



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2021#1

P.O. Box 28 Cairns Queensland 4870 Australia

President	Steven French	0740322283
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Minutes Secretary	Frances Boyd	0740552550
Treasurer	Janice West	0427120631
Librarian	Max Smith	0427938478
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Concierge	Nalda Wilson	0740544825
Pop. Vote Steward	Josie Cannon	0437787788
OIC Raffles	Karen Stevens	0740361086



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.

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

Christmas Party Time = Food, Friends, Plants & Awards



Dave won the Bromeliad, Cryptanthus & Most Points Trophies - Marguerite the Tillandsia. Novice Section - Max won the Bromeliad, Josie the Cryptanthus & Tillandsia.





*The Very
Popular
Raffle Tables!!*

*Plants to
Grow & Show
for this year*



4 Presidents Report AGM

6th. February 2021 by Dave Weston

When I tabled my report last year I expressed my concern that our membership numbers were declining and that the outlook for our society was not looking promising. However I am pleased to report we have had a turnaround with a healthy increase of new members introduced mainly by Lynn. This is despite all the disruptions and uncertainty we have had to endure as a result of the Covid19 crisis.

We had to cancel our regular meetings for April, May and June. 'Bloomin Broms' event and Show were rescheduled for September. Thanks to Aaron Smythe who ran the Popular Vote competition on our Facebook Page.

'Bloomin Broms' was a success although numbers were down due to Covid19. Our Show was very well supported by our members with really high quality entries being submitted for the scrutiny of Judges Neville Ryan and George Stamatis. The format of running the Bromelioideae and Tillandsioideae together worked very well and made a fantastic statement of the high level of cultural knowledge and dedication our members with the collection and growing of bromeliads.

While it assuring to see more Novice Members attending meetings we would like to see them participating in Popular Vote. I know some can be a bit reluctant to enter when they see the Open section quality - we all started as novices sometime. The commentary by the Steward is not criticism of your plant but advice and hints on where and how you can improve your plant culture and presentation.

From a personal aspect my involvement with the society during 2021 for the most part will be backstage. I will not be able to attend a number of the meetings as I have family related matters in WA that I want to attend to. As far as I can recall I have served 4 terms as President, 4 as Secretary and 1 as Treasurer. I am confident with the new executive committee and strength of our membership that the Cairns Bromeliad Society ship will remain on course and steaming ahead.//



Sincoregelia 'Ecstasy'



Tillandsia 'Goomong'



Activities & Around the Members

We ended 2020 with the Friends of Botanic Gardens sale day. Again it was very well attended and now there are new bromeliads flourishing in local gardens. As always it was a good and happy day with old and new friends

* * * * *

February 6th - our Annual General Meeting - 2021 Office Bearers

President - Steven French
Secretary - Lynn Hudson
Treasurer - Janice West
Editor - Lynn Hudson
Member Concierge - Nalda Wilson
Sale of Pots etc - Frances Boyd

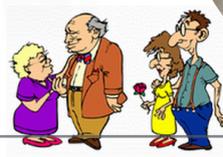
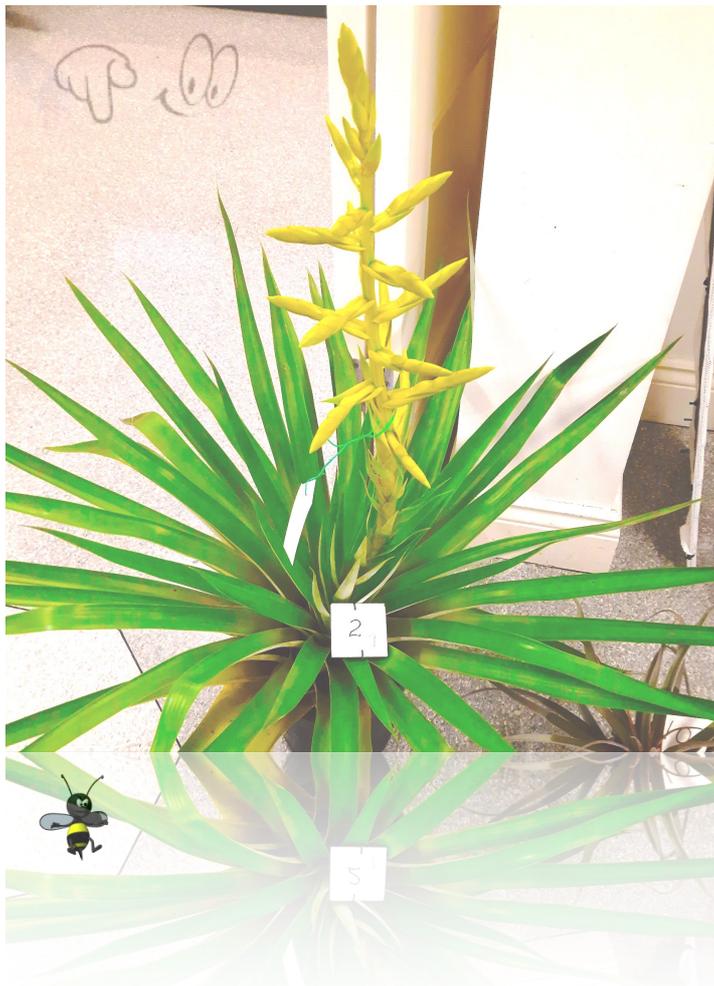
Vice President - Karen Stevens
Minutes Sectary - Frances Boyd
Librarian - Max Smith
Assistant Editor - Frances Boyd
OIC Raffle Tickets - Karen Stevens
Popular Vote Steward - Josie Cannon

Yes, a few new names & a few members are learning new ropes - excellent!

* * * * *

Mini Show - Your Favourite Plant

1. *Till.oestediana*, Aaron, 2. *Vriesea* 'Luna' Lynn, 3. *Neoregelia* 'Inkwell' Steven.
Aaron's *Tillandsia oestediana* was an eye-catcher among six well grown entries. It was in spike and the flowers were yet to open.



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POPULAR VOTE

Bromeliad

1st. *Billbergia* 'Deviation Road' Aaron Smythe

1st. *Vriesea* 'Luna' - Lynn Hudson

3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Tunisia' -Kim Coppin



Cryptanthus

1st. *Cryptanthus* 'Cosmic Star' - Karen Stevens

2nd. *Cryptanthus* 'Larry Giroux' - Lynn Hudson

3rd. *Cryptanthus* 'Coral Bates' - Aaron Smythe



< *Cryptanthus* 'Cosmic Star'

This is a really attractive plant bursting with health. Karen said she had added 'Blood & Bone' in powder form as suggested by Dave and is very happy with the flourishing result



Cryptanthus
'Larry Giroux' ^



Cryptanthus 'Coral Bates' is just taking on the lovely pink glow at the centre. It will get even more attractive.

Cryptanthus
'Imposter red' >



6 **POPULAR VOTE Tillandsias**

t. *Tillandsia* 'Antonio' - Josie Cannon

2nd. *Tillandsia jalisco monticola* - Marguerite Sexton

3rd. *Tillandsia oestadiana* - Aaron Smythe



Wallisia 'Antonio'



Tillandsia jalisco monticola

Tillandsia oestadiana



Other well grown Tillandsias

'Victoria' - Nalda

tectorum - Steven



<*Tillandsia caput medusae*
Tillandsia. name unknown >





WORKSHOPS



I have often talked about running workshops - I have finally started.

The idea was for basic hands-on plant growing. We started in January on the second Saturday of the month 1:30 pm in our garage with 14 attendees - a good size group. February saw the same number with a few different attendees.

January Workshop #1

Firstly I demonstrated the mix I use - each grower will be different but my basic mix is 1/3 Scoria, 1/3 Pine Bark and 1/3 Brunnings Coir Potting Mix. I prepare the Coir before I start. I open only the top of the packet & prise a layer off the cube and place it in a bucket with about 2 litres of water. It will take in the water and swell up. If you wet the whole block you will have a wheelbarrow full ! Over a few days it will grow slime on the top!

I have a pair of old cement washtubs for my mix and potting. For convenience a large plastic tub with a lid is ideal to mix, store and pot from. I always have the mix wet as it is very hard to get it thoroughly wet once the plant is in the pot.

I started with removing offsets - firstly an **aechmea**. Too easy as the offset was half as tall as the mother plant and on a stolon. A sharp pair of cutters and the offset was removed close to the parent stem. The mother plant was thanked, had old leaves removed and she was given a feed of fertiliser.

To remove a leaf easily, completely and cleanly - firstly remove the one that grew first - it will be on the outside. If it is still attached to the mother plant, split it at the centre of the end. With an end piece in each hand tear it outwards lengthwise to the base. 90% of the leaves will come away cleanly. This also works with thick strong leaves.

Potting the offset -1/3 fill the pot with mix, add about a tablespoon of fertiliser on the mix, then more mix to 2/3, add the plant and more mix. Place the plant at the centre of the pot. I then top the pot full, upend my spade & mash the mix to make the offset feel secure and not wobbly, then add more fertiliser. If the plant still wobbles, stake it with 3 kebab sticks. Check the centre tube, it should be empty - if there is mix in it could rot. Long tweezers are excellent for this job.

Next was **neoregelia** - I chose a large *Neoregelia* 'Morrisoniana' with a fat offset to show that not all had to be cut off. I put my thumb on the top of the offset close to the parent stem, fingers underneath and carefully bent the offset down and off. Then it was potted same as the aechmea and the name tag added.

February Workshop #2

We worked on soft leafed bromeliads and removed an offset from a **Vriesea** and a **Guzmania**. Again the outside leaves were removed to expose where it was attached to the parent plant. Hold the mother plant in one hand and the offset in the other hand and pull the offset downwards. It will usually take some of the parent plant root system and that is a good start for the offset. Pot it as above. The mother plant was cleaned of dead leaves and given some fertiliser. Usually they are removed from the pot, no need to remove all the mix from the plant if you are going to repot it.

Orthophytum was next - the star shaped offsets had formed at the end of the spikes the spike had started to dry out. Their bases were cleaned of dead leaves and were individually potted. They have interesting markings and are easy to grow.



Tillandsias In January - ‘Tillandsia Bob’ brought clumps of *Tillandsia tricolor*, *ionantha* and ‘Cotton Candy’. He showed how the growth pattern differed - *tricolor* was on stolons, ‘Cotton Candy’ on long stems and *ionantha* grew rosettes.

He removed all the leaves to expose the offset then teased them off between his thumb and finger rather than cutting them.

In February Bob spoke and demonstrated mounting tillandsias - using a hot glue gun and tying with craft tape. The glue should be used hot. He said the growth habit of the plant should be considered - the caulescent forms should be attached at the top so they are free to continue their long stem growth.

The caulescent forms are *tenuifolia*, *araujoii* and *neglecta*. Bob showed how he attaches the top of the plant to the mount and also adds some tape to hold the plant secure until it grows new roots.

The rosette shapes should sit upright - ‘Houston’, *stricta*, *ionantha* and ‘Cotton Candy’. Bob showed how he uses the glue gun - placing the base of the plant onto the hot glue and holding it in place for a few seconds. Heard while Bob was separating the plants “are you gunna throw some plant s into the crowd?” He did!



Tillandsias vanhyningii

ionantha

neglecta

From Joakim (pronounced ‘Yokim’) our newest society member.

Just wanted to thank Lynn and Tillandsia Bob (monikered cap and all) for yesterday's workshop. Hands on, in front of your face really is the best way. As expected many practical tips and tricks locked away for future use. Really enjoyed. Thank you Both.



Why do some Tillandsias die?

by Lloyd Godman of Victoria

One pair of shoes will not fit all feet. Firstly, consider that there are over 1,000 species of Tillandsia and the optimum growing conditions across the entire genus vary considerably. What one plant responds to may be ultimate death to another.

Understanding the climatic conditions of the natural habitat of a species gives useful information of how to grow a particular plant.

Natural Genetic Causes: Most Tillandsias are what is termed Asexual plants, that is they grow to maturity, flower and then produce small off sets called pups that usually form from the base or stem of the old plant. Some species like *Tillandsia secunda* are termed viviparous, they produce pups from the flower stem. It is intriguing, that in theory these amazing plants can actually live for ever. In fact, there may be some *Tillandsia* plants growing today that have continued to reproduce Asexually from the original seed parent that germinated many thousands of years ago. However, there are a few *Tillandsia* species like *Tillandsia utriculata* that have a different genetic code so after a parent flowers, the plant dies and produces no pups. Cultivating these plants will surely result in death at the end of the plant's life, and they are only perpetuated from seed.

While talking about genetics, it is valuable to consider that from any batch of *Tillandsia* seed there will be variations between individual plants that mean some are more resilient to cold, heat, dry, wet etc. It maybe that one plant can withstand -3°C degrees of frost while another sister plant can only tolerate -1 degrees. Purchasing similar species of plants from a range sources can reveal distinct differences.

Over many generations, through Asexual reproduction, individual plants can actually adapt to grow better in a particular situation. Adaption can be extended even further where plants with a wider range of tolerances evolve through generation after generation of seed reproduction. This happens in the wild and cultivation.

Heat: While different species can tolerate varying amounts of heat, consider that with many plants heat is also linked to humidity. While plants like *T. tectorum* have been recorded withstanding amazing heat, 55°C in direct sun, other species might fail at temperatures just over 30°C . Generally, as the temperature increases the plants respond to a higher humidity level, so in cultivation, with higher temperatures *Tillandsias* respond to regular misting. A specific *Tillandsias* may tolerate say 45°C in a shady location but suffer at 40°C when exposed to direct midday sun for prolonged periods. However, in very hot weather, make sure that plants are watered early in the morning and have time to dry out before the hot direct rays of the sun fall on the leaves. (in summer I water about 6-7am). I once had a friend who was looking after the property during a very hot period of weather (5 days over 40°C). They thought they were helping by watering the garden which included *Tillandsias* at 11am with a burning sun. Watering at this time did huge damage to many plants including the *Tillandsias* which

Watering at this time did huge damage to many plants including the Tillandsias which had the protective silver trichome cells fried and left the plants vulnerable to dehydration. In many Tillandsias the silver trichome acts as a protection against extreme UV and reflects up to 93% of these rays. Some of the effected plants died while others took as long as 3 years to recover.

Cold: Cold can be harmful to some Tillandsias and combined with persistent dampness can be a killer. There are some species like *T. dyeriana* that can only be grown in warm conditions where the temperature never drops below 12c where and climate is relatively stable. However, many Tillandsia can survive through a cool winter down to 3-5°C, but when the temperature drops to below 12°C it is wise to reduce watering or even withhold water altogether. I have ignored plants in mid-winter for 2 months with no water at all and they have been fine. If water is applied in low temperatures it is crucial that the trichome cells dry out quickly or the leaf tissue can rot. This is particularly so with plants like *T. ionatha* and *T. prinosa*. In cooler weather, water during the warmer part of the day and make sure the plants dry out quickly before the temperature drop again at night, an electric fan may assist with this. During winter in Melbourne, I wait until the predicted temperature for the day is over 15°C and water when the temperature reaches 12°C which is usually late morning and allows the plant to dry by evening. (Part 2 next Bromelcairns)

Don't let Yesterday take up too much of Today.” ~ Will Rogers

Stop trying to make everybody happy. U r not Tequila

Confucius Say: It's OK to let a fool kiss you; but don't let a kiss fool you.

A kiss is just shopping upstairs for downstairs merchandise.

It is better to lose a lover than love a loser

A drunken man's words are a sober man's thoughts.



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





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Hudson's Bromeliads Down Under

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Cairns Lovebirds - bred by Karen Stevens

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Bloomin Broms & Cairns Society Show

Saturday 6th June 2021

Cominos House, Greenslopes Street, Edge Hill

Plant Sales Presentations



“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”

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