



# Bromelcairns



**Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2017 # 6**

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

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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**

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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: We should have just named the mini show 'Prickly Stuff', there sure were some rippers.



MINI SHOW - Dyckia & Hechtia

1st. *Hechtia rosea* - Paul Venturi

2nd *Dyckia* seedling- Brendan Leishman



Dyckia  
'Yellow Glow'



3rd. *Dyckia* 'Mr Frosty' - Nalda Wilson

1st. *Deuterochonia brevifolia* - Paul Venturi



Unnamed seedling

*Dyckia marnier-lapostolleii**Dyckia goehringii***MINI SHOW- Orthophytum / Sincoraea**1<sup>st</sup>. Sincoraea aff. burle marxii2<sup>nd</sup>. Orthophytum glabrum< grown by  
Dave Westongrown by  
Brendan Leishman >

These two plants are good examples of the reasons for DNA reclassification. Sincoraea is sessile - it flowers at the base, it does not have a stalked inflorescence.

Orthophytum have an upright inflorescence and flowers at the top

I hope this helps your understanding of the changes.

4 POPULAR VOTE - OPEN



Bromeliad 1st. *Aechmea tayoensis* - Dave Weston

2nd. *Hechtia rosea* - Paul Venturi

3rd. *Neoregelia* 'Pink Sensation' - Steven French



We were delighted to see a very beautiful *Aechmea tayoensis* grown by Dave. Brendan has provided pics from the beginning of flowering. How wondrous is this bromeliad? The yellow flowers were just protruding from the red flower bracts.



**Cryptanthus**

1st *Cryptanthus* 'Volcano' - Dave Weston

2nd *Crypt* 'Thriller' - Brendan Leishman >

3rd. *Cryptanthus* 'Imposter Red' -

Marguerite Sexton



**Tillandsia**

1st. *Tillandsia ionantha* - Bob Hudson

2nd. *Tillandsia tectorum* 'Fuzzball' - Bob Hudson

2nd *Tillandsia ionantha* - Dave Weston





*Tillandsia caput medusae*  
Frances Boyd



*Tillandsia 'Curly Slim'*  
Bob Hudson



*Tillandsia tricolor melanocrator*  
Paul Venturi



*Tillandsia roland gosselinii* hybrid  
Marguerite Sexton

*Neoregelia 'Pink Sensation'* Steven French

Margaret Marton showed her tillandsia tree. This is only half of it! It is planted with many varied tillandsias. Margaret said she enjoys the shapes & colours and flowering is a bonus.



Frances Boyd showed this very beautiful well grown xSincoregelia 'Galactic Warrior' however competition was heavy this month. Majestic!



6 2017 POPULAR VOTE, CAIRNS & MINI SHOW RESULTS



Popular Vote

NOVICE

*Bromeliad - Bromeliads & Logs Trophy*

*Cryptanthus - Grace Goode Silver Ingot Trophy*

*Tillandsia - Bromeliads & Logs Trophy*



[These Trophies not awarded as no member had three entries during the year]

OPEN

*Bromeliad - 2002 WBC Florida Sundial Trophy - Dave Weston*

*Cryptanthus - Grace Goode Trophy - Dave Weston*

*Tillandsia - Bob Hudson Trophy - Bob Hudson*

*Most Points 2017 - Bob Hudson Trophy - Dave Weston*

Congratulations to Dave & Bob who get to dust a Trophy for a year.



Remember your peers voted you The Best.



Total Points - Society + Cairns Show

*Dave Weston 51+32=83, Lynn Hudson 20+33=53, Bob Hudson 30+22=52,*

*Brendan Leishman 40+11=51, Steven French 29+13=42,*

*Bernice Mark 13+10=23, Marguerite Sexton 21+0=21, Frances Boyd 15+4=19,*

*Paul Venturi 15.5+0=15.5, Karen Stevens 7+2=9, Kelly Knight 2+6=8,*

*Nalda Wilson 6+0=6, Margaret Marton 0+5=5,*

*Darryl Lister 3.5+0=3.5, Robyn Forrester 3+0=3, Lesley Hepburn 0+2=2*

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

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

Points allotted in Popular Vote, Mini Shows & Cairns Show are

3 points for first, 2 for second and 1 for third = 6 total. Ties are shared as fractions

**The Intrepid Trio - Brendan, Dave & Bob**

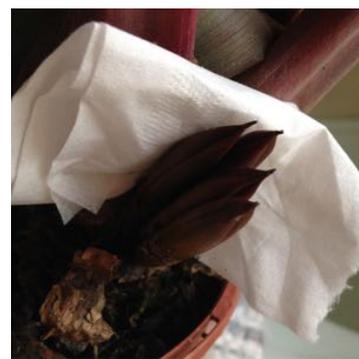


## 6 *Guzmania sanguinea*



*Guzmania sanguinea* are available in several forms. There is a variegated form, plus above is *sanguinea* var. *sanguinea*, middle is *sanguinea* from Costa Rica, and *sanguinea* var. *brevipedicellata* top right. They are all beautiful when flowering but a few days later you cannot believe they are the same plant!

It will finish flowering & suddenly lose a lot of colour. Do not panic, this is normal. It will make an offset near the centre and as that grows the flowering part will eventually form a few seed pods. You will not believe it is the same plant as it looks so dull. You may have the second one flower before the seed pods ripen. Carefully remove the dead dry leaves from the base and when the seed pods are ready they will burst open. As it is in the *Tillandsioideae* family, they have soft silken gold parachute on the seeds. Grow the seed the same way as tillandsias.



Using the small Costa Rican plant I took pictures to describe what happens. In the first picture the last flowering plant is on the centre left and the new one coming right beside it on the right. In the second picture just to the left of centre there are three pointed brown bits, the third picture I have put a tissue behind to show them up. These are the seed pods from the previous flowering. When they are ripe they will explode to a golden fluffy wad - seeds to grow!! It is good to grow these seeds as being a small plant they mature faster and you will have several of these beauties to brighten your garden and your life.//



## Me & Bromeliads - Dave Weston



My interest in Bromeliads was first sparked by the need to look for an alternative to the Cycads which I had been growing and were fast consuming the available space in the back yard. The lawn had disappeared and it was becoming rather a logistical issue for maintenance. Also around the same time Brendan my partner was growing a lot of ferns in hanging baskets and he was looking for something with a bit more variety and interest.

We both attended our first meeting of the Cairns Bromeliad Society in Caravonica, at the residence of Gail Taifalos about 13 years ago. From that meeting we joined up as members and have since become the ultimate bromaholics. To start with, like most new devotees to broms, I had no real clear direction as to what genera I would collect and essentially had a bit of everything. The spiky broms soon took my interest and I compiled a collection of Dyckia, Hechtia and a few other savage specimens along with some assorted other genera.

I recall making some rather profound statement early on as the Bromeliad disease was taking hold of my sensibilities, that I was not interested in those woosy genera such as Tillandsias and Cryptanthus. Well clearly I had under estimated the power that bromeliads can exert over the mind and now Brendan and I have large part of our collection comprising these two genera.

We have both taken on various positions on the committee with this Society and attend the Australasian and International Conferences whenever possible. The experience has been a journey of learning in terms of the cultivation requirements and the history and origins of Bromeliaceae. We have made some wonderful friends and acquaintances, too many to mention.//

[Dave - your input has been invaluable & appreciated. Lynn]

\*\*\*\*\*

In Bromelcairns 2017#2 I showed how **Narcis Guino Palol** protected his tillandsias from the cold with a thermal blanket. He lives on the Hawaiian island of Maui and they have just had two nights at  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $26^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The first picture is from #2 article - look at it now! Look at how the tillandsias have really grown!





## Pickings from Here & There!



### Roots & Water

From Buy Swap & Sell on Facebook:

Bruce Lee: Can anyone tell me why the ends of the leaves on my my Vriesea 'Forrest' are turning yellow? It's in a position that gets only morning sun and is amongst other vrieseas that don't have the same issue. One other white centred vriesea nearby has the same issue. I've had these plants for a couple of years and this is the first time this has happened.

\* There followed a few comments about sunburn and as I have had the same problem I called on vriesea expert Jack Koning to advise.

Jacob Koning : If you look at the plant you will notice that the uppermost leaves are NOT burned and for a 'Forrest' they are quite green instead of cream/white, so it has not been into much sun. This type of discolouration on the leaves will afflict any vriesea at times for almost no apparent reason. It is cultural, seldom a plant recovers. Most times it continues destroying all the bottom leaves yet the root system will be fine. The cause is not a rot nor a bacterial attack. I had one plant do this and it slowly consumed the plant, nothing would stop it but the plant still finished its flowering and the spike was the only healthy part of the plant left as well as good root system. One thing I can say is that it is systemic and type of necrosis. I am sorry that I can offer no real solution, it happens to adult plants and seedlings, not common and ultra specific to a particular plant.

On a further note, the almost similar symptoms can be caused if a plant gets quite cold in winter, generally with a cold wind blowing as well and the root system has been too dry. The plant transpires all the moisture out of the leaves causing collapse of the healthy tissue. If this happens the centre leaves are last to suffer due to having access to the last bit of moisture.

John Casey: I had this happen to a *Vriesea heiroglyphica* that was put in an air-conditioned room for two days as part of a display. Turned a stunning plant into a dud in no time at all!!

Bruce Lee: Thanks Jacob, we had a lot of frost this year and I don't water a lot during winter so your last explanation seems to fit. Sad news as it was a favourite but I do have plenty more. I'll try to make sure in the future that I water the pot occasionally as well as the centre.

Jacob Koning: I have found that in winter a very dry root system is very detrimental for the well being of vrieseas Bruce. The plant transpires water quicker than the roots can resupply the leaf tissue, this causes air pockets in the leaf veins causing collapse of tissue just like sunburn on your skin. Water on the roots is quite important.//



George Stamatis  
His Aussie Vriesea  
hybrids. Still seedlings  
They are lovely  
George,  
excellent colours



10 This is where George plays when he is not teaching!



“The bromeliads are exploding with flowers this year” Yes George they are and an incredible effort on your part. You have done very well!

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### xNeomea 'Valley Beet'

Aaron Smythe showed us his latest hybrid. Aechmea 'Black' x retusa X Neoregelia 'Beetroot' The result is quite spectacular - dark purple leaves, the inflorescence is typical xNeomea, a group of fat aechmea type fingers in a rich orange colour. Aaron said it is a tough plant and grows very large.

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Aechmea 'Cannibal' is a variegated bracteata I imported many years ago from Dan Kinnard, California All bracteata grow easily in Cairns, they love our sun and the heat it produces. When I started growing bromeliads in 1999 I was visited by an elderly Filipino Monsignor and I asked him the name of an aechmea I had. He said "ah yes, in the Philippines we call this 'Aechmea cannibalis'". He had a huge smile & I said "that is not its name Father" With great glee he replied 'But it has big teeth doesn't it?'. Yes it does and so do all the bracteata family. I enjoy growing them and each Christmas I have long inflorescences with green & red & I drape some Tillandsioides usneoides to have the three colours of Christmas.



Messages from last Bromelcains

- \* Herb Plever: Thanks, Lynn. I spent long minutes ogling at every gorgeous plant shown in excellent photos. From Jamaica, New York
- \* David Kennedy: Excellent! From San Diego
- \* Lynn Gook: Thanks for the newsletter, as always an excellent read, full of information and entertaining. From Townsville.
- \* Rob & Susie Branch Thanks again for sending. Nicely grown plants. From Florida.
- \* Raney Lien: This may be your best work yet. Awesome job. Thanks for sending to me. From Florida.
- \* Eli Hasish: Thanks, it looks great! (and you have made me a celebrity... 😊). Hope all is well with you. From Israel. OK Mr Celebrity, your Fan Club needs a photograph of you.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa, I do not want much for Christmas, I just want the person reading this to be happy, as friends are the fruitcake of life - some nutty, some soaked in alcohol, some sweet - but mix them together and they are my Friends

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*Wishing Each of You & Yours a Safe & Happy Christmastime & really Great Growing, Busy, Healthy & Happy Year for 2018*





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Everything for growing gardens

## Hudson's Bromeliads Down Under

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