



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2015 # 5

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

Honorary Life Member - Kay Edington

Life Member - Lynn Hudson

Life Member - Robert (Bob) Hudson



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

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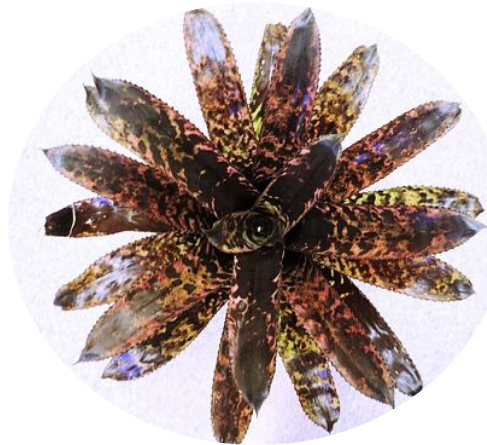
Previous issues are on my website www.bromeliadsdownunder.com.au



Club Activities & Around the Members



Aechmea tayoensis



Aechmea Show - *tayoensis*; 'Rainbow'; 'Samurai'

The Billbergia Mini Show

MINI SHOW

Aechmea & Billbergia

- 1st *Aechmea tayoensis* - Brendan Leishman
- 2nd *Aechmea orlandiana* - Bernice Mark
- 3rd *Aechmea* 'Samurai' - Steven French
- 1st *Billbergia* 'Domingos Martens' - Dave Weston
- 2nd *Billbergia* 'Virginia' - Brendan Leishman
- 3rd *Billbergia* 'Estrella' - Bernice Mark



POPULAR VOTE:

NOVICE Bromeliad

- 1st *Canistrum triangulare* - Jodie Smith
- 2nd *Neoregelia* 'Nerissa' - Yvonne Palmer

Cryptanthus

- 1st *Cryptanthus* 'Cascade Hybrid' - Jodie Smith

Tillandsia

- 1st *Tillandsia streptophylla* - Glenn Jodner >>>
- 2nd *Tillandsia caput medusae* - Jodie Smith

OPEN - Bromeliad

- 1st *Aechmea tayoensis* - Brendan Leishman
- 2nd *Neoregelia* 'Victorias Secret' x 'Gee Whiz' - Steven
- 3rd *Neoregelia* 'Van Dorme' - Bernice Mark

Cryptanthus

- 1st *Cryptanthus* 'Menescal' - Dave Weston
- 2nd *Cryptanthus* 'Black Mood' - Brendan Leishman
- 3rd *Cryptanthus* 'Imposter Red' - Sharron Miller
- 3rd *Cryptanthus* 'Marbled Green' - Lynn Hudson

Tillandsia

- 1st *Tillandsia* Artistic Bowl - Bernice Mark
- 2nd *Tillandsia tenuifolia* black - Lynn Hudson
- 3rd *Tillandsia riohondoensis* - Brendan Leishman >>>





The Beautiful Plants you brought in.



*The most popular was Brendan's *Aechmea tayoensis*, it was perfect, good colour and no marks on the soft leaves - very hard to achieve. He also showed the new smaller one with short petioles - ie. short stalk or stem of a leaf - pictured above, side on and from above. Thank you Bren for the pictures you take each month.

*Dave showed *Aechmea filicaulis*, a beautiful maroon soft leaved rosette with a pendulous inflorescence over a metre long, with delicate white flowers branching at the base. He also showed *Aechmea skotakii*, we await the magnificent flowering. Many thin serrated leaved aechmeas were classified as streptocaylx but are now included in the aechmeas.

Bernice's *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Rainbow' was spectacular, glowing with bright colours, even better than at the Cairns Show.

*Steven grows excellent neoregelias but his *Aechmea* 'Samurai' is always spectacular.

Cryptanthus 'Black Mood' C. 'Imposter Red' C. 'Marbled Green' C. 'Menescal'



*In **Cryptanthus Section** Dave's 'Menescal' had good colour and was sprouting stolons as is its' habit. Everyone wanted one! A very attractive plant. Brendan's 'Black Mood' was really black and Sharron's 'Imposter Red' had lots of offsets formed under the mother - it will be basketful in a few months.



Again the tillandsias were eye-catching.

* Bernice stole the show with an excellent multiple planting and the flowering Tillandsia 'Cotton Candy' was magnificent. Bernice said "It looked nice so I thought I would bring it in." Immediately Paul said "Don't do it again!" ? envious?

* Brendan's *Tillandsia riohondoensis* had perfect colour and shape. <Sharron's flowering *Tillandsia stricta* clump was lush and beautiful.

*Novice Glenn Jodner showed a perfect *T. streptophylla* in spike alert to tillandsia growers, this boy is serious!

* Novice Jodie Smith showed *Tillandsia caput medusae* & everyone loved her perfect *Canistrum triangulare*.

Aechmea - the Aristocrats of Bromeliads



Members were shown a good cross section of aechmea both soft and hard leaved. They all grow very easily in our climate, some like *blanchetiana*, *nudicaulis*, *aquilegia*, *mexicana*, *angustifolia*, *mariae-reginae*, *orlandiana*, *purpureo-roseo*, *triticina* and *recurvata*, will grow well in our all day sun - in pots, as terrestrials or as epiphytes. The soft leaved specimens cannot survive our midday sun in summer.

Aechmeas are available in many sizes, shapes and colours. Their inflorescences are as varied as the plants, they hold their colour for months and berries often form and are coloured when pollinated. Many hybrids have been made, by man, bird and other creatures. The smallest include *brevicollis*, *racine* and *recurvata*. The largest-include *blanchetiana*, *aquilegia*, and *mariae-reginae*.



Billbergias by John Catlan

*"Billbergias flower in winter & spring.
Blink & you will miss the whole blooming thing."*

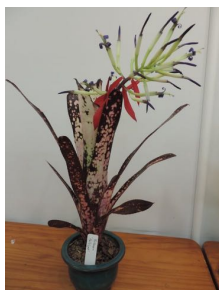


Billbergias are the genus that are most often the catalyst that cause a plant lover to look again, and finally have a collection of bromeliads. They usually have a few stiff overlapping leaves that form a competent water reservoir. Some are tall, reaching a metre in height, the majority are 20 cm high, some are smaller. Species tend to have little leaf colour, yet hybrids have amazing colourings.

They are grown mostly for these vibrant leaf colours as the flowering time, although spectacular, is short. Whilst the petals quickly fade, the scape bracts hold their colours. Our society emblem is *Billbergia zebrina* one of the 'watch spring' family. The spiralled petals spring back to fully expose the stamens and pistils. This springing of the petals can be seen by the naked eye. After flowering seed pods are formed like a bunch of white powdered large grapes. The seeds take months to ripen. Wash them thoroughly to remove any jelly (or the cockroaches will eat them!) then sprinkle them on a fine seed raising mix.

Billbergias enjoy growing in a well draining mix, quickly form a clump and most flower in the cooler months. Excess fertilizer will result in green offsets, but these can regain their colour when fertilizing is ceased. They attract fly speck scale but respond well to 'Confidor' spray.

As Don Beadle said, "Take them home and put them up high in good light where you can see and appreciate their wonderful colours".





Club Activities & Around the Members



OCTOBER As our meeting hall was not available for this day, a trip to Gordonvale to Steven French's Garden was organised. Bob & I were in Miami and on return I asked Kelly what she thought of Steven's place - her eyes lit up, her mouth opened and here it is ... "Everywhere I looked there was colour, beautiful orchids in flower, cordylines, crotons, bromeliads everywhere and so many huge alcantareas. Steven said when he moved there only 4 years ago he spent weeks removing many Golden Cane Palms, now it is amazing. Huge greenhouses, full of beautiful colourful bromeliads, large and small. I went to the loo and even there, through the window, there were tillandsias and bromeliads hanging from the gutter on wire holders. It was magical, so many beautiful plants of so many kinds. It was like being in an enchanted forest."



"It was like being in an enchanted forest"

Note from Kelly - Many thanks to Steven for having all of us Bromeliad Addictees at his beautiful home for the October meeting. Your surrounding gardens are just spectacular, so very colourful. A GI-NORMOUS thank you from me for the gorgeous croton cuttings.
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This is your Society, we cannot exist without a committee, have a go! Lend a hand!

In February we will have our Committee Elections.

All positions become vacant, any member can be nominated for those positions.

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## TIPS AND TRICKS LYNN HAS BESTOWED UPON HAPPY GARDEN SLAVE...

by Kelly Knight

Being a newbie bromeliad addict to this group, my knowledge of these gorgeous plants was limited ...that is until I met Lynn. I read her newspaper ad about her continuous sale of bromeliads and like most of us could not resist purchasing a few (lots). Now I venture to Lynn and Bob's place (can't forget Tillandsia Bob) to help weed, clean up and re-pot her thousands of treasures.

My broms were potted in straight Quincan (scoria)...now I use the same mix as Lynn - scoria, pine bark and potting mix. Over the last few months I have taken the time to re-pot all my plants - they love me for it...

I never ever thought to fertilise them either and now that I have, my broms look amazing and healthy.

Do not get me started on that crappy infestation called 'Scale', I didn't even know Lynn was talking about, so now I have a supply of 'Confidor' to kill these pesky insects. Scratch the little black dot, if it leaves a moist residue the little bugger is not dead, spray with 'Confidor' again.

How to remove the old leaves - I have had this lesson instilled in me - do not cut the leaf off, take it all off! The easiest way to remove the leaves is to split them all the way to the base and pull upwards and outwards, it exposes the node to the light and does not harm any pups growing.

Remove spilled quincan, bark or leaves from the cup...very long tweezers come in very handy.

Pointy nosed pliers are a great tool to remove leaves from spiky little buggers named dyckias.

Trim the leaves into a 'V' or rounded shape so they still look natural.

Use 3 wooden skewers to support the plant while the roots take hold, the plant feels safe so puts down roots. Lynn even uses the handle end of her trowel to bash the mix tight.

Remove the baby cryptanthus from the mother plant by giving it a little twist to see if it is ready to come off...if not, leave it for a few days.

Hey, what does Lynn do with the rusty old screwdriver? Stabs the mix to loosen it up so fertiliser, mix and water gets to the roots easier.

(It is amazing how many 'holes' you will find, as all mixes break down. L)



## Florida Extravaganza 2015 - Bromeliads in the Magic City - Miami

After five years absence Bob and I decided it was time to try out my old bones on an overseas trip and catch up with old friends. It was magic, some I had not seen since 2002 and others I had heard of but not met! I emailed Linda Cathcart and she told me we were going back to Sarasota to stay with them. The night we arrived we found Extravaganza workers and some BSI Board Members dining in the bar area - yes we joined them.

Next day people and plants arrived, Brian Webber Manager of Tropiflora was first, then Linda & Dennis arrived with a enormous trailer (like a container on wheels!) with lots of plants. We helped them unpack and Michael Khiel unpacked his treasures, plus there were enticing Bullis plants, Michaels Bromeliads and others until the room looked bromeliad bright and very tempting.

Saturday was sales day, plus there were two presentations. The first was dedicated to the memory of Nat DeLeon, a history of his achievements presented by Craig Morell and we met Nat's sons. I was very sad to hear their Mother had died suddenly just after Nat. Then Jose Manzanares talked on habitat - yes, the Jose I rave about - that was the clinch in our attending! Following dinner was an auction - yes I flew the Aussie flag, hope the *nidularioides* survives quarantine!

Dennis & Linda took us Miami sightseeing on Sunday and explained their three day Tropiflora Fall Festival that was happening the following weekend. On Monday they took us to Bullis Nursery and Patricia happened to be there, good surprise. It is even larger and the entrance has displays of really beautiful plants. Yes I shopped!

We set off to cross Florida via Alligator Alley but did not see any! Apparently there had been so much rain they were in the deeper water. We have not seen Florida so green, it was quite lovely.

We arrived at Tropiflora and it was great to see the family - Robyn, Heather, Scotty and the four grandchildren I had heard so much about, plus the 'other family' - staff who have been there for years and years.

Linda warned us there was a huge bobcat under their house and someone "reckons she has a kitten so she will be real mean. So if you see her, don't go near her, go in the house and lock the door." Like the alligators, we didn't see her!



I had been to the Pineapple House in 2002 and Olive Trevor & I decided not one more pineapple could fit - we were very wrong, I am sure the pineapple collection has doubled. It is quite amazing. There is also a snail collection!!

The next three days Dennis was collecting plants for the Festival and yes we went too! We went to places we had not heard of, met all kinds of growers of all kinds of plants. So many shade houses full of beautiful varied plants.

That trailer sure holds lots of excellent plants - and there are lots of other trailers!!

Thursday was really busy, tough 'trucks' towing big trailers just kept on coming in to Tropiflora. Tents were already set up, it was a hive of activity - plants were unloaded from trailers - palms, hibiscus, orchids, water plants, lillies, crotons, ferns, cactus and on and on they went, every different plant in the State! Littlefield's beautiful painted T-shirts; cypress timber pieces rescued from the swamps; pots; metal art; bric-a-brac; rustic garden pieces; plant stands etc. even a great music man.

In all of these nurseries, golf carts are used to go from point A to B and to take customers around. Club Car #7 is Linda's last birthday present and no one else is allowed to drive it! Along comes Bob and Linda informs him his job is to collect people from the parking area and take them where they want to go, plus return them to their car - in #7 cart!! Yes, Bob was happy, luckily I had packed our Queensland shorts and Aussie shirts!



I went looking for Brian, found him in the neoregelia and aechmea shade house and after about an hour answering a few customer questions I suddenly realised Brian was gone, so this huge area was mine! He eventually returned about 3 hours later with an ice

cream for me! “You didn’t need me here, you know the answers”! So for 3 days I talked bromeliads. I was asked if I was English, then Scottish - “I’m from Orstrailya” and pointed to my shirt. I was surprised no one knew the trick of splitting a leaf at centre to take it off cleanly, among other tips. “Well I never knew that” I kept being told.

Luckily before Brian abandoned me I went looking for Rob Branch - he was Chief of the Bargain Bin and Susie was at checkout - wot a team! Thank You Rob for most of these pics. We met in 2002 when in a group of 7 smokers, and are all non smokers now.

Saturday night was daiquiri cocktail evening - freshly made, even non-alcoholic if desired - yum, they were great! Linda brought out a demijohn of moonshine and several of the family plus Ray chugalugged it - Linda had the most! Brave girl! Then we went to dinner at Outback Aussie.

Sunday it rained and wasn’t as busy and later on the 21 stallholders loaded their trucks and trailers began their journey home - finally the Fall Festival was again over.



Linda and Dennis took us to the Everglades, we didn’t see a panther but one black alligator and plenty of nature. We saw tillandsias growing on trees but water and the chance of biting critters ensured they stayed there. There was *usneioides* hanging from trees all over the place. The Cathcarts sure showed us a good time. Thank You Both.

Our trip was over, plants were inspected and packed and Dennis delivered us to the Miami airport to begin our long trip home.

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On Sunday afternoon Rob Branch collected us and took us to his fascinating jungle. He has over 130 different palm varieties on his block plus at least that many different plant varieties, plus bromeliads. Where to look next was a challenge, we didn’t want to miss anything. Then look up - plants that had been on eye level were now way up in the canopy! Bromeliads blooming up there too, and some of the really ‘old’ species. Next time we will spend a day and have a good look. Thank You Susie & Rob.



### From Grace Goode's Little Blue Book...

\*Paddy wore two black arm bands. One for his dead father and one for his brother's father.

\* Six bikies decided to do over a restaurant. They walked up to a truckie, took his breakfast and drank his coffee. The truckie paid the bill and walked out. "What a coward" one bikie to the waitress. "Not only that" replied the waitress, "he is also a rotten driver, he just ran over six motor bikes".

\* Two Irishmen arrived in Australia & saw crocodile shoes for \$500 a pair. They decided to go croc hunting and get their own, they bought the gear and headed north. After a terrific struggle they landed a huge crocodile. "Turn him over" said Pat. They turned it on it's back and said in dismay "But he has no shoes".

\*Man trying to date a beautiful girl "How do you like your eggs?" he asked. "Unfertilised" she replied.

\* Pat & Mick were watching TV, saw a man preparing to jump off a high rise. Pat said "\$10 he does it". Mick said "You are on". The fellow jumped. Pat said he could not take the \$10 as he had seen it on an earlier edition. Mick said "I did too, but I didn't think he'd do it again"



\* City visitor stayed at a hotel out west. First morning he was served bacon for breakfast; at midday was served ham and dinner was served pork. He asked for a cup of tea & the waitress replied "We only have bore water" The guest replied "You don't waste anything do you?"

\* A burglar heard a voice in the house "Jesus will get you". He advanced further into the room and the voice repeated "Jesus will get you". The burglar saw a parrot in a cage, "Are you Jesus" he asked. "No said the parrot, Jesus is the Rottweiler in the corner."

\* Paddy was in a quiz "Who fought the Duke of Wellington? To help you the answer can be found in the fridge". Paddy opened the fridge, it was full of Napoleon Whiskey. "General Electric" said Paddy.

\* Paddy's dog peed on Mick's leg. "Why don't you teach him to pee in the gutter?" said Mick. The next time they met Mick asked about the dog. "Oh he died" said Paddy "just after I had taught him to climb the ladder too".

\* Two nuns ran out of petrol in the country. The old farmer gave them some petrol in an old jerry pot (or gazunta). Back at the car they were filling up the tank when a priest pulled up beside them. "Oh Sisters, I only wish I had your faith".

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





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## BSI World Bromeliad Conference

Houston, Texas 13-19 June 2016

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Information & Registration Form  
[www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)



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