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Narelle Hoffmann
Maxine O'Shea
Nigel Thomson
Roger Robertson

Life Members

Debbie & Hans Kruger
Narelle & John Hoffmann

Hi everyone.

Welcome back everyone for the start of another year. With your help we'll make this the best one yet. If you have anything you'd like to see or hear about at a meeting, or perhaps present yourself, then please let the committee know. It's your club and we want your input to make it better.

Don't forget that next month's meeting is the AGM and all positions will be vacant, so if you wish to nominate for the Committee forms can be obtained from Sue. Please note that because most of the committee as well as some other members will be at the Tillandsia Day in Brisbane on the 23rd this meeting will be held a week earlier than normal.

Membership fees are due this month, and can either be paid to the Treasurer or through internet banking. For the society's bank details please contact Janine.

During 2018 I was in touch with several other societies overseas, and have permission to use articles from their newsletters, so hopefully you'll be able to see how they go about getting the best out of their plants in the different climates, as well as photos of some beautiful Bromeliads that haven't made it to our shores yet.

A special thanks to Roger for all the work he's put in as the Purchasing Officer over the years. Without his efforts we wouldn't be able to get all the things we need at such great prices.

Please note that for this month's meeting parking is available in the Day Care Centre across the road.

AROUND THE GARDENS

Each month it would be great to feature members gardens or favourite Bromeliads. If you can't take the photos yourself then give me a ring and I'll try and organise a time to take some for you. Here's some of mine to start things off.



The Plant Of The Month for January is a Non-Variegated Neoregelia (Non-Mini)

DIARY DATES FOR 2019

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.

January 26 th	John & Sue Casey 24 Southerden Street Torquay
February 16 th	TBA AGM
March 23 rd	Carmel & Bruce Hodgins 25 Ramsay Court Dundathu
April 27 th	Janine & Giles Blaber 20 Manchester Court Dundowran
May 25 th	Bus Trip – Destination to be advised
June 22 nd	John & Narelle Hoffmann 287 John Street Maryborough
July 27 th	Ian & Burnice Fluerty 12-16 Arkarra Court Dundowran
August 24 th	David & Lorraine Ward 9 Hanover Drive Urraween
September 28 th	Maxine O'Shea 12 Rosedale Drive Wondunna
October 26 th	Ron & Elizabeth Southern 60 Serenity Drive Tinana
November 10/11	Monster Sale
November 23 rd	Christmas Breakup

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR JANUARY

Carmel Catford
Ian Fluerty
Sue Loughran
Irene Lipross
Anne Venning
Delmai Winnett

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

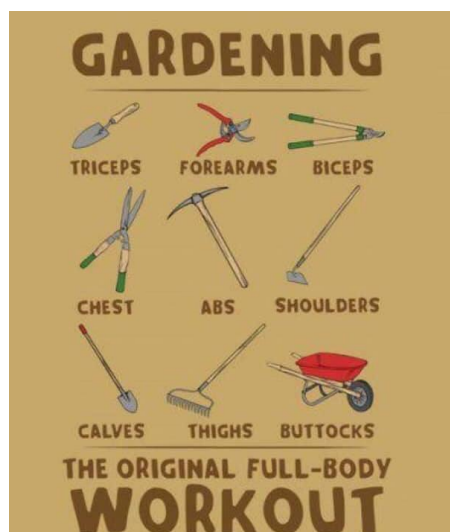
Don't forget that unless notified otherwise sales start at 1.00 pm and finish at afternoon tea, plants travel much better in boxes or recyclable bags than plastic bags, and you can borrow books from our library for one month. If the book you want isn't available, please ask to put your name on the waiting list.

If you still have signs from the Monster Sale could you please return them to Sue at this meeting.

OUR PRICE LIST EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2019

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
POTTING MIX	\$8.00 per bag
FERTILISER	\$2.75 for 500 grams

This year Maxine will be taking on the duties of Purchasing Officer, and as before if you require anything it would be appreciated if you could give her a ring on 41245128 prior to the meeting so she can have your order ready on the day.



The story of Don Beadle, the man who is credited with bringing Billbergias from their humble beginnings to what they are today.

(Reproduced with permission from "Pup Talk", the magazine of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society, California U.S.A.)



Don Beadle, Mr. Billbergia's Deep Legacy By Karen Andreas

(Don Beadle passed away 31/10/2018, at the age of 89. He left a great legacy in a wide number of areas for us all and was awarded the Wally Berg Award of Excellence at the World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego earlier this year. This article was written before his passing.)

In the beginning, Billbergia was a modest little plant, often plain green with three leaves, a few spots and a quick-lived inflorescence. It was relegated to the back of collections, neglected and disrespected.

Then Billbergia met Don Beadle; neither was ever the same again.

Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, Don Beadle never quite fit in. "I couldn't play the banjo and I couldn't talk Cajun," he says, so he booked out of Louisiana at age 19, joining the Air Force. College followed four years of military service, and Don Beadle was now a petroleum engineer. He started with Philips Petroleum and worked his way into smaller and smaller companies until he had his own, Macero Minerals in Corpus Christi, Texas.

In Corpus Christi, John Anderson and Don were neighbours.... Thus began a lifelong friendship that, in later years, made them a popular duo of auctioneers, sought after as much for their stories and banter as their auctioneering skills. It was during those early days that Don discovered bromeliads. He went to a bromeliad society meeting, and the addiction was immediate. His first bromeliad was Aechmea 'Black Jack'. "You just can't kill this plant," Don says with great fondness. John became a renowned grower of Aechmeas. "John never did anything half-assed," Don remembers.

Don was fascinated by the variety of bromeliads and wanted to collect everyone in the world. The impracticality of it soon became apparent, and so he narrowed his focus on the lowly and lonely Billbergia. "I collected all the species I could find - there were about 20 available at the time," he says. He looked for cultivars although they were few and far between. "Mulford Foster had made 'Fantasia' and R. Wilson had made 'Catherine Wilson' but, in general, Billbergias had not really caught on in popularity." Don was fascinated by the idea of making hybrids and found the process exhilarating.

Preserving pollen was the first big challenge. After only two or so days, it would turn green and lose viability. Once he figured out that freezing the pollen kept it viable for up to two years, it became "compulsive, an addiction," he remembers.

Still, he was growing green Billbergias. It was a limiting process, until Bob Whitman found 'Domingos Martins', the gorgeously spotted cultivar of vittata. "I lusted after that bromeliad with a passion," Don says. After much coercion and a year's wait, Don got a pup and went to work. He crossed 'Domingos Martins' with 'Ed McWilliams', and Billbergia 'Hallelujah' was born. Prized for its rich deep red leaves and its white and pink spots, its foliage appeal long outlasts its stunning magenta scapes and purple flowers. 'Domingos Martins' revolutionized hybridizing and today is found in many Billbergia cultivars.

Don continued to create better, more beautiful, sexier Billbergias to the extent that they soon moved to the forefront of sales and shows. Everyone wanted a Don Beadle Billbergia. Billbergias were no longer the red headed stepchild of the bromeliad world. 'Afterglow' with its rich, deep pink blush does literally glow as light shines through its leaves. 'La Noche's' dark, banded leaves are dramatic and stunning. 'El Capitan' is another dramatic Billbergia whose sturdy leaves have both banding and spots.

Don quickly ran out of plant growing space and built his first greenhouse. More hybridizing soon followed, as did a larger house and a larger greenhouse, where he lived and grew bromeliads for ten years. He came to Florida to visit Harry Luther and Wally Berg, who, as it turned out, were off in South America on a collecting expedition. Through happenstance, he ended up at a realtor's and told the agent he wanted a "house on the beach with room for some greenhouses." The agent later called him with news of a place with a fresh water pond and three greenhouses full of dead plants; Don made the deal over the phone.

So in 1986, Don sold his Corpus Christi house and moved to First Dirt Road in Venice, Florida home to Los Milagros nursery. He fell in love with the place, rebuilding the greenhouses and growing like mad. To date, he has created more than 140 named cultivars and many more yet to be named.

While he continued to hybridize, Don was breaking ground in yet another area: photography. He set up a dedicated space for taking pictures and decided it would be more dramatic and compelling to photograph bromeliads in clumps rather than singly, then the norm. Every day he checked for blooms so he could catch the flowers at their (quick) peak. He experimented with lighting, finally settling on blue photo bulbs for the most honest light. Using a Nikon camera with a full array of lenses, he honed his photographic skills and incorporated double exposures into his photographic repertoire.

When Don decided to create a photographic record of species, Harry Luther suggested that Don dissect the flower and capture its qualities in intimate detail. In those pictures, Don started using "that little white ruler that I love and I got unadulterated pleasure from the photography. It gave me a lot of satisfaction."

Don's presentations at World Conferences became standing room only events.... Audiences sat in rapt silence as Don's slides were shown, with minimal but very often pithy commentary from Don and to the accompaniment of quiet music. His photographs set the standard for both scientific presentation and artistry. His technique and the quality of his legacy are evident today. The next time you see a beautiful picture of a bromeliad, you will catch the echoes of Don's influence.

The legacy does not end there, however. In 1998, Don Beadle compiled the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry for the BSI. This monumental work was the bromeliad bible of

nomenclature and bloodlines of every known cultivar at the time. Don compiled this tome on a computer - it is hard to imagine now how revolutionary this technology was at the time - yet he understood that it was obsolete in many ways as soon as it was published. Beyond having taken on this labour- and time-intensive task for the bromeliad world, he recognized that changes, new information and new cultivars would overtake the publication within a very short time. He also believed that the Internet would be a way to offer accessible information.

To that end, Don first suggested to the BSI those digital files be made available on compact disk but he was ahead of his time with technology. That was an impractical suggestion as most people at that time did not have access to the kinds of programs that would handle such a document. So Don offered the files to Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies webmaster Michael Andreas. Michael was able to create the format for the Internet and make the living, flexible Cultivar Registry available for world access. Don's work at organizing, educating and providing information about bromeliad cultivars lives on.

In 2000, Don's life took another turn, and he sold Los Milagros, the nursery and the property, to Michael Kiehl who moved his nursery, Michael's Bromeliads, to First Dirt Road.

Don could often be found at Michael's Bromeliads. Don has reorganized the Beadle Billbergia collection that lives and thrives there, sharing information and memories with Michael Kiehl. Don's amazing collections of photographs now live on the website of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies in yet another collaboration with Michael Andreas.

Don's passion for bromeliads led to ground breaking Billbergia cultivars that made this genus one of the most popular; his ground breaking bromeliad photography set the standard for bromeliad pictures; his passion for knowledge led to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry; his vision for an accurate registry accessible and available to one and all took him beyond his peers and now serves the entire world.

Don Beadle's legacy has had a deep impact on our bromeliad world. We are all the richer for his being our friend and mentor. -----<<<>>>-----

Lyn Wegner, BSI President, adds, "I will miss you dear Don, you will live on in our gardens forever!"

B.L.B.E.R.J.R. In 1987 Don Beadle, Mr. Billbergia, wrote the following in the Journal.

Billbergias will inevitably seek out and occupy the darkest, dampest, and dreariest corners of your greenhouse. Once there, they will degenerate into large, dense masses of lanky, green, scale-infested foliage and will eat their tags. I do not expect you to take my word for this astonishing phenomenon. The proof lies in your own greenhouse. Notice the occupant of the lightest, brightest, and most desirable area. Does the genus on its tag begin with a "B"? I thought not. You are probably looking at the "N"-word, or the "T"-, or "V"-words, but surely not a "B." Maybe even the "C"-word, but never a "B"-word. You will find most of your "B" tags, if indeed you find tags, in the dank, dark, dismal locations.

Billbergias behave this way because they are troubled by feelings of inferiority engendered and constantly reinforced by the callous and insensitive grower. A study of the psychological profiles of certain Billbergias has revealed one problem to be a deep-seated envy of the longer blooming period of their more colorful cousins. The Billbergia compensates for this shortcoming by prominently displaying its reproductive apparatus and thereby encouraging the promiscuous and indiscriminate creation of hordes of illegitimate offspring. The consequence of this behavior in the bromeliad world is much the same as for

other life forms. The Billbergia suffers a loss of self-respect, declines in social status to the lowest level, experiences growing discontent, and finally resorts to revolution.

Although hardly fashionable in this day and age, I confess to having barely repressed feelings of sympathy and empathy for the cause of the beleaguered Billbergia. I know others of similar sensitivity must feel the same. In fact, I have recently observed a small but growing grassroots movement among the more radical Billbergia sympathizers. Resentment has been skyrocketing....

It was inevitable that an increasingly militant group of radical Billbergia growers would tire of waiting for the government to do something about the Billbergia crisis. It appears that, finally, relief is at hand. Last week I attended a clandestine meeting of radical fringe Billbergia activists at a secret location. In attendance was the cream of internationally noted Billbergia growers, hybridizers, and their ever-present groupies. Feelings ran high. As emotions flamed I became afire with billfever and willingly accepted the mandate thrust upon my shoulders to carry the message to the world that the day of justice and equality for the Billbergia is finally at hand.

As chairman of the Action Committee for the newly organized BILLBERGIA LOVERS BROTHERHOOD FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE RIGHTNOW (BLBERJR) I have, accordingly, prepared a preliminary list of demands to be presented to an emergency meeting of the BSI Board. A synopsis of this list is as follows: 1. Equal Opportunity Housing. Effective immediately, billbergias shall be fully integrated into the "Country Club" areas of the greenhouse. No more tenement and barrio living under the benches and behind the trash cans. No more overcrowding, high carbohydrate diets, and scale bugs. Billbergias are naturally friendly and gregarious and prefer to live in neat, single-family dwellings in a nice neighborhood. 2. Equal Health and Sanitation Services. Billbergias are by nature a clean and tidy group, but require assistance to stay varmint-free and well groomed. Billbergias shall, therefore, be examined at least once a week for various varmint and groomed until they say "Quit." Further, Billbergias should not have to occupy the same pot with their long-dead ancestors. Periodic removal and prompt disposal of billcorpses will begin immediately. 3. The Environment. Billbergias like clean water and fresh air just as well as the next bromeliad. They are primarily nonsmokers, preferring fully functional trichomes. Billbergias shall, therefore, be provided at all times with climatic conditions equivalent to those on any hilltop in Vista, California, or a reasonable facsimile thereof. Further, the watering of the bilibergias shall be on a plant-by-plant basis and must be performed in accordance with minimum standards as established by the Brother Beadle Watering and Meditation Institute of Corpus Christi, Texas. 4. Birth Control. The immediate imposition of stringent birth control procedures is imperative. Recently, the media disclosed the details of a sordid and shameful incident where pollination was attempted for no other reason than that the two parties were in bloom at the same time. Really! This has got to stop before all Billbergias look as much alike as do Neoregelias. 5. Equal Opportunity Exhibition. A study group empowered to develop and implement a system for handicapping show plants of all genera other than Billbergia must be formed now. This system should allow Billbergias to win top awards at least 50 percent of the time until compensation is made for the prejudiced and discriminatory judging which has victimized the Billbergia in the past.

Deliverance for the Billbergia is at hand! Billbergia growers of the world, UNITE! Down with the nasty Neo., the vile Vriesea, and the deceitful Dyckia! Remember, we are watching you. Billbergia hot lines are now being organized. BLBERJR is now hiring out-of-work revenue agents to conduct covert spot checks of your greenhouses. You have one month for voluntary compliance before we undertake drastic steps.