

# ***Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.***

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 15th February 2018 at 11 a.m.

**Venue:** PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery

114 Pine Street Wardell 2477

Phone (02) 6683 4188

**Discussion:** January 2018

Election of Officers  
General Discussion

**Editorial Team:**

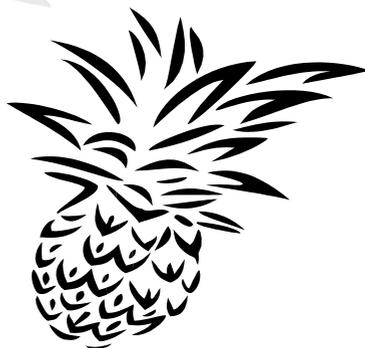
Kay Daniels

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## Meeting 21st December 2017

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am  
The 16 members present were welcomed.  
A total of two apologies were received.

### General Business

The Group once again held their Christmas Get Together at Pinegrove Nursery, luckily the weather was kind as the previous days were very hot and humid.

The morning started with welcoming all and passing the Newsletter out, thoughts were offered to those unwell and not able to attend our festive occasion. Hopefully John Crawford will be back on his feet soon as he has a trophy to collect.

A recap of issues raised at previous meetings were discussed hopefully helping Ted with his CCA treated pine problem. We were directed toward the three new BCR registrations noted on pages 11, 12 and 13 of the December Newsletter to advise us to change our labels. Fortunately most growers seem to be picking up and accepting the recent name changes we have had of late.

Lunch followed the discussions where Group funds provided hot chickens, meat platters, bread rolls and cold drinks, Group members brought along delicious homemade salads, mouth watering desserts and nibbles. As requested Marie arrived with her yummy trifle meticulously layered with fruit, custard, jelly and cream looking too good to eat !!

After a very enjoyable lunch, trophies were presented to the winners of the Popular Vote Competition. Again we saw a couple of regular annual winners receiving trophies and a couple of up-and-coming future champions. Remember it is all in the name of fun but don't hold back as healthy competition can be rewarding. Ask questions and learn the secrets of growing a spectacular show plant, it's easy with a bit of care, good light, regular feeding and watering.

The Christmas Gift Swap followed where participating members brought along a plant or gift. Selection of the swap is worked on attendance to meetings in the year January to November, those who attended the most meetings get to select first and so on.

A big thanks goes to everyone for making the day relaxing, lots of laughs and fun but don't let it stop there we have another new year beginning needing topics for discussion. So let us know what you want to know and help us with articles for your Newsletter, you all have experiences others can learn from too.

## Trophy Presentation for 2017

**Novice** — equal 1st Keryn Simpson and Dave Boudier

Dave and Keryn really do work hard together as the results have shown, month after month we see the rewards of their efforts, congratulations.

**Open** — John Crawford

Again this past year we saw some wonderful plants presented by John, his devotion to growing quality plants shows with each entry, congratulations.

**Decorative** — Helen Clewett

So much thought and imagination put into this years Decorative entries, always a difficult choice to place ones vote, congratulations.

**Judges Choice** — Keryn Simpson

A most deserving winner, well done and congratulations.



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**A Glossary for :-** The misconception of some plant growth habits which we often hear referred to during our travels: epiphyte and parasite.

**Hemiepiphyte:** a term used for plant species that begin life with an **epiphytic** stage; dependent plants that have a root connection with the soil for some but not all of their life cycle e.g. strangler fig, banyan (banian) tree.

**Parasite:** a parasitic plant is a plant that derives some or all of its nutritional requirements from another living plant. All parasitic plants have modified roots, named haustoria (singular: haustorium), which penetrate the host plants, connecting them to the conductive system – either the xylem, the phloem or both. This provides them with the ability to extract water and nutrients from the host.

**Correction:** Bromeliads are NOT parasites they are:

**Epiphytic:** a plant that grows on another plant but is NOT parasitic, such as the numerous ferns and orchids growing on tree trunks in tropical rainforests.

**Terrestrial:** a plant that grows on or in or from land (soil dependant).

**Lithophytic:** a plant that grows on rocks but obtains its nourishment from the atmosphere and from accumulated humus in the fissures.

**Saxicolous:** a plant that lives naturally or prefers to live on or among rocks.

## Spiders, Scale or Beneficial Mites

In August 2017 Geoff Lawn was asked by a grower in Western Australia: "I was wondering if you have ever come across a possible pest that almost looks like scale but isn't scale ? I know that sounds strange so will explain in more detail.

Perfectly round pure white things approx. 1.5 - 2mm in size. Feels and almost looks like spider web. I have noticed an abundance of really small spiders that are so small that you wouldn't notice them unless looking for them with a small cream/white patch on the abdomen seem to be always near these white spots.

I did come across an article that I will send to you that says it is a predatory mite and the photo and text of the article sound exactly like what I have.

Whatever it is it doesn't seem to feed on the plants or do any damage at all and can even be found on the edge of pots. They feel flat but when they hatch out it gets a slight raised area and a pin hole sized opening where it has emerged out. I have noticed they are more prolific in the warmer months.

Like I say no damage to plants just doesn't look nice. I did a trial spray with Confidor and while no more spots turned up in that section the sacs still hatched.

They also just wipe off easily or hose off but seem to get into awkward places".

The following is the article sent:

**Weekend Gardener**, issue 179, 2005, Auckland New Zealand

**Q:** Some of my Bromeliads have what look like scale on them, but it's only on the upper surface of the leaves.

**A:** The spots on your sample certainly did resemble scale, but as they were only on the upper surface and there was no sign of young scales I had them checked out at HortResearch. It turns out they are the empty egg sacs of a predatory mite, probably a species of *Anystis*, which are known as whirligig mites. They are a good bug to have in the garden as they hunt down and eat some mites which are plant pests.



If you scrape off the empty egg sacs you'll find there is a pale spot underneath where light hasn't been getting through to the leaf surface, given time that should colour up as chlorophyll returns and photosynthesis becomes active again.



Geoff Lawn: "I hadn't seen this white rounded egg sac around Perth until four months ago when there were a few sacs on several *Neoregelia* 'Hannibal Lector' I bought from a late W.A. Brom. Soc. member's estate. I recognised them from when I visited the Olive Branch Nursery (Brisbane) four years ago and again recently just after the Sunnybroms Conference at Caloundra. I did ask Olive about them but she thought they were harmless egg sacs (which they are) from some insect.

They are easily brushed away or picked off (possibly by birds too if in the open) and never leave a permanent mark (in my experience). I have only ever seen it on *Neoregelias*, never on pots and as you say, more in the warmer months.

The sacs are never clumped but rather well-spaced and I never saw any more than about six sacs per plant, usually easily visible, but there again, I wasn't about to inspect every leaf axil of maybe 50,000 *Neoregelias*!

Confidor is systemic so wouldn't kill the pupae in sacs which are not at the sap-sucking stage -- if they have such a phase (sounds unlikely) .

I googled *Anystis* and it seems they predate on other mite species. I saw also a reference that they were introduced to W.A. from France way back to biologically control agricultural / pastoral mite pests.

Your photo and the article from the New Zealand garden magazine opened my eyes but I'm glad we have nothing to seriously worry about".

### A question asked by many growers:

"What's the gel stuff at the base of some of my Bromeliads. One mystery I haven't solved is a gelatinous semi-solid "goo" which settles at the stem base of usually *Neo. concentrica* or it's hybrids, always in Winter only. I thought at first it must be snail egg sacs or their slimy trail but I don't have any snails at my place" ?



**A:** Many Bromeliads are of the tank type water holding variety, this environment supports many life forms, mainly frogs and insects. The droppings from these animals and corpses also decaying leaf litter assists in feeding the plants.

The following quote taken from: *Bromeliads* by Walter Richter

"Epiphytic Bromels constitute an immense swamp in which animal and vegetable waste products are dissolved by the enzymes in the leaves. The process involves the jelly - like substance exuded by the inner faces of the sheaths. As a rule, putrefaction occurs only when there is too much pollution. Normally the leaves absorb the end product of the organic waste by way of their scales. The water in the funnels remains fairly clean and in dire need, potable." (drinkable)



Novice Champions 2017  
Equal 1st Keryn Simpson and Dave Boudier



Some Christmas delights  
decorating the gardens  
for our  
end of year celebrations  
*Vriecantarea* 'Inferno'  
with  
*Aechmea* 'Silver Zebra'  
surrounded by an  
assortment of  
Neoregelias

◀ *Vriesea altodaserrae*  
with  
*Aechmea* 'Patricia'  
in front



Decorative Champion 2017  
Helen Clewett



Judges Choice Champion 2017  
Keryn Simpson



Kay



Sue



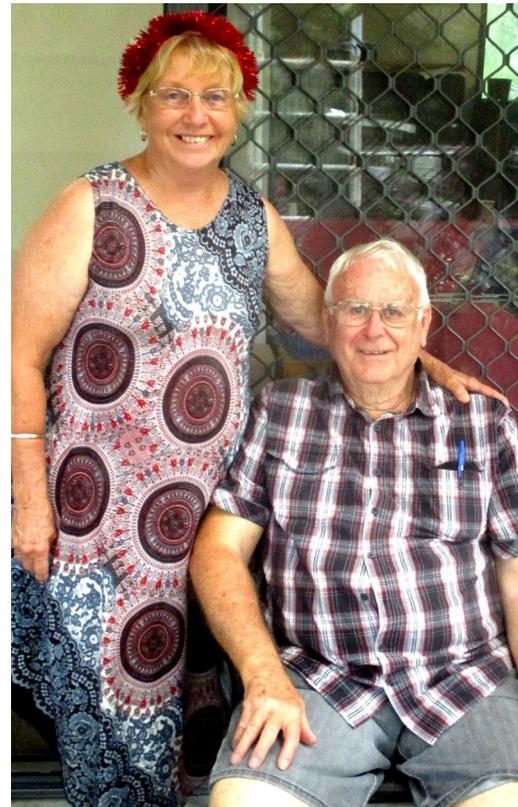
Michelle

Les

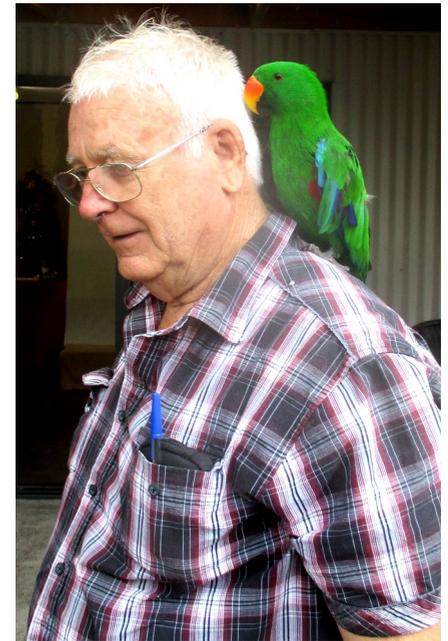
Trish



Leisa getting into the Christmas spirit with Laurie and Marie



Coral and Gary



How lucky is Gary, a bird on each shoulder Verde the Eclectus parrot came to wish us all a Happy Christmas



The ladies were getting their salads while Steve and Les were checking the .....



Les was being very helpful looking after the photographer who only wanted a little piece.



Debbie and Shirley  
"Hey mum  
I'm before you" !!!



'Male Health' food supplied by some wonderful ladies in our Group  
P.S. The camera just didn't want to work when I pointed it at the salad table !!!  
What an enjoyable Christmas party we had.



The Christmas gift swap table was well stocked with some great treasures supplied by Group Members.

## **Tillandsia ‘Leiboldiana Spotted’ and ‘Leiboldiana Pendant’**

In December we reported on the registration of *Tillandsia* ‘Leiboldiana Median’. We read “**Leaves** many in a crateriform rosette, 1-3 dm long; concolourous green or spotted” and “All doubtful cases are referred to this the typical variety subject to later correction. The difference of coloration of the leaf-blade has not shown any significance yet, but it could correspond to habitat as in *Vriesea sintenisii* (Baker) Smith & Pittendrigh or geography as in *Tillandsia spiculosa* Grisebach.”

Derek Butcher suggested “the best solution seemed to be to treat the three cultivated forms as ‘Leiboldiana Median’, ‘Leiboldiana Pendant’, and ‘Leiboldiana Spotted’ and register them in the BCR. This way you can check whether you have your own special form of *Tillandsia leiboldiana* or whether it is being grown by others. These attributes seem to be unique but if you have a quantity of plants with a combination of such, then you may consider them worthy of a new cultivar name. Investigations have not revealed the origins of the variegated plant but if you are aware of any leads please advise”.

### ***Tillandsia* ‘Leiboldiana Spotted’ ▶**

Mature, open rosette to 25cm. diameter. Differs from the species description of *Till. leiboldiana* by having purple or red- spotted, green leaves. Erect inflorescence to 50cm. tall



Photo by Exotic Plant



### ◀ ***Tillandsia* ‘Leiboldiana Pendant’**

Mature, open green-leaved rosette to 30cm. diameter. Differs from the *Till. leiboldiana* species description by having a pendant inflorescence, to 50cm. Long

## **FNCBSG Newsletter Index: January to December 2017**

### **The Plants (Includes photos)**

<u><b>The Plants (Includes photos)</b></u>	<u><b>Author(s)</b></u>	<u><b>Month</b></u>
<i>Aechmea fasciata</i>	Derek Butcher	July
<i>Aechmea</i> ‘Forget Me Not’	Derek Butcher	Mar
<i>Aechmea leptantha</i>	Leme & J.A. Siqueira	Feb
<i>Aechmea nidularioides</i>	Carol Johnson	Mar
<i>Aechmea nudicaulis</i>	Derek Butcher	May
<i>Aechmea ornata</i>	Derek Butcher	Oct
<i>Androlepis skinneri</i>		Sep
<i>Araeococcus flagellifolius</i>	Trish Kelly	Jan
<i>Catopsis subulata</i>	L.B. Smith	Feb
<i>Cryptanthus</i> ‘Lisa Vinzant’	Ross Little	Aug
<i>Encholirium heloisae</i>	Doug Binns	Apr
<i>Neoregelia</i> ‘Skotak’s Orange Crush’	Derek Butcher	Jan
<i>Nidularium</i> ‘Rutilan Regel’	Derek Butcher	Dec
<i>Orthophytum glabrum</i>		Aug
<i>Orthophytum</i> ‘Roberto Menescal’	Derek Butcher	Dec
Porteas	Mulford B. Foster	Feb
<i>Puya</i> ‘Rudolf’	Ross Little	Aug
<i>Tillandsia</i> ‘Dennis’		Apr
<i>Tillandsia tenuifolia</i>	Derek Butcher	May
<i>Tillandsia</i> ‘Leiboldiana Median’	Derek Butcher	Dec
<i>Vriesea hieroglyphica</i>	E. Morren	Aug
Smudgy ‘Glyph’ Vrieseas	Derek Butcher	Sep
x <i>Neomea</i>	Ross Little	Mar

### **Name Changes**

Cryptanthus	Phytotaxa	Sep
Cultivar Nothogenus	BCR	Apr
Orthophytum/Sincoraea	BCR	Apr
Tillandsia	Phytotaxa	Mar

### **A Brief Study into how Plants Function**

Part 1 Temperature and Humidity	Les Higgins	Jan
Part 2 Air and water	Les Higgins	Feb
Part 3 Light and Shade	Les Higgins	Apr
Part 4 Potting Mixes, pH & Porosity	Les Higgins	May
Part 5 Nutrient Manipulation	Les Higgins	June
Photosynthesis C3, C4 & CAM	David Higgins	Aug
Part 6 Flowering	Les Higgins	Sep
Part 7 Breeding	Les Higgins	Oct
Part 8 Genetics	Les Higgins	Nov

**Associate Information**

A beginners Question. Re pups  
 A question often asked. Plant origins  
 Advantage of Shallow pots  
 An Ecuador Adventure  
 Breeding/Hybridising for variation Part 1  
 Breeding/Hybridising for variation Part 2  
 Chemical Fertiliser Discussion  
 Controlled Release or Slow Release  
*Dyckia* Cultivation Hints  
 Dates. How to find events  
 Dates  
 Dates  
 Dates  
 Fire ants.  
 How to Deal with a 'Leggy' Bromeliad  
 Meiosis  
 Often asked questions after disaster  
 Painting CCA treated pine  
 Plants React to Light  
 Pollination and Hybridization  
 Registration of New Hybrid  
 'Rubra' is it Valid or not?  
 Succulent Bromeliads:  
 Shallow pots. The advantage of  
 Soil/Potting Mix and Water Testing  
 Sunburnt Bromeliads  
 Sunny Broms. A report  
 Understanding the Variegation Naming  
 Variegation in Bromeliads

**Author(s)**

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 Lesley Baylis  
 Ross Little  
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 Houston Brom. Soc.  
 Les Higgins  
 Koning  
 M.B. Foster  
 R. Little  
 East Mich. Brom. Soc.  
 Les Higgins  
 Les Higgins  
 Paul Turvey  
 Lesley Baylis

**Month**

June  
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**Photos of Plants**

*Aechmea* 'Flame'  
*Aechmea* 'Patricia'  
*Aechmea* 'Rajah'  
*Alcantarea imperialis*  
*Androlepis skinneri*  
*Billbergia eipperii*  
*Billbergia* 'Jenny's Delight'  
*Billbergia* 'Hallelujah'  
*Billbergia* 'Kolan Flashback'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Evon'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Marble Green'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Puerto Rico'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlite'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Satin Cascade'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Silver Zone'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Symphony'  
*Deuterochnia brevifolia*  
*Dyckia* 'Talbot Dark Moon'  
*Edmundoa* 'Alvim Seidel'  
*Edmundoa lindenii* var. *rosea*  
*Goudaea ospinae* var. *gruberi*  
*Goudaea ospinae*  
*Guzmania sanguinea*  
*Hectia texensis*  
*Neoregelia* 'Amazing Grace'  
*Neoregelia* 'Amazing Grace'  
*Neoregelia* 'Blast'  
*Neoregelia* 'Bob & Grace'  
*Neoregelia* 'Bob & Grace'  
*Neoregelia* 'Bottoms Up'  
*Neoregelia* 'Bullis's Margaret'  
*Neoregelia* 'Catlans Leopard'  
*Neoregelia* 'Cinders'  
*Neoregelia* 'Cocktail Hour'  
*Neoregelia concentrica* hybrid  
*Neoregelia* 'Fallan'  
*Neoregelia* 'Fireball' variegated  
*Neoregelia* 'Gee Whiz' & hybrid  
*Neoregelia* 'Hannibal Lector' x *concentrica*  
*Neoregelia* 'Kilauea Fire'  
*Neoregelia* 'Larnach's Enchantment'  
*Neoregelia* 'Linda Cathcart'

**Author(s)****Month**

April  
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**Growers Comments**

*Cryptanthus* 'Evon'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlite'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Satin Cascade'  
*Cryptanthus* 'Puerto Rico'  
*Neoregelia* 'Caroline Tricolor'  
*Neoregelia* 'Yang'  
*Vriesea* 'Galaxy'  
*Vriesea* 'Sons of Tiger Tim'

Les Higgins  
 Les Higgins  
 Les Higgins  
 Les Higgins  
 Debbie Smith  
 John Crawford  
 Kay Daniels  
 John Crawford

Sep  
 May  
 July  
 June  
 Feb  
 Feb  
 Feb  
 Sep

**Photos of Plants**

*Aechmea caudata*

June

**Photos of Show Plants and Others****Author(s)****Month**

<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Magali'		Aug
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Sunday Light'		July
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Perfection'		July
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Perfection'		Nov
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Pink Spider'		Dec
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Raphael'		Mar
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Rosy fireball'		June
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Red Macaw'		April
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Royale'		Nov
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Spring Fever'		Sept
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Touch the heart'		May
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Van Dourme'		Nov
<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Zoe'		June
<i>Orthophytum diamantinense</i>		Dec
<i>Quesnelia</i> 'Tim Plowman'		July
<i>Sincoraea burlemarxi</i>		Dec
<i>Sincoraea mucugensis</i>		Dec
<i>Sincoraea navioides</i>		Dec
<i>Tillandsia aeranthos</i>		Sept
<i>Tillandsia brachycaulis</i>		Mar
<i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i>		July
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>		Oct
<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Nashville'		April
<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Nezley'		May
<i>Tillandsia seleriana</i>		Nov
<i>Tillandsia tectorum</i>		June
<i>Tillandsia tenuifolia</i> var. <i>saxicola</i>		Mar
<i>Vriesea</i> 'Cardinalis'		May
<i>Vriesea gigantea</i>		Dec
<i>Vriesea</i> 'Galaxy'		Feb
<i>Vriesea hieroglyphica</i>		Aug
<i>Vriesea michaelii</i>		June
<i>Vriesea</i> 'Megan'		Apr
<i>Vriesea</i> 'Sons of Tiger Tim'		Sep
<i>Vriesea vagans</i>		Mar
<i>Vriesea vigeri</i> x <i>cardinalis</i> x <i>guttata</i>		Oct
x <i>Nidumea</i> 'Pepe'		Aug
x <i>Wallfussia</i> 'Creation'		Mar