



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2019 # 4

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OIC Pots	Frances Boyd	0740552550



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

Honorary Life Member - Kay Edington

Life Members - Lynn Hudson, Robert (Bob) Hudson, Dave Weston

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.

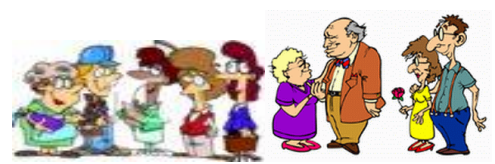
Show Plants: Must be the property of and in the custody of the entrant for the past three months. For Society Shows the entrant must be financial and have attended at least three meetings during the past six months.

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 Club Activities & Around the Members



July Mini Show - Neoregelia

1st. *Neoregelia* 'Yellow Lines' - Steven French

2nd. *Neoregelia* 'Lorena' - Kim Coppin



Neoregelia Mini

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

2nd. *Neoregelia* 'Velvet Rose' - Frances Boyd

3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Zoe' - Nalda Wilson

Neoregelia Multiple

1st. *Neoregelia melanodonta x pauciflora* - Lynn Hudson >

2nd. *Neoregelia* 'Donger' - Frances Boyd

3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Blushing Zebra' - Nalda Wilson v

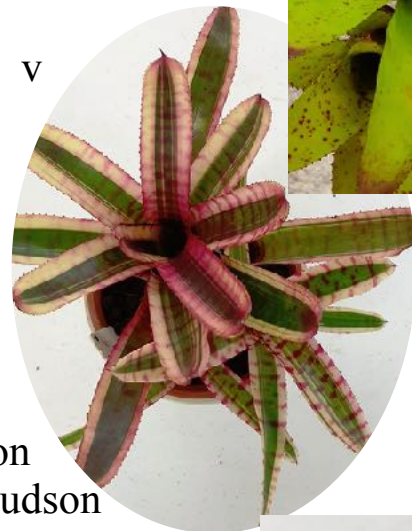


July - Popular Vote Bromeliad

1st. *xSincoregelia* 'Cosmic Blast' - Lynn Hudson

2nd. *Stigmatadon harrrylutherii* - Bob Hudson

3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Donger' - Frances Boyd



Popular Vote Cryptanthus

1st. *Cryptanthus* 'Frost Zeb' seedling - Dave Weston

2nd. *Cryptanthus* 'Marion Oppenheimer' - Lynn Hudson

3rd. *Cryptanthus* 'It' - Marguerite Sexton

Popular Vote - Tillandsia

1st *Tillandsia hildae* - Dave Weston

2nd. *Tillandsia tenuifolia dk form* - Lynn Hudson

3rd. *Racinae dyeriana* - Bob Hudson

Novice

Neoregelia 'Lorena' - Kim Coppin



Neo. Palmares

More pics from July meeting - thank you Dave for the pics.

Sincoregia 'Cosmic Blast' *Stigmatodon harrylutheri*



Racineae dyeriana



Tillandsia hildae

Tillandsia tenuifolia dark form



Billbergia 'Hallelujah' x
'Praise Be'



Cryptanthus 'Frost Zeb' seedling



Tillandsia
duratii var. *duratii*



Tillandsia
tectorum Fuzz Ball



Tillandsia roland gosselini



Tillandsia
streptocarpa x *crocata*



Vriesea racinae - this small bromeliad is so cute with its polka-dot markings. It is a nocturnal flowering species, each flower will last one night and only one flower on a plant will be open on any night.



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August Mini Show

Dyckia hebdingii - Lynn Hudson

Just one lonely prickly entry!

August Popular Vote

Bromeliad

1st. *Neoregelia* 'Downs Autumn' - Harold Cooper

2nd x*Sincoregelia* 'Wide Wings' - Dave Weston

3rd. *Aechmea* 'Apricot' - Lynn Hudson



How perfect is this?



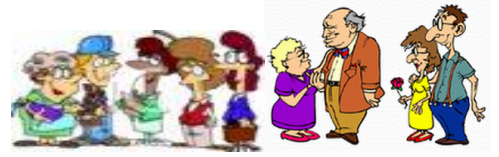
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Popular Vote Cryptanthus

1st. *Cryptanthus* 'Starlight' - Lynn Hudson

2nd *Cryptanthus* 'Menescal' - Dave Weston

3rd. *Cryptanthus* 'Imposter' red - Marguerite Sexton



Popular Vote - Tillandsia

1st *Tillandsia stricta* - Marguerite Sexton

2nd. *Tillandsia bulbosa* - Nalda Wilson

3rd *Tillandsia tenuifolia* dark form - Lynn





T. ionantha hybrid (Nalda)

T. gardneri rupicola (Bob)



Neo. 'Coconut Ice (Steven)



Guz. sanguinea variegated (Harold)



8 The Beauty of our Plants



It is certainly Spring, we have many flowering trees and bromeliads. The guzmanias are in so many delicate colours. The aechmeas are not being left out, both the species and hybrids are flaunting a wonderful range of inflorescences. The *Aechmea weilbachii pendula*; *leodensis* and *viridisepala* and *Aechmea warassii* are really showing off. I had to take some up to the verandah and place them with the beautiful guzmanias around the log.



Aechmea 'Loie's Pride' is one of the very best, she keeps her colour and flowers faithfully. The middle one here is *Vriesea corriea-araujoi* x *'Red Chestnut'*, the leaves grow to 30cm, the spike rises from the centre and to over 60cm then produces 25cm of salmon bracts with cream flowers. Sunbirds balance and reach right down into the flower.

The plant on the right you probably know as *Aechmea 'Surprise'* an attractive strong plant. The hybridist named it *'Nubes'* [pronounced newbeez] meaning clouds in their language, but once it entered the market the large nurseries mass produced it - with the new name.



Werauhia sanguinolenta in spike! It will produce lots of seed 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.



Using Coir Fibre

Growing media is an important component in producing plants in container production and it is strongly recommended that growers undertake extensive trials with new blends and mixes before making changes to their standard growing media.

Coir, coir fibre pith or coconut fibre is a one hundred percent natural, environmentally friendly product. It is a sustainable and renewable resource. Coir is derived from the husk of the coconut, the fruit of the coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*, which can often produce in excess of one hundred coconut fruits per tree per year. Coir is produced in many countries throughout the world; however the major production originates from Sri Lanka and India.

Coir is a 'peat like' byproduct produced from the processing of coconut husks. It is the fibrous material found between the hard, internal shell and the outer coat of a coconut. The coir is removed by soaking the husk in water to loosen the fibres, often by floating the husks in a lagoon for several months. The fibres are then removed and screened for size, dried and compressed into blocks or bales (other treatments are employed by some processors including heat treatment and washing in fresh water). Coir chips are obtained by cutting the coconut husk into small graded pieces.

Coir is a homogenous material composed of millions of capillary micro-sponges. The individual fibre cells are narrow and hollow with thick walls made of cellulose and lignin. The naturally aerated structure of the coir fibre allows it to hold up to eight times its weight in water, while its fibrous nature allows moisture to easily drain. Coir has a natural pH of 5.7 to 6.5.

Coir is sustainable, lightweight, retains moisture and is currently an affordable growing media substrate or component in a growing media blend. Growers using coir fibre in container production have observed that the crops produced have a stronger, healthy, more fibrous root system.

Coir has an excellent Water Holding Capacity (WHC). The inclusion of coir in growing media can improve the water holding capacity of the mix while maintaining

10 porosity and good drainage. The higher the volume of coir in the growing media, the greater quantity of water the growing media can support. Improved WHC of growing media leads to less irrigation, less water used, less energy consumed in irrigation pumping, and less leaching of fertilisers, providing better, faster plant growth. The high WHC and wettability of coir aids in the development of a strong fibrous root system throughout the container. Growers report the WHC of coir provides quicker plant establishment, less transplant shock, longer shelf life and fewer production losses.

Coir has an excellent wetting and rewetting capacity. Many growing media components such as pine bark and peat moss are difficult to rewet, as they dry out and are labeled hydrophobic i.e. they repel water. Coir remains hydrophilic, or water attracting, and contains no waxy cutin to repel water, as is the case with peat moss.

With overhead and drip irrigation, coir ensures quick and efficient rewetting of the entire growing media in the container. In capillary watering, the coir assists in quickly establishing a capillary connection with the capillary mat. The capillary action of coir also assists in redistributing water throughout the container as it is absorbed by the growing media.

Coir maintains an excellent Air Filled Porosity (AFP) of approximately 20%. The AFP of the growing media in containers is a measure of the air available to the plant root system required to sustain plant growth. Coir chips and blends of coir fibre and chips often have a much higher AFP.

Coir has a high Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) similar to peat moss. This CEC ability to hold nutrients in the growing media ensures the fertiliser applied is available to the crops in containers through the growing period.

Coir has excellent physical stability. Each tough coarse fibre maintains its shape when incorporated into growing media. The coir fibres resist compaction providing more airspace in the container. Coir fibre growing media blends do not shrink and settle in the container. The high lignin content of the coir material means the growing media will be longer lasting, hold more water and will not shrink from the sides of the container as it dries out.

Grower experience has identified that a growing media blend or mix with 10 – 20% coir provides all the benefits of coir, while allowing growers to ‘stand out’ the batch with other crops that may not have coir included in the media. This is particularly valuable as growers make the transition to coir based growing media mixes throughout the production. Growers have used coir at rates above 20% with increased benefits, with some producers using 100% coir (100% coir growing media is generally a blend of 60% coir chip and 40% coir fibre. However blends can be tailor-made to suit grower requirements). Coir is often used as a replacement for sand in growing media mixes.

Coir is available in various grades and blend combinations of fine and chip material. Each grade and blend of coir will exhibit different physical properties and it is important to specify to the distributor the exact grade or blend required.

Coir is supplied in compressed blocks or bales, individually wrapped, or in bulk quantities on pallets. Blocks can be expanded by adding water and physically breaking up the bale as water is absorbed, or bales can be placed in special shredders to break up the bale before wetting and use. Small quantities can be placed in a tub or wheelbarrow of water to expand, or larger quantities placed in a concrete bay and water applied slowly through sprinklers.//

11 NOTHING MORE THAN A PLAY ON WORDS

These fit so well they should be in a dictionary..

BEAUTY PARLOUR: A place where women curl up and dye

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: Grape with a sunburn

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES: Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

KIDS =

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His Dad read 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

STEVEN (age 3) hugged and kissed his Mom good night. 'I love you so much that when you die I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window.'

DJ (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: 'How much do I cost?'

JACK (age 3) was watching his Mom breast-feeding his new baby sister. After a while he asked: 'Mom why have you got two? Is one for hot and one for cold milk?'



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





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Everything for growing gardens

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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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