



# Bromelcairns



**Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2021 # 6**

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

<b>President</b>	<b>Steven French</b>	<b>0740322283</b>
<b>V-President</b>	<b>Karen Stevens</b>	<b>0740361086</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lynn Hudson</b>	<b>0740533913</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	<b>Frances Boyd</b>	<b>0740552550</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Janice West</b>	<b>0427120631</b>
<b>Librarian</b>	<b>Max Smith</b>	<b>0427938478</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Lynn Hudson</b>	<b>0740533913</b>
<b>Concierge</b>	<b>Nalda Wilson</b>	<b>0740544825</b>
<b>Pop. Vote Steward</b>	<b>Josie Cannon</b>	<b>0437787788</b>
<b>OIC Raffles</b>	<b>Karen Stevens</b>	<b>0740361086</b>



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

**Honorary Life Member - Kay Edington**

**Life Member - Lynn Hudson**

**Life Member - Robert (Bob) Hudson**

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

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

## 2 Club Activities & Around the Members



**November:** 18 members attended our final meeting for 2021, we resume in 2022 on February 5th at 1.00pm. There were so many well grown plants for us to drool over. The topic was Intergenerics and Aaron showed a presentation from his collection, most were his hybrids.

### November Popular Vote

#### Bromeliad

- 1st. *Dyckia* 'Yellow Glow' - Dave Weston >
- 2nd. *Aechmea* 'Two-o-Nine' - Aaron Smythe
- 2nd. *Aechmea* 'Yellow Star' - Max Smith



Everyone always loves 'Yellow Glow' but this plant is frustrating as the yellow can suddenly disappear and then come back differently. Well done Dave it is perfect.

Aaron grows this aechmea very well. Most *chantinii* hybrids grow to 40+cm. this one grows to 35cm and the maroon striped leaves arch out rather than grow straight upwards. Very popular plant.

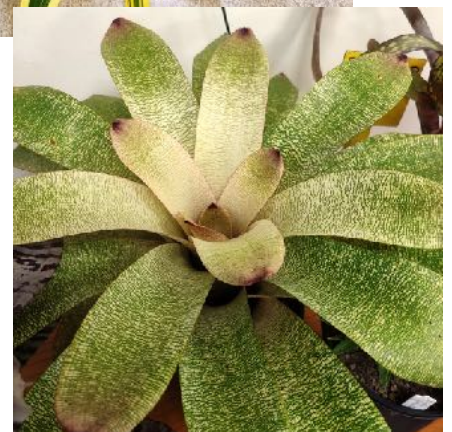
*Aechmea* 'Yellow Star' by Max Smith



< *Vriesea* 'Splendret' by Max Smith



*Vriesea* 'Niagara Falls' > by Marina Goetz



**Popular Vote - Cryptanthus**

1st. *Cryptanthus* seedling - Darryl Lister

2nd. *Cryptanthus* 'Thriller' seedling - Dave Weston

3rd. *Cryptanthus* 'Cosmic Storm' - Karen Stevens



This beauty Darryl found among some cryptanthus seedlings. The colour is unreal, the leaves strong, are symmetrically stacked, it is perfect! I think I need to check out his seedlings!!



*Cryptanthus* 'Thriller' seedling  
by Dave Weston



*Cryptanthus* 'Cosmic Storm'  
by Karen Stevens

.....  
This year Karen decided to feed her cryptanthus more heavily. She even used 'Blood & Bone' on them - amazing results! Well done Karen, now polish the trophy! In habitat cryptanthus grow on the forest floor - picture that - leaves, pieces of twigs, all kinds of animal droppings and flora - moist and decaying, the perfect potpourri!

4

**Popular Vote - Tillandsias**

1st *Tillandsia xerographica* - Marguerite Sexton

2nd *Tillandsia santiagoensis* - Dave Weston >>>

2nd *Tillandsia xerographica* hybrid - Josie Cannon



**NOVICE - Chantel Soanes**

*Tillandsia streptophylla x fasciculata*

OK Chantel, you are good enuff to go play with the big boys & girls in 2022. We are proud of you, Bob included.

3 One of our Novices **KERRY MOIR** brought in this very beautiful, well grown *Neoregelia* 'Playmate' to the October meeting. The colour was amazing and Kerry had prepared the plant for show like a veteran, not a novice.

It should have been in the last Bromelcairns. I am very relieved to have found it to show everyone now

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### NOVEMBER - MINI SHOW Intergenerics

There were just three entries this year but with the growth of hybridising I expect we will have lots more next year.



*xSincoregelia* 'Plum Crazy'

Dave Weston

*xNeomea* 'Valley Silverback'

Aaron Smythe

'Powder Puff'

Lynn Hudson

*xSincoregelia* 'Plum Crazy' is far better than this picture. The leaves have spotted markings as does *xSincoregelia* 'Andromeda' but the leaves are scarlet red, darker than 'Andromeda' - a real beauty.

There are many available. They are easy to grow in a rich mix, but as their leaves are narrow and thin they can easily break.

*xNeomeas* are tough like most of their parents whose flowers are easy for birds and animals to cross pollinate. Bob found one in his *Aechmea chantinii* seedling batch. Its growth was very different, the leaves were tall and gracefully bent like a neoregelia and then it produced a clustered inflorescence which raised out of the centre. It was an alien, and it has kept that name 'The Alien'.

Ross Draper from Koah has produced many, many intergeneric plants and he used large strong plants like hohenbergias to create desirable plants with neoregelias, billbergias, aechmeas and others. No plant is hidden from his eyes. I don't think he sees plants as we do, he pictures them paired with another then he just has to try produce them.

Reclassification has changed many names, there are now eighty plus intergeneric classes. Yes it is confusing but it does make sense as we work through it. Many we will probably never see here in Cairns. There is the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry you can look through.//

Bigeneric bromeliads are two cross-pollinated bromeliads of two different genera and are given their own name made up from letters of the two parents' genera, preceded by an 'X' e.g. a cross between a *Neoregelia* and an *Orthophytum* would be a *XNeophytum*. There are approx 550 registered Bigenerics with *XNeomea* being the highest at 121.

The bigeneric hybridizing of bromeliads usually occurs within sub families of the Tillandsioideae, Bromelioideae and Pitcairnioideae

As of March 2018, the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry lists approximately 580 different bigenerics within 41 genera and 73 bigeneric groups. To be expected, every bigeneric has been produced from two genera within one sub-family, never between the sub families. Their biological differences are just too great and cause rejection.

The genetics with bigenerics are more complex with hybrid x hybrid or hybrid x species pairings, producing a mixed range of siblings even from the same seed batch.

We have both gained and lost bigeneric genera through botanical DNA reclassification of their parent genera or individual species within.

An example of the reclassification of parent genera is *xQuesmea* 'Nifty Nev' (*Aechmea disjuncta* x *Quesnelia edmundoi* var. *edmundoi*). It was *xHohenelia* 'Nifty Nev' but *disjuncta* was reclassified to an aechmea.



Aaron gave us an excellent presentation on his hybrids plus pictures of the various other plants that are available. They are easy to grow, are attractive and they are popular in sales.



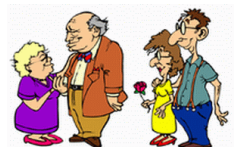


^ *xNeomea* 'Valley Beet'

*xNeomea* 'Silverback'



*xNeomea* 'Valley Sweet Nut'





## POPULAR VOTE, CAIRNS SHOW & MINI SHOW RESULTS

### Popular Vote

**NOVICE** Bromeliad - Bromeliads & Logs Trophy - nil

Cryptanthus - Grace Goode Silver Ingot Trophy - Nil

Tillandsia - Bromeliads & Logs Trophy - Chantel Soanes

**OPEN** Bromeliad - WBC Florida Sundial Trophy - Steven French

Cryptanthus - Grace Goode Trophy - Karen Stevens

Tillandsia - Bob Hudson Trophy - Marguerite Sexton

Most Points 2021 - Bob Hudson Trophy - Lynn Hudson

Congratulations each of you who get to dust a Trophy for a year.



Remember your peers voted you The Best.



Total Points - Show + Popular Vote & Meetings Mini Shows

Lynn Hudson  $39+20+26=85$ , Dave Weston  $25+29+11=65$ ,

Marguerite Sexton  $28+31.5+4=63.5$ , Aaron Smythe  $21+12.5+15=48.5$ ,

Josie Cannon  $12+16=28$ , Steven French  $9+16=25$ , Max Smith  $13+1.5=14.5$ ,

Karen Stevens  $17.5+3=20.5$ , Lesley Hepburn  $12+0+0=12$ ,

Frances Boyd  $5.5+6=11.5$ , Chantel Soanes  $11+0=11$ , Darryl Lister  $3+2=5$

Kerry Moir  $3+0=3$ , Marina Gertz  $3+0=3$ , Kim Coppin 1, Janice West 0.5

Congratulations to each member who 'had a go' & entered plants

**Each Entrant is a Winner. Well Done each of you.**

Points allotted in each Popular Vote, Mini Shows & Society Shows  
are 3 points for first, 2 for second and 1 for third = 6 in total

Ties are shared as fractions.

Members must enter in at least three meetings to win a trophy.

The trophies are held for that year







## 2021 - We had a very interesting year!



We gained 3 new Members and the 'Newbies' from last year attended this year. It was good to see them learn and bring in excellent plants. Yes I know it is confusing at first, it just seems like mumbo jumbo, but it slowly makes sense.

We coped with the COVID situation & hope we do not have to again!

Again our Show was huge - huger than last year!. Dave won with *Tillandsia hildae* again - it was larger but not flowering, so we will probably see it again in June at the Show. We had Nigel Thomson and John Byth as Speakers and they gave interesting presentations.

Recently our President Steven French became ill, a reoccurrence from years ago. So far all is good and we should have him back next year. Vice President Karen stepped up and has been effective as boss. Dave and Aaron have given us interesting pictorial presentations. Frances decided to help me and has taken minutes at each meeting - this has been a huge help to me. Thank You Frances. Concierge Nalda quietly ensures all sign in and get a chance to tell us how they became involved with bromeliads.

Our AGM or Annual General Meeting will be on 5th February.

All positions become vacant and each member is able to stand for election or re-election. Maybe You could try one of these jobs? No we will not throw you in & say swim, we will help. As usual I will take Nomination Forms to the Christmas party. Have a think about giving a small amount of time assisting.

Spreading the few jobs we have at meetings makes the meeting run smoothly. Chantel has offered to be Librarian. Janice said she would not be Treasurer next year, so Treasurer is vacant.

Any member may input articles for the newsletter, just send them to me..

PS. Cyclone Season. If the weather gets rotten and strong winds are forecast pack your plants together on the ground with a good stopper on each end. I have seen plants roll and then roll back again when a cyclone turned. They were completely mashed!

Wishing each of you a Happy & Safe Christmastime & looking forward to a happy and bumper year in 2021.





### **Choosy Crabs make a meal of Forest Flowers.** by Adrian Barnett.

Brazilian biologists have discovered what they believe to be the world's first flower eating crab. *Metasesarma rubripes*, which lives in coastal scrub forests throughout Central and South America, turns out to be picky about its' diet, showing a distinct preference for the anthers and pollen of bromeliad flowers.

Until now, researchers had thought that *Metasesarm rubripes* fed on vegetable debris on the forest floor. But Erich Fischer, Andrea Araujo and Luiz Duarte of Campinas State University in Sao Paulo discovered otherwise. Working the Jureia Ecological Reserve in south eastern Brazil, the team repeatedly observed the crabs sitting in pools of water that collect in the centre of bromeliads – the plant family that includes the pineapple.

This in itself was no surprise, because the *Metasesarm rubripes* belong to the family Grapsidae, many of which live permanently in bromeliads. Usually, members of this family use the plants' water pools as shelter from predators and to keep wet. They also feed on the other organisms living in the water pools, such as algae, midge larvae and tadpoles. But on closer observation the researchers saw that *Metasesarm rubripes* was eating the bromeliad flowers.

There was only ever one crab per bromeliad and the diners never rushed their meals, taking about 40 minutes to emasculate each flower before moving on to the next. After a day's foraging, the crabs went home to burrows in the earth. Fischer and his colleagues found that the same bromeliad might be visited several days in a row, but so far they have been unable to say whether the visits were always by the same crab.

Evidently, not all bromeliads taste the same. Of 15 species studied by the researchers, only those that have dense clusters of flowers seem to appeal to the crabs. To taste these the crab would go to great lengths, sometimes climbing up as high as 4 metres into the canopy. The team publishes their results in the current issue of the journal 'Crustaceana' (vol 70, P 118.)

No one knows why the crabs' preference for such a delicate diet evolved. The clue, the researchers believe, may lie in the habitat, which is comparatively Spartan. Bromeliad flowers may provide a rich and rare source of nitrogen and other essentials. And the plants may benefit too. The researchers speculate that the crabs may help the bromeliads to propagate, and now they are studying the crabs' impact on the efficiency of their pollination.

(‘Bromeletter’ Vol 35, #3, P 15 - Reprinted from the journal ‘New Scientist’, March 1997.)



**What, you ask, is 'Butt dust'?** Read on and you'll discover the joy in it!  
These have to be original and genuine. No adult is this creative!!

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?'

MELANIE (age 5) asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, 'If you don't remember you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six.'

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.'

BRITTANY (age 4) had an ear ache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

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

CLINTON (age 5) was in his bedroom looking worried. When his Mom asked what was troubling him, he replied, 'I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in it?'

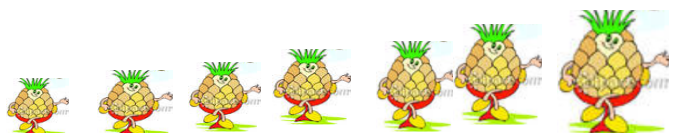
TAMMY (age 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

This particular Sunday Sermon I think this Mom will never forget ..

'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you, we are but dust...'  
He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, 'Mom, what is butt dust?'



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





Tel: (07) 4035 2670 | Fax: (07) 4035 2698

279 Spence Street, Bungalow | PO Box 166, Bungalow QLD 4870

Email: [sales@nuleaf.com.au](mailto:sales@nuleaf.com.au) | [www.nuleaf.com.au](http://www.nuleaf.com.au)

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Everything for growing gardens

## Hudson's Bromeliads Down Under

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

47 Boden St. Edge Hill Cairns

Phone: (07) 40533 913 0437532241

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

[www.bromeliadsdownunder.wordpress.com](http://www.bromeliadsdownunder.wordpress.com)

[tillandsiabob@gmail.com](mailto:tillandsiabob@gmail.com)

Cairns Lovebirds - bred by Karen Stevens



6 Alabama Street, Whiterock, Qld 4868

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"Tillandsias my Way" by Bob Hudson

Tillandsia care Bob's way [tillandsiabob@gmail.com](mailto:tillandsiabob@gmail.com)

