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Maxine O'Shea
Nigel Thomson
Roger Robertson

Life Members

Debbie & Hans Kruger
Narelle & John Hoffmann

Hi everyone.

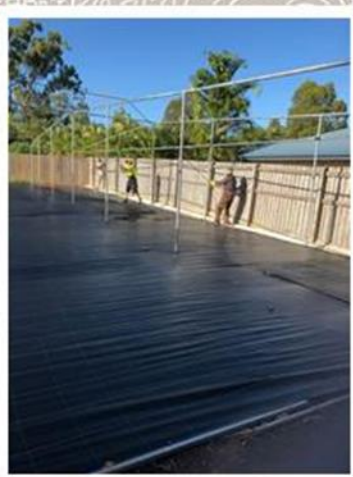
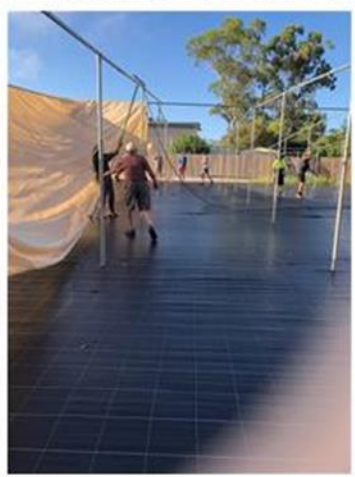
As you would have seen in the last magazine this month's meeting is on this Saturday the 16th because most of the committee and some other club members will be in Brisbane for the annual Tillandsia Day on the 23rd. It's also the AGM, and as per our constitution nominations for committee have now closed, so make sure to come along and see who your new committee for 2019 will be.

To enable you to better prepare your entries for "Plant Of The Month" the committee has formulated a list for the rest of 2019, taking into account when certain species should be at their best, and this can be found on page three. If you haven't entered before hopefully the advance notice will entice you to look through your collection and pick out something special.

One of the initiatives for the coming year is to have more guest speakers come to our meetings and give talks on their specialities in the Brom world, which could include things like slide/video presentations, helping to expand our knowledge of what is going on elsewhere. To this end we are hiring the Pialba Memorial Hall in Main Street for the April and September meetings, a building that can fit up to 200 people and has all the facilities we need. Prospective guest speakers are being approached, and more information will be forthcoming as soon as things are finalised.

Membership fees are now overdue, so if you haven't already paid could you please do so at this meeting, or ring Janine on 0413571620 to get the bank details so you can do it online.

TAJ MAHAL



Well with the help of ten brawny workers Hervey Bay's own Taj Mahal (aka Nigel's new shadehouse) finally has the shade-cloth on it. At 750 square metres it certainly is impressive, and I'd hate to be making the benches to hold all the plants. Congratulations on your new venture!!



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.

February 16 th	Gail Janke 45 Ladbrooke Crescent Urangan AGM
March 23 rd	Carmel & Bruce Hodgins 25 Ramsay Court Dundathu
April 27 th	Pialba Memorial Hall 55 Main Street Pialba
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	Pialba Memorial Hall 55 Main Street Pialba
October 26 th	Ron & Elizabeth Southern 60 Serenity Drive Tinana
November 2/3	Monster Sale
November 23 rd	Christmas Breakup

Plant Of The Month Winners for January
A Non-variegated Neo (Non-mini)

Open – Judge's Choice – John Hoffman

1. Persian Tiger – Ian Fluerty
2. Donna – Sue McDonald
3. 3. Freddy Kruger – Val Honeywood

Member's Choice

1. Orange Burst – Ian Fluerty
2. Maria – Goff Loughran
3. Maria – Burnice Fluerty

Novice – Judge's Choice

1. Cauldera x Silver Montana – David Ward
2. Red Cauldron – Carmel Hodgins
3. Kiko David Ward

Member's Choice

1. Cauldera x Silver Montana – David Ward
2. Kiko – David Ward
3. Red Cauldron – Carmel Hodgins

Plant Of The Month For 2019

January	Non-variegated Neo (Non-mini)
February	Tillandsia
March	Aechmea
April	Foliage Vriesea
May	None
June	Mini Neoregelia (Cluster or single)
July	Sincoregelia
August	Quesnelia
September	Billbergia
October	Variegated Neoregelia

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR FEBRUARY

Ray Gough
Roger Robertson
Rosalie Thomson

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.

At present we don't have anyone to take on the job of librarian, so it would certainly be appreciated if someone would volunteer. The books and magazines are currently being sorted out, and older magazines being removed, possibly to be placed in doctor's waiting rooms with club details on the front for people to read. Hopefully this will in turn generate more interest in the club.

If you still have signs from the Monster Sale could you please return them to Sue at this meeting as there are a few outstanding.

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

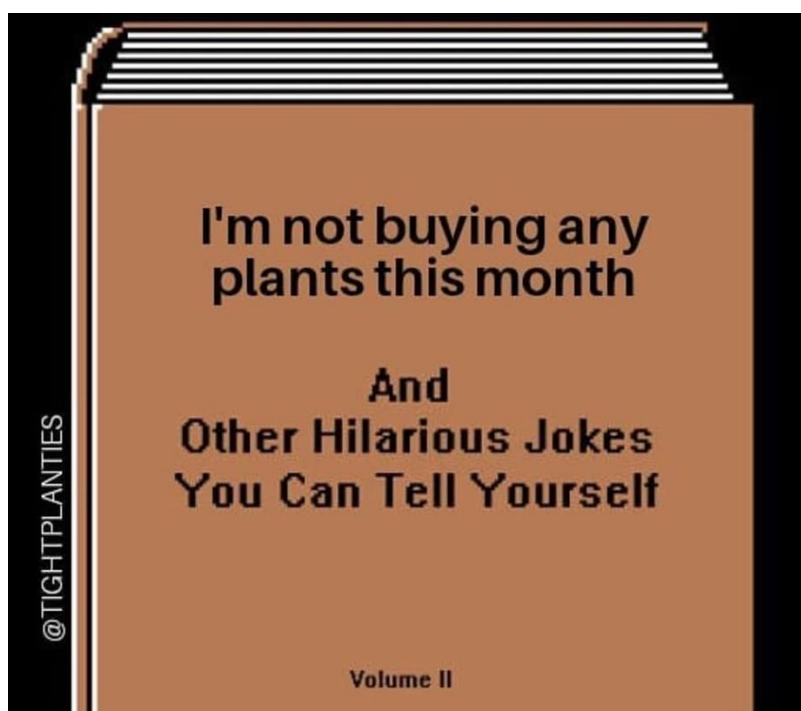
Maxine has taken on the duties of Purchasing Officer, and if you require anything it would be appreciated if you could give her a ring on 41245128 prior to the meeting so she can have your order ready on the day.

Dates For Your Diary

Bromeliad Extravaganza – 9 March 8.00 – 3.00 and 10 March 9.00 – 1.00
Wavell Heights Community Hall 175 Edinburgh Castle Road

Tillandsia Study Day 24 March 9.00 am – 470 Petrie Creek Road Rosemount – Please bring a chair and a plate of goodies for morning tea.

Palm and Cycad Societies of Australia Annual Show and Sale – 2/3 March Mt Cootha



THE TROUBLE WITH ORTHOPHYTUMS By Ross Stenhouse (Reprinted from Bromeliaceae, Brom Soc. Q'land Inc., March/April, 2007)

I have been trying to grow Orthophytum 'Starlights', O. 'Warren Loose', and O. Magalhaesii offsets with varying degrees of success. The natural habitat for Orthophytums is confined to a portion of Brazil (Bahia, Minas Gerais). Here they can be found growing in full sun and usually on rock ledges. The plants grow in cracks in the rocks where a small amount of soil has collected, thus the plants are terrestrials rather than epiphytes. Growing on rock ledges gives the impression that these plants don't require a lot of water, that they tolerate a dry environment; however, that has not been my experience. (Photo O. 'Starlights'.)



For some strange reason I like Orthophytums. I acquired a couple of adult plants and looked after them and they grew well. Of course, pups appeared and I decided that I would grow them on. That was when my troubles started: I would plant them. Orthophytums are a bit different from other bromeliads in that their offsets develop on the inflorescence as well as at the base of the plant. The offsets at the base of the plant are easy enough to identify, but I used to experience trouble identifying the offsets around the inflorescence. These are known as viviparous offsets.

What has helped me greatly in understanding these offsets in the inflorescence, came from an understanding of the purpose of these offsets. The clue is in the genus name—'Orthophytum'. It is derived from the Greek words "ortho" for "straight" and "phytum", meaning "plant"—a reference to the lengthening of the stem that takes place during flowering. These long stems with the flowers and offsets serve a purpose; eventually the stems buckle and bend and allow the offset to come in contact with the ground, thus allowing it to take root some distance from the parent plant. The offsets at the base of the plant are there to replace the mother. Understanding this allows you to come up with a suitable regime for growing the offsets.

Before I understood the reason for the pups up near the inflorescence, I would try cutting off the offset with a long section of stem attached, then I would bury the stem. All appeared OK for the next eight weeks or so, then I would bump the offset and it would fall out of the pot; there was no root growth. I repotted it using the original technique and after a period of time, once again it got knocked over and still no root growth. I then decided to cut off a section of stem just below the leaf axil and I buried the leaf. The buried leaves made the plant firm in the pot and a lot less likely to fall out when knocked. More importantly, it included an offset and this took root. I noticed that I needed to water the planted offset very regularly. Originally I thought these plants didn't need to be watered often. However, when I watered them every day (foliar feeding) the offsets started to thrive. These plants seem to need plenty of water, especially when getting established.