



# Bromelcairns



**Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2020 # 2**

*P.O. Box 28 Cairns Queensland 4870 Australia*

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<b>OIC Pots</b>	<b>Frances Boyd</b>	<b>0740552550</b>



**Honorary Life Member - Grace Goode O.A.M. (deceased)**

**Honorary Life Member - Kay Edington**

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

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**Aims of the Society**

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

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**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 & raffle plant.

**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](mailto:lynnie@ledanet.com.au)

Previous issues are on my website [www.bromeliadsdownunder.wordpress.com](http://www.bromeliadsdownunder.wordpress.com)

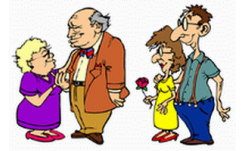
## Club Activities & Around the Members

### MARCH Mini Show - BILLBERGIA

1st. *Billbergia* 'Domingos Martins' - Lesley Hepburn

2nd. *Billbergia* 'Poquito Mas' - Lynn Hudson

3rd. *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' - Steven French



< *Billbergia* 'Domingos Martins' grown by Lesley was clean and crisp looking. Bob Whitman collected this beauty from Kautsky's Mountain near the town of Domingos Martins in Brazil in 1985. It is a cultivar of *vittata* named by Don Beadle

'Poquito Mas' was hybridised by Don Beadle and released in 1982. The parents are 'Fantasia' and 'Poquito Blanco'. In 1999 Don was to speak at the 10th Australian Conference in Cairns in but had a medical problem and cancelled. We invited Pamela Koide - Hyatt, who accepted. Pam planned to send plants to be quarantined by David Schumack and we asked if she could include some of Don's hybrids. This plant is one of the offspring from those Pamela imported. Leaves are shiny with patches of colour and lots of dots.

'Hallelujah' was released in 1988, again a Beadle hybrid of 'Domingos Martins' & 'Ed McWilliams' and is probably the most popular in the billbergia family. The colours vary with age, light and fertiliser. I asked Oliver Trevor where or how I could get many of them. "Feed em up Lynn", she said. A few months later I phoned Olive again and whined "They are all green Ollie"; her reply "But you have lots don't you?" followed by that OT giggle! "Now split them up but only give them a small amount of fertiliser". It certainly worked. 'Hallelujah' has been used in many hybrids but to me 'Hallelujah' cannot be surpassed. Don made hundreds of hybrids, most were billbergia.

Sometimes I think there may be lots of teasing and laughter at the Bromeliad section of Heaven - they have Don Beadle, John Anderson, Herb Plever, Grace Goode, John Catlan, Bob Whitman, Brendan Leishman, Neville Wood, Margaret Draddy and Joyce Brehm - to name just a few.//



*Billbergias* 'Darth Vader'; 'Muriel Waterman' *nutans* & 'Kyoto' inflorescences

Billbergias are often the first bromeliad a person owns and probably the first bromeliad in Australia was *Billbergia nutans*. They came out from Europe used as packing among precious orchids sent here to keep them from the ravages of the World War. They were thought to be lillies and many were planted at the base of tankstands.

*Billbergia nutans* flowering starts as a pink ball and out tumble the beautiful flowers.

*Billbergia pyramidalis* is always an easy one to grow. Someone brought to the meeting an inflorescence of the marginated hybrid 'Kyoto', they are really beautiful.

["Wotsa tank stand?" I have been queried by young people - rain water was caught from the house roof into a huge round tin or tank. These were set up with the top almost in line with the roof whose guttering emptied into the tank. They were held up by stands which could be timber or concrete (wealthy people had concrete!) The dampness underneath begged for a few plants, vegetables mainly but lillies also had a place.]

### **March Popular Vote: Bromeliad**

1st. *Neoregelia* 'Inkwell' - Steven French (How perfect is that?)

2nd. *Aechmea chantinii* SB Clone - Lynn Hudson

3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Puppy Love' - Dave Weston



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3rd. *Neo* 'Puppy Love' Dave Weston

Each of all these plants were well grown and shining with health

*Neo*. 'Lime Fizz' Aaron Smythe



**Cryptanthus**

1st *Cryptanthus* 'San Juan' - Dave Weston >>>>>>>

2nd. 'Thriller' - Lynn Hudson

3rd. 'Anne Collings' - Marguerite Sexton



***Stigmatodon harry lutheri***

Update from Bob Hudson



Sadly the flower spike turned to mush!  
The flowers opened at 5pm and were closed by 5am so pollination had to be at 12 midnight, so Bob's staying awake method was all in vain. He was very vigilant too! To all the growers who asked to go on the seed list, big sorry, there ain't any.

## 5 March meeting - Tillandsias

1st *Barfussia platyrachis* - Lesley Hepburn

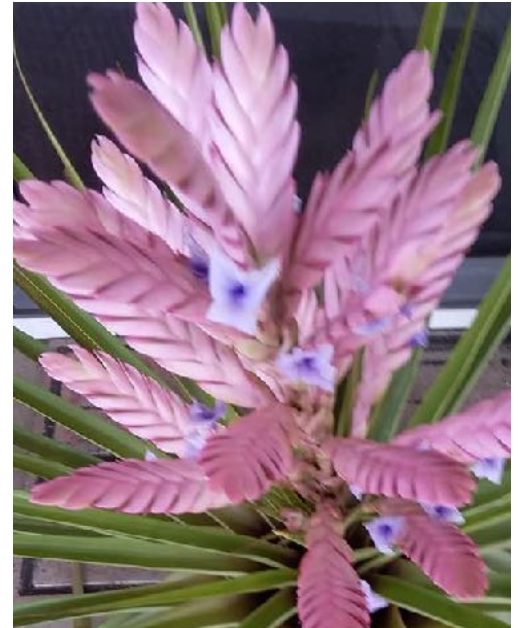
2nd. *Tillandsia* 'Marlii Dofitas' - Bob Hudson

3rd *Tillandsia ionantha* Fuego - Marguerite Sexton



Lesley arrived with a large 'tillandsia' in spike - lots of lovely pink paddles splaying out from the centre of green spineless leaves. No name & she could not remember where she sourced it. It was well liked and started lots of conversation. Bob said it made him think of *Barfussia platyrachis*. At the time no flowers had opened but the photo shows it is doing it right. Well done Lesley.

Plus she took out first in the mini show with *Billbergia* 'Domingos Martins' We hope you can attend



more often with your treasures!

*Tillandsia* 'Marlii Dofitas'



*Tillandsia ionantha* Fuego



From **President Dave - Future Meetings Advice/ Covid19 Virus**



Members and friends,

I advise that our regular meetings scheduled for April and May have been cancelled.

The “Bloomin Broms” event which was to be held in June is now postponed.

I expect that everyone will appreciate the reason for these cancellations which are unfortunately necessary given the situation with the Covid19 Virus and our members health and welfare.

It may be possible to re-schedule the “Bloomin Broms” event for later in the year subject to what transpires with the virus transmission within communities and Government advice.

I will ensure that you are all kept abreast of any further changes in respect to Cairns Bromeliad Society meetings and events through 2020.

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# Vale John Catlan.

It is with great sadness that we advise the passing of John Catlan on Friday 10 April 2020. John is survived by his wife Genny.

Not only was John a pioneer in bromeliad growing and hybridising in Australia, he was also a collector of highly unusual plants generally. His horticultural knowledge was vast and he freely shared with many and any.

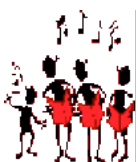
John was also a founding & life member of the Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society, where he donated his time and knowledge extensively.

A true Aussie character who possessed a tremendous sense of humour and who loved telling a yarn or seven.

Personally I will always remember the chats with John & Genny 'under the Mango tree.' Thank you for everything John.

Written by Shane Weston-Fitzgerald

from Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society Inc.



7 No **APRIL meeting** but Aaron & Dave offered to us a chance to show off our plants. We sent in photos of our plants then we were asked to vote for our favourites in each section.



It was excellent to see our Novices Josie & Max joining in and showing their plants.

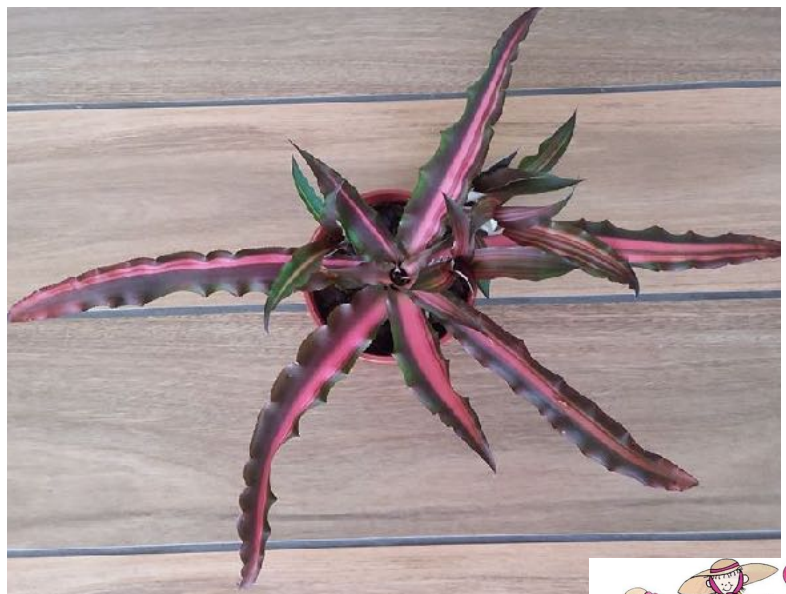
There were only 8 members who voted. Come on, join in - at least vote! If you cannot get round the tech part, contact Dave, Aaron or me with your plant or pics. Please, at least vote!!

**POPULAR VOTE - Novice**

**Bromeliad** *Vriesea* 'Living in Paradise' - **Max Smith**



**Cryptanthus 'Ti' - Josie Cannon**



**POPULAR VOTE - Novice continued**

***Tillandsia fasciculata* Florida NR14 - Josie Cannon**



**WOW!** Good on each of You for having a go, also for starting to get points for the year. Enjoy the kudos, you have earned it. Your plants looked very well grown and I am sure you are enjoying them. Obviously they like you and whatever you are doing to them! Please keep showing us your beauties.

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**POPULAR VOTE - Open Bromeliad - these 2 scored all the votes !!**

1st. *Dyckia* 'Yellow Glow' - Dave Weston 2nd. *Neo.* 'Apricot Sunrise' - Aaron Smythe.



**Other Entries**

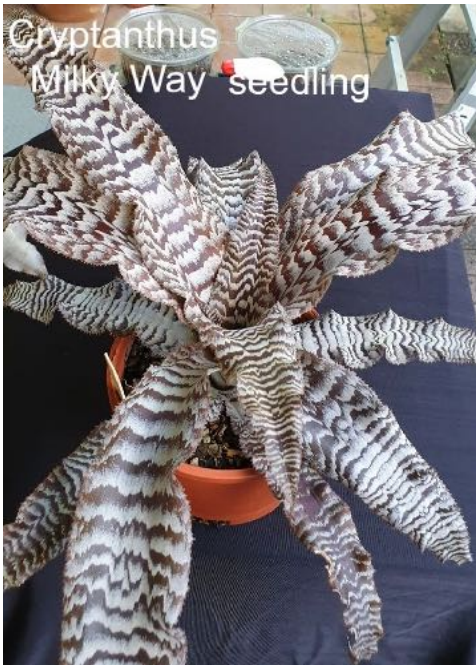




9 Popular Vote

CRYPTANTHUS - Open

Tie - 'Milky Way' seedling from Dave Weston & 'Thriller' from Aaron

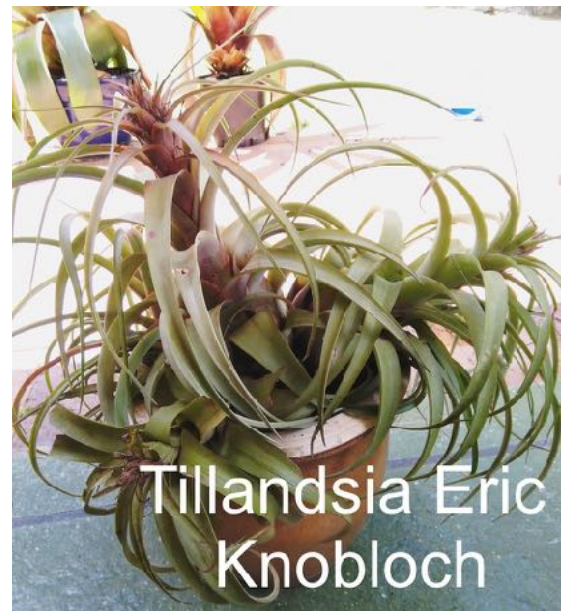


Other Crypt entry V

3rd Lynn Hudson v  
Cryptanthus  
Starlite



Other tillandsia entries



**TILLANDSIA - OPEN**

1st *Tillandsia* 'Bob's Amigo'  
Marguerite Sexton

2nd *Tillandsia hildae*  
Dave Weston

3rd *Tillandsia tectorum*  
Lynn Hudson



12. So we have survived the isolation and many of us have been in our gardens and discovered a few forgotten plants. Give them a wash, top them up, add a bit of fertiliser, give them a thorough watering & they will thrive. Amazing aren't they?

- \* I would really like to see more entries in the on line Popular Vote.
- \* I would most definitely like to see more members vote for what they like best.
- \* Vote for your own if you like, sometimes yours is best, go for it.
- \* We are happy to help or do the photography - just contact us & bring your treasure around.
- \* Last month there were only 8 votes total. There were 17 members voted at the March meeting and this is easier than getting ready, packing etc.
- \* Get involved, it backs up your Committee & makes us feel it is worthwhile.

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I was a bit taken back when you sang Happy Birthday to me, but I did enjoy it.  
If I looked surprised it was because you all melded so well = hidden talents!!

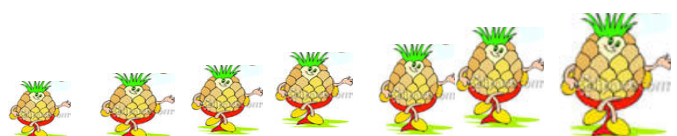
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Not much on the supermarket shelves yesterday so I decided to improvise.  
Dinner last night was a risotto I made with some mushrooms I foraged for locally.

Not only was it delicious, but soon after a Welsh male voice choir of purple elephants showed up and sang the whole of Meatloaf's 'Bat out of Hell' album, accompanied by a light show!



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





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\*fertilisers \*fungicides \*herbicides \*spraying equipment  
\*plastic pots \*orchid & squat pots \*planter bags \*plant tags  
\*potting mix \*perlite \*vermiculite \*charcoal \*orchid bark  
\*shade cloth \*poly films \*weed control mat



Everything for growing gardens

## Hudson's Bromeliads Down Under

Bromeliads & Tillandsias **Bob & Lynn Hudson** ABN 66 951 932 976

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email: [lynnie@ledanet.com.au](mailto:lynnie@ledanet.com.au) [tillandsiabob@gmail.com](mailto:tillandsiabob@gmail.com)



Cairns Lovebirds - bred by Karen Stevens

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Phone 0419021302 [bpkstevens@bigpond.com](mailto:bpkstevens@bigpond.com)



## Bloomin Broms **CANCELLED** 2020

Plant Sales, Presentations, Raffles & Cairns Members Show



### “Bromeliad Cultivation Notes” by Lynn Hudson

**A little how-to book.**

**Cultivation made easy. Basics in language anyone can follow**

John Catlan's notes - “Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree”

**A ‘must have’ book to help you think and grow your bromeliads better.**

Booklet prepared & printed by Lynn Hudson

### “Tillandsias my Way” by Bob Hudson

**Tillandsia care Bob's way**

Contact Bob on [tillandsiabob@gmail.com](mailto:tillandsiabob@gmail.com) 0432030472

Contact Lynn on [lynnie@ledanet.com.au](mailto:lynnie@ledanet.com.au) or 07 40533913

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