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Hi everyone.

Some sad news this month with the sudden passing of one of our members Russell Kingston on the 12th. Our thoughts are with Indra and family. Russell was farewelled at a private service in Brisbane this week.

Our special thanks to Gayle and Darryl Barns for opening your gardens for our viewing pleasure at the June meeting. What you've done is a testament to your love of not only Bromeliads but a lot of other species as well, and it shows how well they can live in harmony with each other.

Narelle Aizlewood gave an excellent talk on choosing and preparing your plants to enter into competitions, and it certainly isn't a case of just throwing something together at the last minute. I think most of us were amazed at just how intricate the judging is, and what they are looking for that will count towards gaining or losing points. Narelle has sent a short precis of her talk, and I've included it at the end of the newsletter.

Greg's talk on Tillandsias and the best way to grow and display them was also interesting, and I'm sure we all learned from it. Quite a few members took up his offer of free Marconeas, and maybe in twelve months' time we could have a "show and tell" to see how well they have grown (or not ☺).

The bus trip to the Bromeliad Society Of Queensland sale on 11 November is one not to be missed. The cost is only \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members, and if you wish it can be paid off over the next four meetings. Please give your names to Sue this Saturday so she has an idea how many will be attending.

Len and Sheryl Waite will be our guest speakers in October. No topic as yet, but watch this space!!

Don't forget to bring along your favourite Brom this week so you can give a short talk on it. Not everyone may have seen what you love, so you may just start a new Bromance among other members!! (Parking is available in the Day Care Centre across the road).

A collection of photos from the meeting



Our heartiest congratulations to Elaine and Denis Priston who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



Don't forget that next month Nigel Thomson will be the Guest Speaker, so make sure you get there early to reserve a front row seat.

The August meeting is also the month when we hold our “Charity Raffle”, with all the proceeds going to “Drought Angels”, so dig extra deep and bring along lots of prizes, as well as perhaps buying a few extra tickets. Every dollar raised will help them achieve their goal of helping those farmers who are desperately in need.

Important Upcoming Bromeliad Sales

Nigel will be having another huge plant sale at “Dandaloo Nursery” 38 Dandaloo Drive Cootharaba on 30 – 31 July, with loads of bargains from only \$5. Be early and snap up a bargain.

There will be a “Bromeliad Extravaganza” sale at the Wavell Heights Community Hall, 175 Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights Brisbane on 9 – 10 September. There will be over 500 varieties for sale, including new releases. Admission is free, and refreshments and lunch will be available. For more info phone Nigel on 5485 3800.

PLANT OF THE MONTH RESULTS FOR JUNE

A Foliage Vriesia (Both classes)

Open - Judge's Choice – Narelle Aizlewood

1. Vr Kilauea x Fosters Big Red - Ian Fluerty
2. Vr Purple Craze - Goff Loughran
3. Vr Cosmic Jewel - Ian Fluerty

Members' Choice

1. Vr Purple Craze - Goff Loughran
2. Vr Cosmic Jewel – Ian Fluerty
3. Vr Moroccana Snakeskin – Sue Loughran

Novice – Judge's Choice – Narelle Aizlewood

1. Vr Honolulu Delight x Megan - John Casey
2. Vr Vulcan Summer - John Casey
3. Vr Fenestralis - Janine Blaber

Member's Choice

1. Vr Vulcan Summer - John Casey
2. Vr Honolulu Delight x Megan - John Casey
3. Vr Fenestralis - Janine Blaber

Plant of the Month for July A Potted Mini Neo

DIARY DATES 2017

BYO chair, coffee mug, plants you need help with, sales plants, plant of the month entries, and raffle donations to our meetings

Please note – meetings are on the fourth Saturday of the month, which may not always be the last Saturday.

We have meeting venues for this year covered, but please think about volunteering your place for next year.

**July 22
August 26
September 23
October 28
November 11
November 18 – 19
November 25**

**John and Sue Casey 24 Southerden Street Torquay
John and Narelle Hoffman 287 John Street Maryborough
Bamboo Land 87 Old Coach Road Torbanlea
Ron Southern 60 Serenity Drive Tinana
Bus trip to Bromeliad Society of Qld Sale Day Brisbane
Monster Sale Neighbourhood Centre Charles Street Pialba
XMAS Party Neighbourhood Centre Charles St Pialba 11am**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR JULY

Gayle Barns
Sue Casey
Hildred Davies
Bette Gill
Sylvia Harris
Indra Kingston
John Lippross

THE FRASER COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S PRICE LIST *Effective June 2017*

125MM SQUAT POTS	\$2.90 for 10
140MM SQUAT POTS	\$3.50 for 10
165MM POTS	\$3.00 for 5
200MM POTS	\$3.50 for 5
HANGERS (4 PRONG)	\$3.00 for 10
SMALL WHITE LABELS	\$1.25 for 25
LARGE WHITE LABELS	\$2.00 for 25
YELLOW SALES LABELS	\$6.00 for 100
LABELLING PENCILS	\$3.60 each
CELLOPHANE SLEEVES FOR PUPS OR POTS	\$3.65 for pack of 50 (both sizes)
POTTING MIX	\$8.00 per bag
FERTILISER	\$2.75 for 500 grams

To make things easier for Roger, if you want to buy anything could you please phone him on 41290444 before the meeting day so he can have your items ready. That way sales will run a lot smoother and quicker.

Please remember that all sales now finish at afternoon tea, plants travel much better in boxes or recyclable bags than plastic bags, and you can borrow books from our library for one month. If the book you want is not available, please ask Rosie to put your name on a waiting list. If you can't return your books when they are due, please phone Rosie on 4124 8658.

See you next meeting - John

FROM NARELLE - INFORMATION ON JUDGING

I would sincerely like to thank you for the opportunity to attend your meeting recently for the purpose of informing your members regarding what the Judges might be looking for when judging plants tabled for Competition.

Judging at the next Australasian Bromeliad Conference will be conducted according to the B.S.I. method of judging and as I pointed out to you this is with an Award of Merit ribbon (95-100) being awarded for the top plants, Blue ribbon (90-95) and a Red ribbon (85-90). Plants for the Head Table are only selected from Purple – Award of Merit ribbons. Handouts were provided including Summary of point scoring for competition plants, Suggestions to Exhibitors, and Cheat sheets for Foliage Plants, Blooming Plants and Decorative pots. These are all good resource material and worthwhile referring to from time to time.

As I pointed out not all plants make the cut when it comes to Competition Plants and great care needs to be given to encourage good colour and markings and cultural perfection. As I discussed, Cultural Perfection, Conformation, Colour and Markings, Inflorescence and Maturity are all different aspects, with different points scored, that are considered by the judging teams.

I tried to stress that all plants tabled for competition needed to be free of water and also free of any pests and disease i.e. scale. If a plant was tabled with visible signs of scale, then it would be marked as 'Has been judged' with no ribbon awarded.

Pots need to be clean, and I showed how by simply using a pair of cotton gloves and a bit of baby oil that an old pot can become new again. Whilst it is acceptable that pots are cleaned in this way by no means it is acceptable for leaves of competition plants to be oiled or artificially sheened. As I explained some Bromeliads have a natural sheen i.e. Neoregelia 'Lorena Lector' whilst others have a more dull sheen.

Care and attention needs to be given to trimming of damaged leaf tips, keeping in mind the shape of the leaf and trying to emulate the same when trimming. Trimming should be done as close to Competition as possible with a little egg white wiped onto the fresh trimming to prevent the possibility of browning.

Plants need to be growing in the centre of the pot, and if this is not the case then perhaps you would need to look at either repotting or simply repositioning in the existing pot. Whatever you decide please do not do it the day before competition, leaving the plant with the possibility of instability. Do it some weeks prior to the show to enable it to resettle and possibly re-root. Double potting is another option to position the plant into the centre providing that the original pot is not obvious to the judging teams. While double potting is not a particularly acceptable method I am sure that we have all done it from time to time. All judges should not handle any competition plant, and if need be a steward can be asked to move or display the plant for better viewing either from the top or the bottom. Judges might like to view the larger Neoregelias and/or large Foliage Vrieseas from above and would ask for the plant to be placed on the floor for better viewing of the conformation.

I would encourage you all to have a go at competing in a Judged Show. It is a lot of fun, you learn a lot, and at the end of the day you might collect a ribbon or a placing for your efforts.

Narelle Aizlewood.
Accredited International Judge B.S.I.

