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Maxine O'Shea  
Nigel Thomson  
Roger Robertson

Hi everyone.

Well for those of us lucky enough to go on the bus trip to Bundy what a fantastic day it was. Ray and Del Gough's gardens were a picture, and for a small block they certainly have managed to fit a lot of different varieties into it. Janine Tyler's property, while not just focused on Broms, was a testament to what can be achieved in nine years, with lots of pathways to wander and surprises at every turn. Then onto Val Honeywood's, where the shade-houses were full of different species, but the highlight for me was getting to see her Billbergia house with the mind boggling number that she's grown herself, many as yet unnamed so more to keep an eye out for. The raffle during afternoon tea was a huge success, and special thanks to those who donated plants and other prizes for it. By the time the day finished there wasn't much room left under the bus to fit many more plants in, and a lot of us certainly added to our collections.

**Don't forget that this month's meeting starts at 11.00am. There will be a BBQ lunch, and to make things easier please remember to bring a knife, fork, spoon and plate and as usual something to have a cuppa in. Plant sales will commence at 11.00 and finish at afternoon tea for this meeting only.**

**This is also the meeting where we will be holding our yearly raffle in aid of our sponsored charity "Comfort Kitchen For The Homeless", so if you can spare an extra prize or two it will be greatly appreciated.**

As there was no clear policy in the past, the committee has decided that if you are putting in entries for "Plant Of The Month" they must be submitted at least fifteen minutes prior to the start of the meeting, and voting will take place during afternoon tea. In the past some excellent plants have been entered after voting has already begun, and while they may not necessarily have won if entered earlier it has meant that their owners have placed themselves at a disadvantage, so this should make it fairer and easier for all.

Despite the best efforts of the weather to put a dampener on proceedings we had a great time at the Botanic Gardens Open Day on May 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of interest shown in all the different types on display, especially the Cryptanthus and Tillandsias, and quite a few handouts on the best way to grow all genera were given out, along with information about our club. Special thanks to David, Elaine, Denis, Sue, Tara and Janine for helping out. We also managed to win \$50 as part of the proceeds of the raffle run on the day, so that was an unexpected bonus.

## Bundy Bus Bash



## Plant Of The Month For June

### **A Variegated Neoregelia**

#### DIARY DATES FOR 2018

**BYO chair, 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.**

June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	John & Narelle Hoffmann 287 John Street Maryborough
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	David & Lorraine Ward 9 Hanover Drive Urraween
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Botanical Gardens Urangan – Sausage Sizzle and Clean-up
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carmel & Bruce Hodgins 25 Ramsay Court Dundathu
October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Ron & Elizabeth Southern 60 Serenity Drive Tinana
November 10 – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Monster Sale, Charles Street Pialba
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party – Venue TBA

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR JUNE

Janine Blaber  
Ron Harris  
Elaine Priston  
Ron Southern  
Lorraine Ward

## NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

The committee has decided that to enable members to be more easily recognizable, especially when attending events that involve various other groups, a polo shirt with the club's logo and name will be made available at a cost of \$35. If you require a pocket and/or your name on it there will be a small additional cost. One is currently being made to show to everyone, and while they're certainly not compulsory it would be great to see as many as possible wearing them. The need for something like this was especially noticeable at the recent Open Day, where while most other groups were easy to spot, unless people visiting our display actually saw our name-tags they didn't know who to approach. It's also great advertising for the club when we go away to sales or on bus trips.

Please remember that unless notified otherwise sales start at 1.00 pm and 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 isn't available, please ask to put your name on the waiting list.

The monthly raffles are our main fundraiser for the year and it's great to see so many prizes donated by members. They don't have to be plants, but could be items to help in the garden or with potting and displaying your favourite Broms or anything else you think members will like. The only rule of thumb is would you be happy to win it.

### OUR PRICE LIST EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2018

125MM SQUAT POTS	\$2.90 for 10
140MM SQUAT POTS	\$3.75 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.

Congratulations to Bernice and Ian Fluerty who won Best In Class with their outstanding Vriesea at the Boyne Tannum Orchid And Foliage Society Show.



## A Special Recipe For The Month From Janine Orange Tea Bread

A simple tea bread with a lovely orange flavour. Prepare it in the afternoon with the remains of the tea, leave it to stand overnight and then make the bread the following morning.

**Making time about 15 minutes**

**Baking time about 1 ½ hours**

### Ingredients

150g currants      150g raisins  
150g light soft brown sugar  
Finely grated rind of 2 oranges  
300ml hot tea  
275g self-raising flour  
1 egg

Put the fruit, sugar and orange rind in a bowl and pour in the hot tea. Stir very well, cover with a plate to keep the heat in and then leave to stand overnight.

Next day heat the oven to 150 deg C (300 deg F), gas mark 2, and grease and line with greased greaseproof paper a 20cm (8") round cake tin.

Stir the flour into the soaked fruit and mix very well. Turn the mixture into the tin and bake in the oven for about 1 ½ hours or until the bread has shrunk from the sides of the tin and a warm skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Turn out, remove the paper and leave to cool on a wire rack.

Serve sliced, either spread with butter or just as it is.



## Tillandsia Psychology

Tillandsia - psychology - a long read but you might enjoy this piece I have been working on. Recent studies suggest any human association with plants - buying, collecting, growing, going for a walk in the park, or even looking at a landscape poster could produce psychological benefits, reduce stress, and improve concentration.

To any gardener, this is not rocket science or even news. Plant people know first-hand that collecting and working with plants offers a positive effect on ones wellbeing. But in this context, plants are taken as a mass category. Very little research has been done on the relationship of specific plant families or genera and why some people are attracted to certain plants while others are not. Is it nature or nurture? Are people born with an affinity to certain plants or is it acquired?

“A rose by any other name would smell as sweet” is a popular reference to William Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet, in which Juliet seems to argue that it does not matter that Romeo is from her family’s rival house of Montague, and by consequence he is named “Montague”.

What is it that lies in the name, the colour, the texture, the fragrance, the form, or the biology of a plant that attracts people. For an avid plant collector, it is complex; there can be many aspects to this, but on an elementary level, humans are visual beings. We are easily seduced by attractive vivid colours and shapes. The present fanaticism with social media and in particular Facebook and Instagram highlights a visual culture where value judgements are made in fractions of a second based on what something looks like. Often the text is never read. The expectation is that the single image will communicate more than a thousand words.

It is not surprising that for many people their initial response to a specific plant is on a visual level, particularly when that plant has large colourful flowers or bold foliage. Passionate rose growers are much more in love with the flowers and fragrance than the geometric arrangement of thorns.

When it comes to human attraction to plants, various senses play a part to varying degrees: sight, touch, smell, taste and as we shall see with Tillandsias, intellect. There are passionate plant growers who specialize in orchids, roses, tulips, cacti, succulents, carnivorous plants etc. - the list goes on to encompass the entire plant kingdom.

Like the rose in Romeo and Juliet, plants are also loaded with a historical and cultural context. They can act as potent symbols that date back thousands of years and even vary across cultures. Although these are no longer commonly understood by populations that are increasingly divorced from their old rural traditions, some survive. In addition, these meanings are alluded to in older pictures, songs and writings. New symbols have also arisen: one of the most known in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand is the red poppy as a symbol of remembrance of the fallen in war. Some we might be familiar with are: Orchid - refined beauty, red rose- true love, arum - faith, purity, buttercup - riches. The Wikipedia list is long and detailed.

But neither Bromeliad nor Tillandsia appear on the list. However I did discover this obscure reference. Because they need no soil and look utterly unearthly, Tillandsia is often linked to science fiction, aliens, travel to Mars and other intergalactic matters. it’s the perfect plant for nerds, goths, dreamers and lovers of something a bit different.

Although there is some logic to this symbolic association, within the current environmental climate I favour Tillandsias as symbols of sustainability and resilience.

As a genus, Tillandsias embrace a huge range of weird and wonderful shapes forms and sizes; arguably the greatest range of any plant genus. From the more familiar vase shaped plants like *T. australis*, *T. krukoffiana*, *T. lajensis*, *T. leiboldiana* that have wide strap like leaves and can grow large, to the fine, tangled thread like structures of *T. usneoides*. From the fine woven living balls of *T. recurvata*, *T. schiedeana* to the tiny miniatures like *T. gilliesii*, *T. loliacea*, *T. bryoides*, *T. tricholepis*. From the twisted octopus like leaves of *T. baileyi*, *T. butzii*, *T. pseudobaileyi* to the bulbous forms of *T. bulbosa*, *T. streptophylla*, *T. seleriana*. The grasslike leaves of *T. tricolor*, *T. juncea*, *T. bartramii* to the heavily trichomed forms of *T. tectorm*.

While some people will never warm to the silver-grey foliage and alien shapes of Tillandsias, there is something special beyond the obvious senses that fascinates and attracts one. This is the cerebral understanding of these amazing plants - the psychology of Tillandsias. As there is intrigue with carnivorous plants in how they lure, kill and digest their prey, the cerebral fascination of Tillandsias is embedded in the evolution of sophisticated biological systems that allows them to grow in extreme locations where no other plants can.

How they developed a CAM cycle to store energy from the sun during the day and then use it to grow at night. How some species developed super-efficient trichomes to absorb all moisture and nutrients from the atmosphere and even abandoned the concept of roots. How some plants can live in climate zones where there is virtually no rain.

In an age where human activity on the planet is unsustainable and might be termed parasitic, as ultimate epiphytes, Tillandsias symbolize sustainability. They can live on another plant like a tree or cactus but not take any nourishment from the host As lithophytes, some species are the first plants to colonize barren areas of rocks and sandy deserts or vertical cliffs high up in the mountains. The local name “qaqa sunkha” for *T. capillaris*, means “rock beard”.

The deeper understanding of Tillandsias might be compared to fine art, where often people respond on a visual level. “I don’t know much about art but I know what I like”. However acquiring a deeper understanding of art history, contemporary movements and ideas in art allows a richer insight beyond the naïve.

Like other plant families, within the world of Tillandsia collectors, it seems there is also an attraction to the myriad of amazing Latin names associated with these plants and the ability to pronounce the most intricate tongue twisters in the flash of a second.

Once a comprehensive understanding of the intellectual aspects of Tillandsias is gained, it is impossible to divorce this knowledge from the form, the colour, scent etc. of the plant. There is an erasable memory which links the cerebral with the aesthetic - this is the psychology of Tillandsias.

(Special thanks to Lloyd Godman for allowing me to reprint his article)

