



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2017 # 3

P.O. Box 28 Cairns Queensland 4870 Australia

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OIC Raffles	Karen Stevens	0740361086
OIC Pots	Frances Boyd	0740552550



Honorary Life Member - Grace Goode O.A.M.

Honorary Life Member - Kay Edington

Life Member - Lynn Hudson

Life Member - Robert (Bob) Hudson

**Society Aims: To 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.

10% of sales is deducted for club funds.

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 lynnie@ledanet.com.au

Previous issues are on my website www.bromeliadsdownunder.wordpress.com

Club Activities & Around the Members



MAY: After a horrid summer, our cooler weather has changed our plants bringing out wondrous colours. We had less plants on show but a good varied genera mix. Cryptanthus were well presented and members are growing them very well.

MINI SHOW – Cryptanthus

1st *Cryptanthus* ‘Volcano’ - Dave Weston

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

3rd *Cryptanthus* ‘Thriller’ - Brendan Leishman

Cryptanthus ‘Volcano’



Cryptanthus ‘Anne Collings’



Cryptanthus ‘Thriller’



It was interesting to see three pots of *Cryptanthus* ‘Strawberry Flambe’ quite different in colour due to their age and growing environment.

They were each very attractive and very well grown.

Well done Bernice, Marguerite & Brendan.



OPEN - Bromeliad

1st. *Aechmea* 'Roberto Menescal' - Lynn Hudson >>

2nd. *Neoregelia* 'Groucho' - Brendan Leishman

3rd. *Guzmania sanguinea* - Marguerite Sexton

v



Cryptanthus

1st *Cryptanthus* 'Volcano' - Dave Weston

2nd *Cryptanthus* 'Thriller' - Lynn Hudson >>>

3rd. *Cryptanthus* 'Strawberry Flambe' - Marguerite Sexton *****



* *Guzmania sanguinea* from Costa Rica is a small green plant that suddenly bursts into colour before flowering, then orange and purple leaves draw attention to the bright yellow flowers. The large *sanguinea* also gain colour quickly, fading as soon as the flowering is done.

* Dave showed a flowering *Guzmania musaica*, the larger form and it was perfect. They are a neat plant. The smaller one is slow to grow roots as in habitat it puts up stolons among other plants, using them for balance.

* Steven showed another beauty, *Neoregelia* 'Pink on Black'.



* Bernice showed two neoregelias that had twisted tightly centre leaves. This often happens with this particular plant but .. it should have formed a red tulip shape. It probably did not have enough water as this was forming, so the leaves stuck together. I suggested she pour a few drops of dishwashing liquid into their centre.



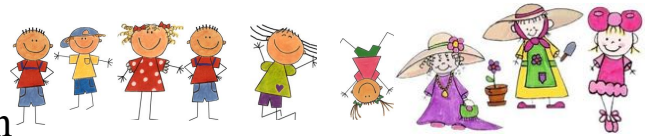
May meet continued

Tillandsia

1st. *Tillandsia* 'Samantha' – Brendan Leishman

2nd. *Tillandsia xerographica* - Bob Hudson

3rd. *Tillandsia exserta* hybrid –Dave Weston



T. 'Samantha'

T. xerographica

T exserta hybrid

The tillandsias were superb and we were happy to see the changes in 'Samantha' I have included a closer pic of the inflorescence. Bob again teased us with *xerographica* and most were amazed at the shape of Dave's *exserta* hybrid. It was one of Greg's discards after Cyclone Larry. What a beauty! There is more ... I showed my log of bright yellow *ionantha* 'Sumo'. Marguerite showed *rothii x concolor* with multiple paddles and Bob a very darkly coloured *ionantha stricta* var. *rosita*!!





Message from our President Brendan

It has been a busy time over the past couple of months in our Bromeliad World. Dave and I gave our apologies for our April society meeting as we attended the 19th Australasian Bromeliad Conference in Caloundra. A frenetic cyclone named 'Debbie' placed some queries on whether there would be wind damage and flooding. We took an earlier departure than planned, to get past where the cyclone was expected to cross the Queensland coast. We arrived safe and sound on the Sunshine Coast.

The "Sunny Broms" conference was hosted by the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society on the 30 March to 2 April 2017. I must commend and congratulate Nigel Thomson, the Conference Coordination team and the crew of helpful volunteers for putting on an excellent program and event. The guest speakers were world class! The displays and show plants were incredibly fantastic in presentation and quality! Like many others who attended, I agree the displays were the best created that we have seen for any conference in Australia and internationally. As always it was good to meet up with friends and familiar faces; and also to meet new people.

Locally in Cairns our Society hosted the Bloomin Broms weekend on the 3&4 June, with some attendees travelling from as far afield as Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Mackay and Townsville. Our Society greatly appreciates your support in registering and attending, along with our own local members and interested public. I would like to thank our guest speakers, George Stamatis, Bruce Dunstan and Harry Frakking for their most interesting, informative and humorous presentations. Special thanks to our members who volunteered to help on the day, we could not do it without you. A special mention of Olive Frakking, thank you for your help and assistance with regards to the sales.

Bloomin Broms 2017 was the 10th event we have produced. However to the dismay of some attendees it was announced that it will be the last that our Society will host in this current format. It has been through the dedication and coordination by Lynn Hudson that this event has been possible. Lynn started a weekend of learning about Bromeliads that grew into a popular weekend with participants coming from far and wide to learn from a range of interesting speakers on the plants we love, and to access good quality plant sales. However, for Lynn the time has come to bring the two day format of Bloomin Broms to a close and replace the event as a one day event and open to the public. We will have just one imported Speaker at morning only sessions. then sales. On behalf of our Society I sincerely thank Lynn for all her efforts. Lynn, you are greatly appreciated by all our members and other bromeliad enthusiasts around the country.

Members are reminded that we have the Cairns Show coming up in 19-21 July. Now is the time to start selecting and preening your prize deserving plants for the competition. Section 22 of the Horticulture Competition Schedule available on the Cairns Show website www.cairnsshow.com.au will provide members with a listing of the different categories to enter your bromeliads.



BLOOMIN BROMS 2017 - Thank You Brendan & Aaron Smythe for the pics.

Comments from Facebook

Aaron Smythe: Bloomin Broms was a great event once again and it will be a big shame if there is no more. They give us here in the sticks access to new broms and information. Thanks Lynn Hudson and crew for organising them.

Ross Draper some one got photos, well done Aaron-yes it sure was a great day, enjoyed by many thanks to the hard work put in by Lynn, Bob and the brom society Crew. I really hope someone can find a way to keep this event going for all of us.

Nathan Schroeder I hope there is more I would think about planning for next years event if there is one. (You are ON Nathan! C U 2nd June 2018, Lynn)

Jenny Lynn Thanks for sharing Aaron. I sure hope this continues.

Wendy Sheldrake Luscombe It was a great day. Lovely broms and good company. The speakers did a wonderful job and of course everything ran well because of Lynn, Bob and MC Brendan.





Our 'Mrs Raffles', Karen doing a sterling job. Then there were plants, plants and more plants.



John Byth: I returned to Woodford yesterday afternoon (when the Alcantarea photos were taken) after a wonderful, all too short weekend in Cairns, for my third consecutive and likely last 'Bloomin Broms'-the annual gathering of the far-northern clan of Bromeliad Lovers; thought so good that some of the best growers in the Great South East, fly or drive north more than a 1,000 miles/1,700 km into the tropics around the time of the winter solstice to attend.



It is special fun to travel with and eat and drink and talk Broms with good friends a long way from home: Lynn and Bob Hudson, Marina Gurtzis, Ross Draper, Rosalie and Nigel Thomson, George Stamatis, Barb and Rob Murray, and Sue and Ron Murray come immediately to mind.

I cannot finish this piece without giving special thanks to a number of extra-special plant people; Lynn and Bob for their leadership, energy and endurance which has benefitted so many Brom enthusiasts; Marina for her gifts which I will hang in my home and potting shed as a reminder of the last Bloomin Broms and for being such good company and wonderful guide and chauffeur, and Peter Sargent for his gifts and pleasure-filled guided tour of his extraordinary creation The Whyanbeel Arboretum. (I'd have been happy to suck green ants all afternoon, but the exotic fruits were great too)//

Our new member Sally shopped & shopped and sent me this "Just wanted to share my new garden, made possible by the wonderful weekend 'Bloomin' Broms'" Excellent !





Bromeliad Leaf Patterns

Cairns Sun 29/5

Most bromeliad leaves are green when they first emerge from the base of the mother plant and when given enough light they will mirror the parent plant. There is huge variation in bromeliad leaf patterns - longitudinal stripes that are visible on both sides of the leaves; many have different colours on the inner and outer side of the leaf. The thin leaves of guzmanias and vrieseas have squiggles and lines that are visible on both sides and most are purchased for their patterned leaves.



As another dimension to the aesthetic of the bromeliad leaf are trichomes. They can be invisible or show as a thick white dusting, as distinct silver bands, patterns or as in some Tillandsia even cover the entire plant in silver fuzz. In some plants, trichome patterns can differ considerably from the upper side of the leaf to the topside. This is usually referred to as 'scurf' and is a cluster of hairs making the leaf appear silver, grey or white. Their shapes can be viewed under a microscope. They have two important functions – to protect the plant from too much sun and to acquire and conserve moisture. As the cells of the trichomes are hollow they reflect 40% of the light and form a good insulating barrier. When the leaf is wet, the trichomes fill with water and the leaf appears green and reflects very little light. With good air circulation the trichomes dry quickly and the plant regains the grey or silver lustre.





Aechmea fasciata, was discovered in Brazil and introduced to Europe in 1828. It is probably now the best known bromeliad, and is commonly known as the Urn Plant. The *fasciata* inflorescence is a large pink star shape, it has tiny blue flowers that change to pink once opened. The green leaves of this plant are covered in scurf in a mottled pattern. While on a dump trip to the local refuse tip a grand daughter spied a clump of *fasciata* and asked her Pa if they could take some home. After some begging Pa agreed to take a few.

When he arrived home he gave them a thorough scrubbing to remove the scurf. Within a few weeks, the scurf had regrown, so he again scrubbed it off and again it regrew. Then he spied an advertisement about a society bromeliads sale. He placed the plants into a secure bag and quietly approached one of the sellers and allowed him to have a peep at the 'diseased plant'. The seller laughed and assured the man all was normal and explained the relationship of the plant and scurf. Pa joined that society and has become an avid bromeliad grower.

Many growers ask about fertiliser. One high in potassium is perfect - find it in granular form usually marked 'for pot plants and flowering shrubs'. Place it on the mix, never in the plant.

Most plants have openings on the under surface of their leaves to facilitate photosynthesis whereas bromeliad have stomatas on the topside of their leaves and store water in their central tank. Most leaves are edged with spines – some of these can be very sharp and inflict itchy arm scratches - usually leaving small pieces of the spines and these can get infected. A pair of long socks with the toes cut out will save a lot of skin damage. Scrubbing with vinegar or Curash Baby Shampoo brings good relief, the powder will also soothe the skin.

There is a simple way to remove even the thickest leaves – split them down the middle and tear them sideways and outwards. Start with the one that grew first and work your way up. Removing the dead leaves from your plants not only makes them look tidy but it also exposes the tiny node to the light – this is the new bromeliad about to grow. Your bromeliad will flower just once then slowly die. Most would have already produced their replacement offset at this stage but you could get many more if you keep the plant in good light and give it some fertiliser.

If the leaves grow long and green it is usually because they are not in good light. At this cooler time of year your plants can be placed into all day sun, they will reward you with good colour. Should you choose to remove the plant from the pot, remember here in the tropics, the sun will rise and shine hottest in a more southerly part of your garden. In summer it rises in line with the back of Bob's shed, currently it rises midway along our verandah.

When your mix is right the bromeliad can live it's whole life in one pot. Leaving bromeliads in pots makes them very versatile. It is easier to work on a plant at table height - especially as we get older. A flowering bromeliad displayed in a ceramic pot on the verandah is soul food - currently we have a wonderful show of vrieseas, guzmanias, aechmeas, billbergias - and yes tillandsias! They all keep the Sunbirds busy.//



Love A teacher asks a student: "What kind of woman would you like to be with when you're all grown up?" "A woman like the moon!" Answers the young lad.

"That's beautiful," breathes the teacher, "what a choice! Because you'd like her to be beautiful and radiant like the moon?"

"No, I'd like her to appear at night and disappear come morning!"

Death After Donald died, everyone gathered at his funeral. Then the minister started to speak: "He was a model husband, a decent man, a terrific father..."

The widow then makes a motion for her son to come to her. "What is it mother?" he whispers. "Dear, go check the casket, I think we're at the wrong funeral.

Hope Wife: "What are you doing?" Husband: "Nothing."

Wife: "What do you mean nothing? You've been staring at our marriage certificate for over an hour!"

Husband: "Yes, I'm just looking for the expiration date.

Neighbors "The new neighbours are so in love," remarks Susan to her husband, "he hugs her, kisses her and strokes her hair. Why don't you do that?"

"Because I don't know her that well yet".

Donations Knock on the door. "Hello sir, would you like to contribute something to the old folks home?" "Yes, actually." Beams the old man.

"Dorothy, quick, put your jacket on and pack your suitcase!"

Shopping An elderly couple is walking in the city, hand in hand, when they pass a jewellery store. The wife turns to her husband with a smile: "Love, would you buy me a chain?" "Why?" Asks the husband, "Tired of being free?"

Qualities A woman asks her husband: "What do you like about me the most? My beautiful face or my sexy body?"

The husband gives her a long, appreciating look and says, "Your sense of humour."

Triplets Three boy triplets from Ireland, emigrated to Australia.

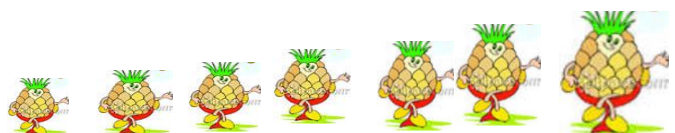
Andy and Bernie were 6ft 8" and Tat was 4ft 9ins.

When the Immigration Officer was interviewing them, he said if you are Triplets, how come you two are 6ft 8" and Tat is only 4ft 9".

Andy said, Bernie and I, were Breast Fed and there was no Tit for Tat.



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





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