



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2021 #2

P.O. Box 28 Cairns Queensland 4870 Australia

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V-President	Karen Stevens	0740361086
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Editor Assist.	Frances Boyd	0740552550
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 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



Club Activities & Around the Members

MARCH - another good attendance and excellent plants on show.

MINI SHOW - Aechmea & Billbergia

AECHMEA



- < 1st. 'Samauri'
Steven French
- 2nd. 'Little Harv'
Frances Boyd
- 3rd. 'Sams Cousin'
Lynn Hudson >

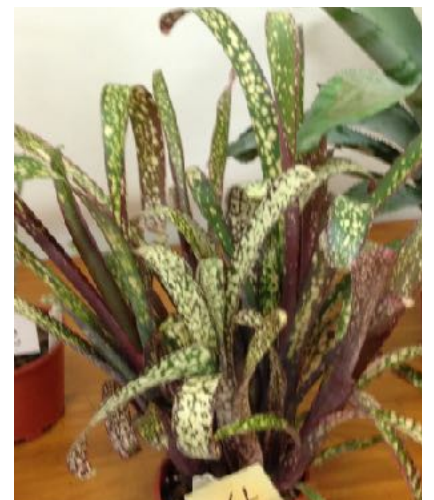


BILLBERGIA



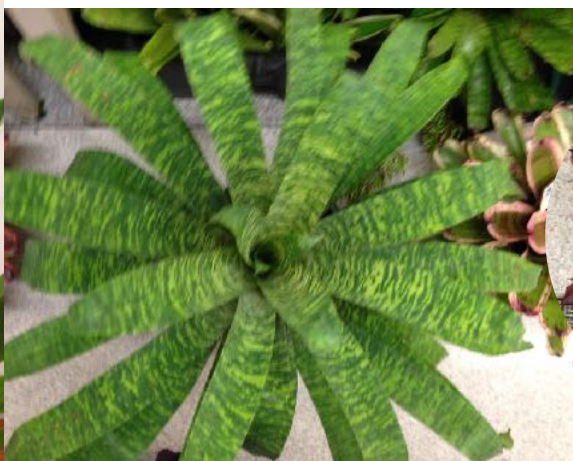
- <1st. 'Hallelujah'
Steven French

- 2nd. 'Casa Blanca'
Lynn Hudson >



POPULAR VOTE

- 1st. *Ronbergia veitchii* - Dave Weston
- 2nd. *Goudea ospinae* var. *gruberi* - Frances Boyd
- 3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Burgundy Royale' - Steven French



March - Popular Vote - Cryptanthus



Cryptanthus

- 1st 'Elaine' - Josie Cannon
- 2nd. 'Cosmic Storm' - Karen Stevens
- 3rd. 'Imposter red' - Marguerite Sexton



Tillandsia

1st. 'Bonsal Beauty -
Josie Cannon

2nd Wallisia cyanea -
Nalda Wilson



Points

6 points per section are available

1st = 3; 2nd is 2; 3rd is 1.

Points are shared when votes are equalled.

As the other 3 received the same number of votes, they are awarded 1 point each.



2nd. 'Kanga Red' Marguerite
2nd xerographica - Josie

Kim's pringelyi & stricta are growing well

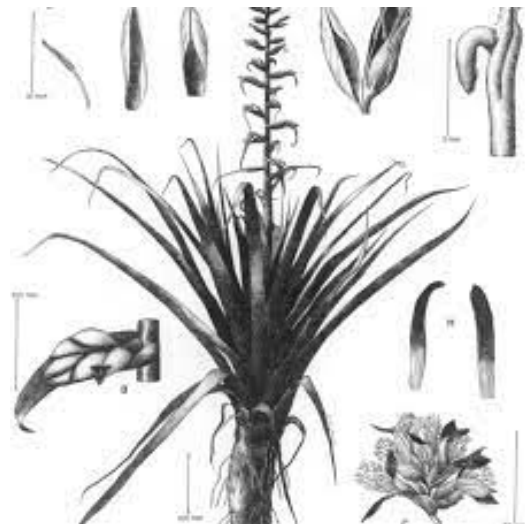


Part 2 of **Why do some Tillandsias die?**

by Lloyd Godman of Victoria

the globe, water is a variable liquid. In some locations, hard water (which contains a significant quantity of dissolved minerals, such as calcium and magnesium) can cause problems. Many growers find Tillandsias respond to rain water. I harvest water from the roof and store this in large tanks. While fertilizer can be added to stimulate the plants, too much can also harm the tissue. Fertilizer is most often applied at ¼ rates. There are special Tillandsia fertilizers one can purchase and I would recommend these.

Humidity: Imagine the trichome cell on a Tillandsias as a bowl shape with tiny pores that let the moisture into the leaf. As a bowl, the pore ducts are closed, however when moisture hits the cells they unfold into a plate form and open the pore, absorbing water to the internal cells of the plant. As the leaf dries again the plate curls into a bowl and closes the pores locking in the water. This is part of the bio-efficiency of these plants. Some Tillandsias that have evolved this to the extreme, can actually unfold the trichome cell and absorb moisture when the humidity outside the plant is higher than the moisture level inside the leaf tissue. This means that these plants do not actually need rain or mist to uptake water, just high humidity. *Tillandsia tragophoba*, and *Tillandsia landbeckii* can survive in the Atacama Desert where it may not rain for years. So, humidity plays an important role for Tillandsias. However as mentioned before high humidity in the cold of winter can cause rot.



Tillandsia landbeckii

Tillandsia tragophoba

Light: Light is important to all plants and Tillandsias are no different. While some thrive in intense direct sun, others prefer softer diffuse light. Whereas, light loving plants will grow green and lanky in dark shade, with a thinner silver trichome cover; shade plants may not have the ability to produce a silver trichome cover and quickly burn and dehydrate.

Air movement: Tillandsias respond to buoyant air, they love fresh air moving past them. Placing them for prolonged periods in a stuffy indoors atmosphere where there are gas fumes can severely effect the plants.

Acclimatization: It is easy to be seduced into acquiring Tillandsias - for good reason it has been described as the crack cocaine of Bromeliad collecting. Of critical consideration is that many of these plants have been grown in optimum conditions in a nursery to look at their best so you will purchase them. However, it can take time to acclimatize the plants to their new home. I have created shade screens using hardy hybrids like T. Houston that can take intense sun, heat and dry which have been in place for over a year. Then when I augmented the coverage with some new nursery grown plants in midsummer they quickly burnt. They needed time to acclimatize. It is wise to introduce these plants to an extreme situation in spring when they have time to grow a thicker covering of silver trichomes.

The plant is a guide: The visual appearance and tactility of a plant often alludes to the conditions it grows in. Tillandsia plants with softer, flatter, green leaves prefer shady conditions. Tillandsias with harder leaves, that both curve down the length and cross section of the leaf and are covered with a heavy coating of silver trichomes have evolved to withstand higher light levels. The double curvature of these leaves means that there is no one section that is exposed to intense UV for an extended period of time. Incidentally, in nature dead leaves can also assist in shading a plant, but in cultivation we tend to be obsessed with trimming these off.

Trust these thoughts are of use to You – good growing. LG

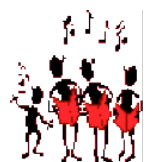
Steven Raided his Garden & brought them to the meeting!!

President Steven had been saying he had successfully grown plants up the tree trunks and decided he would bring some for a show & tell as he had promised! Complete with bugs, decomposed greenery, leaves dead and alive and they had wonderful strong roots. He left the roots on them to show how well the stolons had wrapped around the trunks. The plants were very healthy, some were flowering!

He showed *Aechmeas orlandiana*, *chantinii variegated*, *corriea araujoi*, *nudicaulis*, 'Bert', 'Piccaninni' and 'Snowflakes'. He also showed neoregelias 'Sheba', *macwilliamsii*, 'Fireball' and 'Dr Jeffrey Block'.

Steven showed how he attached the plants with strong rope but then found strips of shade cloth would outlive most ropes and are now his favoured attachment.

Then he said there were more plants in boxes outside and members could help themselves. Some members had so many they looked like a complete garden in their vehicle!!!





Club Activities & Around the Members - April

April is Cryptanthus month, Mini Show - I knew we would see some beauties but I was not prepared for *Cryptanthus* 'Brendan'! By far the most outstanding crypt I have seen, it is a ripper!



'Brendan'



1st 'Black Mystic' Karen Stevens



2nd 'Thriller' Marg Sexton



3rd 'Milky Way seedling' Dave Weston



'Starlite'



beuckeri



April Popular Vote

Bromeliad

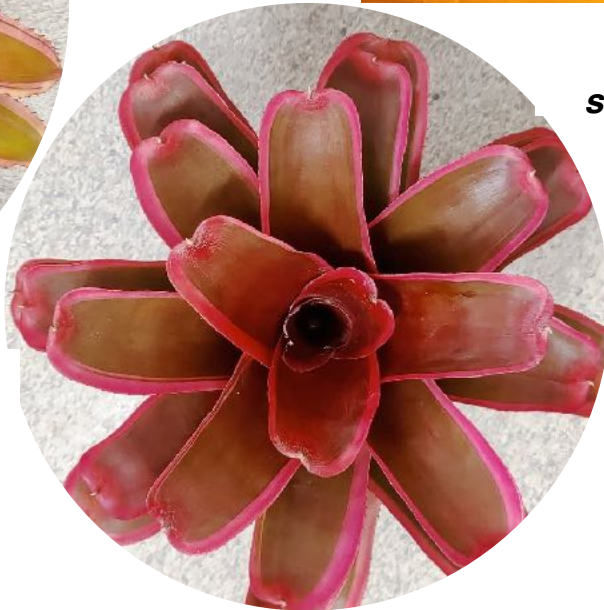
- 1st. *Neoregelia* 'Big Bang' - Steven French
- 2nd. *Guzmania sanguinolenta* - Marguerite Sexton
- 3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Apricot Sunrise' - Aaron Smythe



Guzmania sanguinolenta



Neoregelia 'Big Bang'



Neoregelia 'Apricot Sunrise' >

Cryptanthus

- 1st Cryptanthus 'Mystic Black' - Karen Stevens
- 2nd Cryptanthus 'Thriller' Marguerite Sexton
- 3rd. Cryptanthus 'Milky Way' seedling - Dave Weston >



9 Tillandsias - April

1st. *Tillandsia tectorum* - Steven French

2nd. *Tillandsia* 'Dimmitts Progeny' - Lynn Hudson

3rd. *Tillandsia ehlersiana* small form - Marguerite Sexton



YOUR SHOW - 5th June

Select the plants you want to enter now - not in June!

Ensure the pot is clean and the plant is in the centre of the pot.

Ensure the plant is clean, remove any spots and dust - use a wetted soft cloth. Check the name tag, ensure it is legible.

Water them on Thursday, not Friday - we cannot have a wet floor.

Prepare a box to carry them to the show - some cut holes in a styrene box & turn it over so the plants do not move.

Remember to bring your completed forms. Be proud of your effort!

Workshop - Seed growing - by Bob

To demonstrate the method he uses to propagate the seed, Bob selected seed from three forms of neoregelia - 'Morrisoniana', 'Shasa' & 'Beauty'.

The seed was firstly squeezed out onto kitchen paper let dry and then scraped off into a small jar of water with one drop of wash up liquid, shaken and rinsed.

Drained onto kitchen paper again and allowed to dry.



The takeaway containers had drain holes so the mix does not get overly wet. He prepared the seed containers with a layer of scoria, topped with seed raising coir peat and watered.

Then scraped off and sprinkled onto the prepared mix and watered in with a diluted mix of fertiliser.

The lids were placed on the containers and should be looked at every 4-6 days to ensure they do not dry out.

He expected them to germinate in 12 to 15 days. Now the work begins.



Name tags

The seeds drying on paper have name tags under the peg. These tags Bob placed into the relevant container with the mix. If you lose the name tag it is a long wait to find what sprouted!

Clever Bobbie - they germinated in 14 days!!



Homographs are words of like spelling but with more than one meaning. A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a heteronym.

You think English is easy? I think a retired English teacher was bored...

THIS IS GREAT! Read all the way to the end .. it took a lot of work to put this together!

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture..
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?



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

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Cairns Lovebirds - bred by Karen Stevens

6 Alabama Street, Whiterock, Qld 4868

Phone 0419021302 bpkstevens@bigpond.com



Bloomin Broms & Cairns Society Show

Saturday 5th June 2021

Cominos House, Greenslopes Street, Edge Hill

Special Guest Speakers - Nigel Thompson & John Byth

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”

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

Booklet prepared & printed by Lynn Hudson

Both available in bulk at reduced price.

Contact Lynn on 07 40533913 or lynnie@ledanet.com.au or
www.bromeliadsdownunder.wordpress.com



“Tillandsias my Way” by Bob Hudson

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