orthoglaziovia</i>	<i>x Sincorglaziovia</i>	Rosita
<i>x Ortholarium</i>	<i>x Nidusincoraea</i>	Selby
<i>x Orthomea</i>	<i>x Sincoraechmea</i>	Powderpuff

Some members have some of the listed plants.
Please change your nametags - no excuses.

xSincoregelia ‘Galactic Warrior’ >



Tillandsias & the Cold

In Cairns we can easily grow tillandsias in our gardens, some we cannot flower but they will flower when up on the Tablelands. As we have no frost problems and this article intrigued me. **Narcis Guino Palol** was born in Spain and now lives in Paia on the Hawaiian island of Maui. He has fibrous walls around his patio on which his tillandsias thrive. Temp at -6°C will not kill the tillandsias but frost bite is risky, the main thing is to keep them dry. In mid January there was a Siberian mass of cold air with extreme cold advised, the lowest for many years. Narcis placed a thermal blanket over the wall of his tillandsias. That night at 23:35 it went to -4.8°C !! Tillandsias happy.



Preparing to hang the blanket.



Snuggly under the blanket.



** **George Frexial**: When I am asked about where to keep tillandsias, I always tell them minimum 5°C . We must combine the air movement, the amount of light, the humidity with the temperature to house them properly. We must not forget that tillandsias are sub tropical plants, and there is a big gap between perfect conditions and plant dying conditions. I don't think any tillandsia does "all right" or is "comfortable" with frost, not even the most hardy.//

** **Julien Trop'Qualite**: I have tried to acclimatise my *Tillandsia usneoides*, plus *bergeri*, *aeranthos*. The record is just below -6°C for the moment. I am in north east France. They are not protected, they grow on a tree in the middle of my garden taking frost, frosty fog, snow and I even tried glaze during some hours. (Glaze is a thin coating of ice or rain or 'glass-ice' Ed.) My plants can be wet sometimes, when temperatures are around 0°C , even below - eg watered by rain but with -2°C > glaze. I put them indoors only when the temperature is below -7°C or if they are too wet with temperature below -3°C . Apart from a few stems that die from time to time in some varieties (particularly the higher area of my biggest form clump, the thinnest forms seem to be the more resistant), my clumps are doing well. I think *T. usneoides* can support harder conditions yet. So I will keep trying.//



**** George Frexial:** from Portugal. When I am asked about where to keep tillandsias , I always tell them minimum 5°. We must combine the air movement, the amount of light, the humidity with the temperature to house them properly. We must not forget that tillandsias are sub tropical plants, and the there is a big gap between perfect conditions and plant dying conditions. I don't think any tillandsia does "all right" or is "comfortable" with frost, not even the most hardy.//

**** Louis Pedro Goncalves:** I grow tillandsias outdoors in south Portugal. Winter night temperature can go down to -4°C. I have grown tillandsias for years and the cold is not a problem. Direct frost is another thing. When frost protected, they do perfectly outdoors.

**** Miguel Maldonado:** Many tillandsias can live normally in the Andes, above 3000. However, the fact that they live in these conditions does not mean that they are comfortable in that temperature. Both in the desert, and in the Andean tundra, the tillandsias tolerate these temperatures, but grow, flower and fruit among 12°C - 25°C./

**** There was a lot of good discussion but Lloyd Godman,** a Kiwi who now lives in Melbourne wrapped it up:

“It is true plants can become dormant in lower or higher temperatures but in nature these plants often do this to protect themselves. A plant grown in ideal conditions might produce mature pups in two seasons, whereas in harsher conditions this might take four years. In terms of temperatures over 30C, I have over 80 species and they often get temperatures over 40C the record was 46.7C . There is over 700 species and while most are native to tropical and sub tropical areas there are species that grow in temperate areas of Argentina. Many grow at altitude that have evolved to withstand both heat and dry and cold. *T. tectorum* had been recorded in habitat withstanding 75degree temperate change a day that is from -20C to 55C but this environment is quite different to say -20C in Canada - so the plant endures -20C for a short time each day not weeks at -20C.”//

Tillandsia ‘Redkanga’

Parents are possibly *Tillandsia capitata x fasciculata*

Bob purchased this one in Florida, liked the colour and imported it. It is thriving in our tropics.



Update on Sharon's pineapple seed



Last year I wrote of Sharon Lee finding seeds in an Aussie Gold pineapple. I checked if she had success growing them “Yeah, I think there was close to 100% germination but I probably don't need 200+ pineapple plants. They are slow but luckily I lost most to last lot of 45+C summer days.” Yep I will check again in a few months.

ON EXPECTATIONS

Honesty is a very expensive gift. Do not expect it from cheap people.

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

INTERESTING CONFUSIONS

1. Can you cry underwater?
2. Do fishes ever get thirsty?
3. Why don't birds fall off trees when they sleep?
4. Why is it called building when it is already built?
5. When they say dog food is new & improved. who tastes it?
6. If money does not grow on trees, why do banks have branches?
7. Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
8. Why doesn't glue stick to its bottle?



Ha Ha Ha!





This was how I looked when I started as Editor in 1998. (young & spunky)



My Puya is flowering! Yaa! (Over 50 fb likes!) dracaena



This is how I look now, waiting for an Asst. Ed! (old & done for)



Nothing just happened or just gets done,
Someone has to make it happen or do it.





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