



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2018 # 3

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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

2 MAY: Club Activities & Around the Members



* We have **another 2 new members** -

Welcome to **Tye Grace & Blake Gunton** - Tye joins as a Novice & Blake is a Junior!

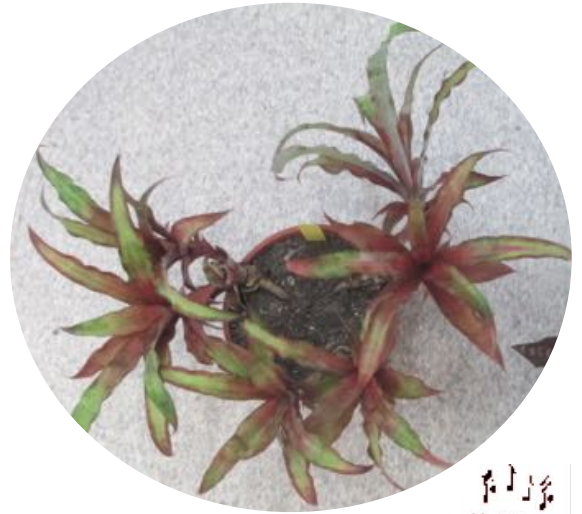
* We hope you enjoy learning with us.

MINI SHOW – Cryptanthus

1st. *Cryptanthus* seedling - Darryl Lister

2nd *Cryptanthus* 'Imposter Red' Kelly Knight >

3rd *Cryptanthus* 'Thriller' - Lynn Hudson



POPULAR VOTE

JUNIOR - another Junior, at last!!

1st. *Tillandsia ionantha* - Blake Gunton

2nd. *Tillandsia* 'Roma' - Blake Gunton



OPEN - Bromeliad

1st *Lutheria* 'Splendret' - Frances Boyd >>

Grown perfectly & well presented

2nd *Neoregelia* 'Inkwell' Steven French

Perfectly layered & chunky

3rd *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman' - Frances Boyd



3 *Cryptanthus*

1st *Cryptanthus* seedling - Darryl Lister >>

2nd *Cryptanthus* 'Thriller' - Lynn Hudson

3rd *Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlite' - Lynn Hudson



Tillandsia

1st *Tillandsia roland-gosselinii* - Marguerite Sexton

2nd *Tillandsia ehlersiana* - Gail Taifalos

3rd *Tillandsia* 'Maria Theresa' - Bob Hudson





Bob's *Tillandsia tricholepis*

Kelly's *Tillandsia* 'Maidens Blush'



New Junior Member - Blake Gunton

Blake is only 12 but has been bitten by the Tillandsia Bug.

He already has a fair collection of plants plus he is successfully growing from seed. Will he will be selling at the 2019 Bloomin Broms?



5

A new bromeliad has been born in the North and registered
xNeomea 'Silverback' bred by **President Aaron Smythe**
It is **Aechmea 'Roberto Menescal'** x **Neoregelia 'Silver'**.



It is a good addition to the large flamboyant bromeliads made over recent years.
While it is an improvement on 'Silver' the 'Roberto Menescal' took a back seat.
Well done Mr President

Some of the Loaded Tables for **Bloomin Broms 2018**





Bloomin Broms 2018

72 bromeliad lovers signed in for our new one day format. There were many more who just dropped in to view and to buy some of the amazing horde of bromeliads grown both in Cairns and from further down the coast. Kelly was a marvel as Treasurer, having few breaks, she was just at it! It was a very busy day and I was very proud of our members. Most had one allocated job but I noticed many also picked up any trailing threads and helped out where and when needed. Steven is almost a mind reader - I would go to check on something and he would have just done or was doing it - pretty scary eh Steven - in tune with the old witch!

Yes it is excellent to gather together again, to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and get a face to go with a name. I am always amazed that so many travel by road and air to attend - yes I know it is a warmer here and the plants are a good excuse.



Our Speakers were George Stamatis and John Byth & Aaron Smythe

George spoke on 'Conservation by Cultivation'. I think it hit home as many attendees said they did not realise how many plants were already gone from gardens in Australia.

John discussed the 'Propagation of Alcantareas' and attendees were amazed at the plants he has grown and appreciated the detail of offset removal and growth.

We have been very lucky to have these growers who are experts in their fields, gifted in presentations and happy to openly share their discoveries and hints.

President Aaron showed the leaf contents of a bromeliad from his digital USB Microscope plus his light meter results. Attendees were fascinated by the pictures of the ostracod chomping on the algae.

I will let our members share their experiences -

***Aaron:** As the new President the whole day was new to me. Normally I am on the attendees side and this time found myself on the organising side. I must say that without the society members that gave their time and Lynn and Bob's equipment and experience it would not go as well as it did. Everything seemed to go on auto pilot. From what I saw the attendees enjoyed the presentations, the bromeliads and catching up with friends. I liked this new relaxed format and cannot suggest much to improve. The only suggestion I received which I think may need looking into is to have a few corflutes (signage) made up and placed at strategic places around Cairns to attract more locals. [New council rules will permit this Aaron. L]





Lynn: most members have commented on my efforts - on the day members just took on their allotted tasks and did an exemplary job. Without this input the day would not have been such a success. Thank You to Each of You. You were the Stars.

***Dave:** The one day format worked really well, so we will no doubt have to continue with Bloomin Broms next year, a great day for sales with minimal fuss. Congratulations to Lynn and Aaron for making the day a great success and keeping everything on schedule.

***Laureen:** This was my first Bloomin Broms, I have to say I loved it. I could not believe the massive sales display, it just seemed to 'go on forever'. Of course I came home with another car load. I thoroughly enjoyed John Byth's Alcantarea presentation, as well as all other presentations (I learned heaps). Such a lot of preparation goes into these events. I managed to meet some of the online sellers from whom I have purchased - it's always lovely to put a face to a name!!! To the Committee & Volunteers on the day I say "Job Well Done" Can't wait for Bloomin Broms 2019...

***Greg:** Thanks for the most enjoyable bromeliad day. Highlights are mostly, meeting up with friends and fellow growers and a chat. Best still I left without a single plant.

***Bob:** Another great Blooming Broms. Great speakers, great food, sales tables were buzzing with enthusiastic buyers. It just goes to prove we do not need two days to put on a great show.

***Frances:** I enjoyed the talks very much. And, sitting in the back, I could see how most people were fascinated by the pictures Aaron was showing. However the noise of people talking from outside the door was intrusive and difficult to control as the doors were not able to be completely shut because the electrical cord needed the opening. Perhaps the sales point could be moved further from the doorway and the position swapped with the raffle table. (Good thinking Frances) Thanks again for your work Lynn and helpers.

***Karen:** Well what a beautiful day it turned out to be. Perfect weather and always good catching up with George, Nigel from down south and the Townsville crew and people you only see once a year. I think was a good turnout and the plants for sale were spectacular. A big thank you to Lynn and Bob for organising it again and I think the one day turned out good.

***Ross:** I had a great time. There was a great selection of plants for sale, lots of really nice happy people, great talks most people learnt new stuff from talks. I caught up with lots people I had not seen since the last event. It was great day for me - not sure on ideas on how to improve it.



***Shaughan:** At the last meeting I stated why I started coming to the Society meetings - I like them, learn a lot, appreciate the openness, humour and friendliness. I am just glad to be well enough to be back. (It is excellent to have you back Shaughan)

***Glen:** 2018 Bloomin delightful! I believe the relaxed format made for more fun, as seen on the faces of friends both new and old. Massive thanks to Linnie and all who helped make the day possible.

***Robyn:** Running Bloomin Broms as a one day event was much more enjoyable than the previous 2 days in recent years. It was a much tighter event with great speakers providing heaps of information and great presentations. The public certainly enjoyed the beautiful selection of broms available with some big buys going to new homes. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay for the whole day as I had a workshop commitment in the city after 1.30 p.m. I would have liked to stay for Bob's tillandsia presentation. So I would like to thank the committee members and all volunteer members for your efforts on producing such a successful day.

***Kelly:** Well what can I say about Bloomin' Broms...I believe it was a great successful day especially with the sales and bloody awesome to see so many of the public straight up there in the morning...loved catching up with the wonderful group of Brom Addicts that make the trek to Cairns every year for this event... I didn't get to catch any of the talks due to the sales going crazy...see you all again next year.

Marguerite: Was a friendly day, lovely new plants to see, great organisation by Lynn. Members helped, everyone loved Lynn's coleslaw. Bob and Kay's cooking was ok too.

Karen: I loved this new one day event of Bloomin Broms, having it in a one day format makes it much more appealing for we time poor people of today's world. Great to see lots of new people just stopping by and coming in to buy plants and staying on for the talks, learning more about the world of Bromeliads and their conservation needs for the future. Some other ideas for next year would to maybe have the checkout away from the main door like under a shade tent in the car park area, so people buying could still have a chat and not interfering with the inside talks. A big thank you to Lynn and everyone else who helped out and made the day run smoothly from where I was at the food tent people were very happy chatting about their Bromeliads while getting their lunch, just really enjoying the day, and on that note a special thanks to our chef Bob and his helper Kay for cooking our yummy lunch and to Marguerite who was there all day making sure everyone got a nice hot cuppa when they wanted one.

So for all those who missed this year's Bloomin Broms please join us next year as a must do and come and see for yourselves what a wonderful day it is.

"We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it is our garden that is nurturing us." Jenny Uglow





Bits & Pieces



Werauhia sanguinolenta is in spike! It will produce lots of seed in September but you will only get ONE offset. That spike will start to lean & if you look down into the centre the offset will be slowly coming up. Give it a feed. Just remove the bottom leaves as they brown off & finally the new offset will be the main plant. Leave the spike until the pods dry out & open - then offer seed to growers.

If someone does not grow the seed, there will be no plants around.

Treated timbers are poisonous to bromeliads. The timber needs to be painted to make a seal and stop the poison leeching. Bromeliads will die after receiving splashes of water from the timber.

Use a quality paint like *Dulux Weathershield* or *Berger Solarshield* acrylic. One good coat will do and paint all the cut ends as well. You may use treated timbers for a shade house frame but it must be painted.

Mousetraps: Bob was at IGA with a box of tillandsias attached to timber hangers. A lady came up and said “Oh, air plants and looking at those mousetrap pieces of timber reminds me I have to go back and get a mousetrap as I have a mouse in my house.” She did not buy a tillandsia & Bob did not get commission on the mousetrap.

Another community service from our Bobby!

Pickings from the Web (with permission)

Vic Przetocki of Perth showed an innovative way to grow tillandsias using a piece of hose. It is *Tillandsia erecta*

The 1st photo was taken 1/11/2015, 2nd photo was taken 23/6/2018





How good is that hat? Yes it is Lloyd!

“Surprisingly many Tillandsias can tolerate salt - salt winds etc. This morning the real acid test - I took an air plant for a surf on the air mat - air plant meets air mat. No damage.”

Tillandsia Seeds & Algae - Lloyd Godman

Without doubt, algae can effectively snub out germinating Tillandsia seed. Algae reproduce very quickly and need only sunlight (or another form of energy, like sugar), water, carbon dioxide and a few inorganic nutrients to grow.

In the right conditions where they are kept dry, Tillandsia seed can be stored for years. Once the conditions are set for germination; where moisture, warmth and light are offered, the seed will rapidly take in the moisture, swell, and begin to green. With some seed, I have seen this happen as quickly as 4-6 hours. However in unfavourable conditions where algae and or fungi are present, there is a race for survival. Fast growing algae can quickly grow over the surface of the Tillandsia seed and smother them. Generally algae is a sign of too much water with no drying period.

However there can be other factors at work. Where I live, we rely on tank water; no town water at all, it is all stored in tanks from roof run off. In the past I have had patchy results with germinating some species of Tillandsia seed and I suspected fungi and algae in the stored water from the roof which I would mist the seed with.

Recently I have boiled the water and then let it cool before misting the seeds. I clean all the seed trays and netting with hot water so the seeds are in a highly sterile environment. The results are amazing with nearly 100% strike rate.



New Book-

“Tillandsias My Way” by Bob Hudson

Basic tillandsia growing with 14 colour pages of species tillandsias. \$12 or \$15 posted

Available from Bob tillandsiabob@gmail.com

Anyone who gets off their arse & does something good is allowed to blow their own horn as much as they like! (That is my opinion - Lynn)

**"If you are depressed you are living in the past.
If you are anxious you are living in the future.
If you are at peace you are living in the present." -- Lao Tzu**

Q: Where do geologists like to relax? A: In a rocking chair.

Q: What did the earthquake say to the volcano?

A: It's not my fault.

Q: How do locomotives hear? A: Through the engineers.

Q: Why is tennis such a loud game? A: Because each player raises a racquet.

Q: What happened to the sun burnt banana? A: It started to peel.

Q: What does Godzilla drive? A: A monster truck!

Q: What animal has more lives than a cat? A: A frog. It croaks every night.

Q: Why are elephants so wrinkled? A: Because they take too long to iron!

Q: Why shouldn't you tell secrets in a cornfield? A: There are too many ears!

Q: Why did the melon jump into the lake? A: It wanted to be a watermelon.



Ha Ha Ha!



* In ancient Greece a man walked into a tailor's shop and placed a pair of torn pants on the counter. The tailor held up the pants and eyed the tear.

Tailor: "Euripides?" Man: "Yes. Eumenides?" Tailor: "Yes."

Aspire to inspire before you expire.



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





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Hosted by the Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society Inc.

"Golden Broms" 17-20th October 2019

The 20th Australia Bromeliad Conference.

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"Bromeliad Cultivation Notes" by Lynn Hudson

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"Tillandsias my Way" by Bob Hudson

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