



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2018 # 1

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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

Aims of the Society

**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 lynnie@ledanet.com.au

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

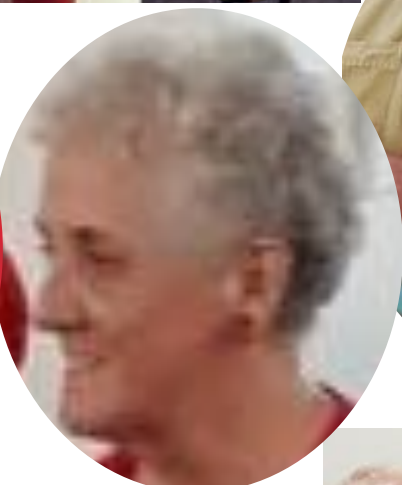


Christmas Party Time - food, plants, awards with friends



Dave - who is asleep on your shoulder?

Raffle Table Goodies





Presidents Report

Brendan Leishman



AGM 3 February 2018

It is with great pleasure and honour that I present to you the Presidents Report for this year's AGM. I trust that each of you have had a safe and happy festive season and I wish you all a very healthy and productive 2018. May this year and your hearts be filled with the joys of bromeliads and tillandsias.

As a society we need to always consider our legal obligations. The Cairns Bromeliad Society would not be possible without the efforts and dedication of our volunteer members who donate their time to ensure we are compliant and that our society is on a stable and secure path. It is the work and dedication of our executive committee, ensuring that we meet our responsibilities as an incorporated organisation. To our executive committee members, I thank you sincerely for all for your contributions and support.

Our members who in 2017 accepted nominations to take on an official role within our society (such as looking after our library, bringing along pots and merchandise for sale, looking after the raffle, being our concierge, our mini-show judge, and editor of our great newsletter). I thank you - you are the jewels in our crown.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank those members who pitch in at meetings and our special events - those who help with setting up and packing up, stacking up chairs, setting up tables, sweeping the floors, setting up the afternoon teas, cooking BBQs and preparing, Christmas lunches... etc. Your contributions are noticed and much appreciated.

Members who contributed to our meetings by bringing along your plants for the mini-shows and popular vote. Each month we are in awe of the plants that you bring along to meetings. The quality is something that I can proudly say is on par, if not better in some instances than what is grown in other parts of Australia. I thank members who have contributed to our meetings by bringing along your show and tell plants, your difficult or problem plants. Those who have embraced and contributed to the 'Me & Bromeliad' talks as a regular part of our meetings.... I thank you. Without active participation and involvement from our regular members, our society would have no soul. In 2018 I hope you will continue with greater participation and involvement in each of the meeting programs. I encourage you to offer ideas and suggestions, and be proactive in shaping our society. A special thank you to Bob and Dave for putting together power point presentations.

It is hard to believe that yet another year has passed and we plough forward to the year 2020 (in only 2 years time). I think it is relevant and poignant when you consider '2020' in the perspective and as an analogy of 'vision' that we as an organisation need to carefully consider for our society's future. On reflection as a society we may need to reaffirm our mission, our vision, and set ourselves some achievable goals. Look to identify the challenges we face and plan where we are going as an organisation.

All community groups and volunteer organisations face similar challenges such

declining membership numbers, an ageing demographic with membership (none of us are getting younger)... how do we get new (young) blood into our organisation? How do we make our organisation more sustainable and relevant in this ever-changing world where people are time poor, are globally connected by a host of social media and are distracted by technological devices such as smart phones and computers that they become complacent and feel they don't need to leave the comfort of their home because all the information they need is 'on-line'. We as an organisation with the constraints of our personal lives and commitments need to adapt, be more agile and make the best use of resources available to us to allow our organisation to grow and prosper.

In March/April of 2017 saw the hosting of 'Sunny Broms' – the 19th Australasian Bromeliad Conference in Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast. A world class Bromeliad event in the standard of guest speakers and displays. The event was somewhat overshadowed by the impact of Cyclone 'Debbie' which decided to make its presence known after tacking inland as a tropical depression and heading out to the ocean again right over the top of the Sunshine Coast. However, the weather event did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the delegates and the hosts of the properties where the garden tours were held. These people who had to salvage plants from pools, attend to damaged gardens and use generators to power their homes to accommodate the conference visitors. They pulled off a fantastic day of tours without any visible or public issues or distress. In the great Aussie way they just 'got on with it!' I encourage our members should the opportunity arise to attend and support one of these conferences in the future not only for the information and wide variety of plants available for sale but for the networking and opportunities to catch up with old and new friends. Next year's conference will be Golden Broms on the Gold Coast at the Sea World resort hotel on the 17 – 20 October 2019.

June 2017 allowed us to host the last Blooming Broms in the two (2) day format. Guest speakers included George Stamatis, Bruce Dunstan and the Territorian Tiger – Harry Frakking. It was Lynn Hudson's vision to host the original event and after nine successful years it was decided to bring the event to a close. People from across Queensland attended this final event and expressed their dismay that this would be the final event and wanted to have it continue. As a compromise, this year a one day Blooming Broms event will be held on Saturday 2nd June.

In July 2017 we invited Neville Ryan from Brisbane to be our guest judge for the Cairns Show competition. As in previous years members brought out their finest plants to undergo the grading. Congratulations to Steven French on taking out Grand Champion. I would hope and encourage members to continue to prepare and present your best this year; and those who have never entered plants in the Cairns Show to please consider doing so this year. To make it worthwhile, fair and sustainable we need the participation and support of every member.

Financially, for 2017 our society is still well positioned with a healthy bank balance sitting at over \$6000 in our regular society account and over \$2700 in our conference account. However, I feel it is important to note that there is a decline or loss in the overall financial position of the society since 2016 in regards to our income. The cost of services and expenses continue to rise each year; our membership renewals and

new memberships are not as high in in previous years. As the society moves forward it will be the responsibility of the committee and support of our membership that the income and expenditure is monitored and considered to ensure the best financial position for our society for years to come.

I would like to conclude by thanking Bob & Lynn for all your help support and advice. Your contributions to this group is so much appreciated not only by me, but by all of our society. Finally, thank you all for your friendship. Lets have a great year ahead.//

Club Activities & Around the Members

FEBRUARY: It was our AGM & really good to see everyone together again. Lots of laughter and chatter.



* We have **2 new members** - Welcome to **Lauren Thorpe & Aaron Smythe** We hope you enjoy learning with us.

* We also drooled over interesting plants.

MINI SHOW –

My Favourite Bromeliad

1st *Lutheria* 'Splenet' - Frances Boyd

Grown perfectly & well presented

2nd *Neoregelia* 'Inkwell' Steven French

Perfectly layered & chunky

3rd *Wallisia cyanea* - Lynn Hudson



'Inkwell'



POPULAR VOTE

7

JUNIOR - Nil entries **NOVICE** - Nil entries

OPEN - Bromeliad

1st. *Neoregelia* 'Inkwell' - Steven French

2nd. *Vriesia* 'Snows of Mauna Kea' - Daryl Lister

3rd. *Billbergia* 'Yassi 97' - Dave Weston



1st. 'Thriller' - Lynn Hudson

2nd seedling - Brendan Leishman

3rd 'Cosmic Storm' - Dave Weston



8 Tillandsia

1st *Wallisia cyanea* - Lynn Hudson

2nd *Tillandsia secunda* - Paul Venturi

3rd *Tillandsia* 'Sparkler' - Dave Weston



^

Tillandsia secunda

Tillandsia 'Sparkler' inset - flowered fully the next week



xerographyca



streptophylla



tectorum



New Member & New Assistant Editor, Aaron Smythe



showed us his new toy.

What is “lurking” In Your Bromeliads ?

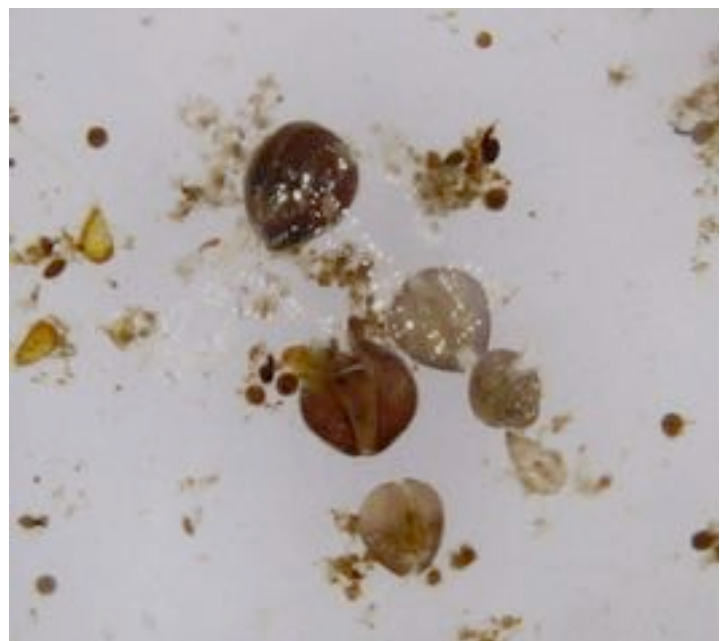
A while back I saw these “Digital USB microscopes” for sale. One eyebrow raised up in excitement as I wondered what could I do with this. I thought, why not incorporate it somehow with the broms. I purchased one (1000 x magnification) and initially used it to look at most of the parts of a bromeliad’s structure, but recently I have used it to see what is lurking in the water that accumulates in the leaves.



I had no idea what to expect and when I had a look through the microscope, I was amazed what is really going on down there at such a small microscopic level.

I am sure there is more to discover but on this occasion I found mainly Ostracods and an aquatic worm. The mosquito larvae shown was found in a plastic container filled with rain water.

Although these creatures pose no risk to humans, they have their place in the food chain and seem to have a symbiotic relationship with our broms. The mosquito larvae shown was found in a plastic container filled with rain water.//



The presentation showed these little ostracod gobbling up the algae. The top one on the left clearly shows the ‘grabbers’ and they were busy!
Thank You Aaron for a very interesting presentation, we look forward to more.

* Lauren wrote that she was amazed and will not look at bromeliad water the same!
* Do you grow the so-called *Orthophytum* vagans "variegata" ? It is now properly named and registered as *Orthophytum* 'Roberto Menescal'. Check out the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. This one loves plenty of water.



I received this picture from Frances on 15th December with a note - "Yay. I have waited for years for one of these to flower". Well done Frances. *Tillandsia funckiana*.

Next you will be skiting with a clump! I hope.

Re: Bromelcairns 2017#6 Herb Plever New York: Thanks Lynn for another interesting issue. We can't color up Neos indoors so we grow only a few light responsive ones like *Neo* 'Gespacho'. But I know a beautifully grown plant when I see one, so kudos to Steve French for his *Neo* 'Pink Sensation'. Happy Holidays to all of my friends down under.



Vale Sylvia Plever: I was very saddened to read of the passing of Sylvia, it is hard to accept that a lady as vibrant as Sylvia has left us. Herb wrote a very lovely memorial to her in 'Bromeliana' February 2018 - a copy is in our library. Sylvia was the first bromeliad person I met when we went to our first WBC, we met in an elevator and it was the first time I saw that wonderful smile. Our thoughts are with you Herb.

Already it is 2018.

Welcome Aaron Smythe as Assistant Editor, we look forward to your input.

We still do not have a Vice President, any offers will be accepted & we will train you.

Dave & I have swapped positions this year - he is now Popular Vote Steward & mini Show Judge and I have resumed Secretary. Thanks Dave.

Thank you to the Members who agreed to continue in their positions - Kelly, Nalda. Karen, Frances, Steven and Brendan. We could not function without you and your dedication.

Our Programme has the new genera names and we must use them to become familiar with them. They incorporate the surnames of the men who did the DNA structuring - eg Eric Gouda - hence Goudaea - you have heard us speak of Eric - Scientific Botanic Gardens at Utrecht in the Netherlands and Eric is the BSI Webmaster.



New Book

“**Tillandsias My Way**” by Bob Hudson

Basic tillandsia growing with 14 colour pages of species tillandsias.

Available from Bob tillandsiabob@gmail.com

- * We couldn't find any accommodation while on holiday. Then we finally found some - it was the last resort
- * Police arrested 2 children. One was drinking Battery Acid & the other was eating Fireworks. They charged one & let the other off.
- * Paddy was in New York .. He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, 'Okay, pedestrians.' Then he'd allow the traffic to pass. He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk. After the cop had shouted, 'Pedestrians!' for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, 'Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?'
- * Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney. 'Did you see the paper?' asked Gallagher. 'They say I died!!!' 'Yes, I saw it!' replied Finney. 'Where are ye callin' from?'
- * Walking into the bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, 'Pour me a stiff one - just had another fight with the little woman.' 'Oh yeah?' said Charlie, 'And how did this one end?' 'When it was over,' he replied, 'She came to me on her hands and knees.' 'Really,' said Charles, 'Now that's a switch! What did she say?' She said, 'Come out from under the bed, you little chicken.'
- * Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, 'Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey!' Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'



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





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