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Debbie & Hans Kruger
Narelle & John Hoffmann

Hello All

Well last month's meeting was a great way to start the year, with a large number of members present as well as visitors, and Sue and Stewart's gardens were a picture as always. Thanks for having us again.

Due to circumstances the meeting venues for this month and March have been swapped over, so the AGM will now be at Burnice and Ian's. It's also a week earlier than normal due to committee members and others being away at the Tillandsia Day in Brisbane on the 22nd. We hope to come back with lots of information from the guest speakers, as well as one or two new plants.

The new format for "Plant Of The Month" was a big success, and excellent plants were presented for judging in all five categories. I'm sure entries will continue to increase as we all get used to it, and if you haven't put any plants in before why not give it a go.

As I mentioned last month guest speakers have been approached for this year, and we now have Rebekah Trevor in April, Michelle and Mal Cameron in May and Greg and Narelle Aizlewood in August. This will mean some changes of venue so keep your eye on upcoming newsletters.

Don't forget that membership fees are now due, so if you haven't paid as yet you can either do it at the meeting or online to the Fraser Coast Bromeliad Society BSB 645646 A/C 104552107, using your name as the reference so Janine knows who's paid.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Anne Walsh, Tara Casey and Wendy Newton as our three latest members. It's great to see our numbers steadily growing

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR FEBRUARY

Helen Davies
Ray Gough
Roger Robertson
Pam Gaddes
Greg Menzies

DIARY DATES FOR 2020

BYO chair, mug, plants you need help with, sales plants, Plant Of The Month entries, and raffle donations to our meetings. Please note – unless notified otherwise meetings are on the fourth Saturday of the month, which may not always be the last Saturday.

February 15 th	Dundowran - AGM
March 28 th	Torquay
April 25 th	Yengarie
May 23 rd	Venue TBA
June 27 th	Maryborough
July 25 th	Urraween
August 22 nd	Venue TBA
September 26 th	Dundowran
October 24 th	Tinana
October 31 st - November 1 st	Monster Sale
November 28 th	Christmas Breakup

OUR PRICE LIST EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2020

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)	\$5.50 for 10
SMALL WHITE LABELS	\$1.50 for 25
LARGE WHITE LABELS	\$2.00 for 25
YELLOW SALES LABELS	\$6.00 for 100
LABELLING PENCILS	\$3.60 each
FERTILISER	\$2.75 for 500 grams

If you are going to purchase items it would be appreciated if you could ring Maxine on 41245128 prior to the meeting so she can have your order ready on the day. If you discover you need them just prior to the meeting don't worry, there will still be plenty available. Goff has potting mix for sale at \$8 for a 30 litre bag, and if you ring him on 0416783773 prior to the meeting he will have it there for you.

Plant Of The Month Winners For January

Neoregelia

1. Submission – Goff Loughran 7 Votes
2. Voyager – David Ward 6 Votes
3. Hellacious – Stewart MacDonald 5 Votes

Pattern Leaf Vriesea

1. Black Flamingo – Goff Loughran 9 Votes
2. Pacific Crush x Snowman – Sue MacDonald 4 Votes
3. Princess Midori – Stewart MacDonald 2 Votes

Flowering Bromeliad

1. Guzmania Georgia – Goff Loughran 12 Votes
2. Talbot's Beauty – David Ward 8 Votes
3. Aechmea De Leon – Goff Loughran 7 Votes

Tillandsia

1. Straminea – Goff Loughran 13 Votes
2. Streptophylla – Ron Southern 5 Votes
3. Magnifica – David Ward 4 Votes

Other Genera

1. Walfussia Creation – Ron Southern 8 Votes
2. Dyckia White Lightning – David Ward 7 Votes
3. Cryptanthus Florence Wosly – Val Honeywood 5 Votes



BROMELIAD ROOT ROT AND HEART ROT

By David Skimmings (Reprinted from The Hunter District Bromeliad Society Inc. newsletter of April 2011)

As a follow up from various discussions at last month's meeting I thought I would cover more on why sometimes our Broms seem to rot off in the pot. If this happens rarely to you it comes as a bit of a shock when it does. As outlined by some members this occurs from over-watering and/or the potting mixture not being free draining enough. Some members have reported this has been an issue over the past 12 months. This is because the rainfall and humidity has changed dramatically in some areas. Remember we have just come out of a 7-10 year drought or, at least in the urban environment, much drier times.

As stated, the potting mix must be free-draining, so the plant dries out a little around the base—i.e., not having what amounts to a wet sponge wrapped around your plant 100% of the time.

I was given a Nidularium in a pot by a friend and I didn't do anything with it other than put it on the shelf with the others. In hindsight I should have re-potted it with my own mixture. After a few months it went brown in the centre well before its time. A photograph in the original article shows that after a bit of play with the plant the centre cone just popped out. Oops! I knew what it was straight away—the dreaded rot as I had seen this in succulents. On inspection I noticed it had been potted in a normal sandy potting mixture that held too much water and it had also been potted too deeply in the mix—i.e., the soil was too far up the side of the plant. This mixture didn't have enough bark chip, etc. in it and it also had some manure in it causing it to be “muddy”.

We have basically identified why this rotting occurs so we'll just touch on the horticultural science behind the cause. It is an organism called *Phytophthora Cinnamomi*. *Phytophthora* causes the serious potato disease known as late blight or potato blight. Late blight was a major culprit in the 1840s European, the 1845 Irish and 1846 Highland potato famines. This organism is a fungus with swimming spores which thrive in oxygen-deficient conditions and the spores have a long time resting stage, estimated at 12-15 years. Without deviating too far from Broms, there had been massive plant losses in tomatoes, avocado plantations, durian, oak and cacao trees, cinnamon tree plantations (Java) and crown rot in pineapples (Nundah). Two indicators are (hopefully if not too late) the foul smell and blue/black colouration around the leaf attachment.

Sometimes all is not lost and you can dry the plant out, strip off the mushy leaf tissue till you get back to good ones then sit the plant in a pot by itself or hang it up. Occasionally you'll save the plant, or at least score a pup before the “mother” is deceased. If your plant is much loved, expensive, or rare the additional application of fungicide may be something you want to try. The recommended fungicide for the pineapple industry is Ridomil (Fongarid); however, there are plenty on the market that I won't list in this article.

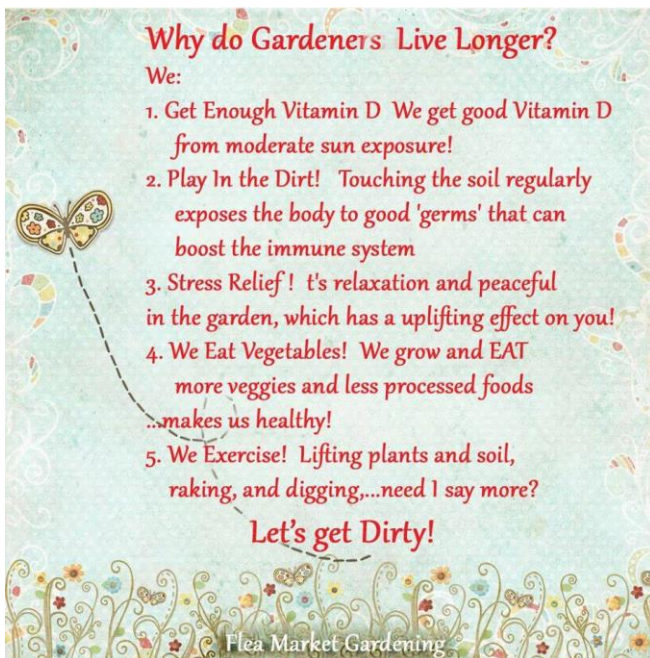
A further note on the above problem comes from Jeanette Robertson of the Caboolture & Districts Bromeliad Society Inc., and I have reprinted it from their newsletter KABBROM, March/April 2009.

Over the past couple of months I've noticed a problem with some *Neoregelias* in my collection where some leaves, part-way up the plant—i.e., not at the base and not in the crown, were rotting. Not having experienced this before I took a plant to a Society meeting where it was identified as the fungal disease, *Phytophthora*. Apparently the disease is present in soils and potting mixes, is water borne and spreads rapidly. Plants are particularly susceptible if leaves have been damaged and this occurs mainly during warm, wet periods where the water in the cup overheats and damages the leaves.

The treatment is to isolate your plant from your collection as the disease is spread by water. Tip out all the water and remove any damaged leaves, then drench or spray with a fungicide. Copper is a main ingredient of many fungicides and copper kills bromeliads, so care needs to be taken with the fungicide used. I've used Mancozeb, while Fongarid is another copper-free fungicide that could be used.

A positive sign that I've noticed is that some of the affected plants are ‘pupping’ so it seems that all is not lost.

(Reprinted from the Illawarra Bromeliad Society “Newslink” January 2020)



This isn't Bromeliad related, but if you're into recycling plastic bottles (shouldn't we all be) you'll know that you have to take all those lids off before you can take them to the recycling centre and put them in your Council bin because they say they can't be recycled. Consequently they just end up in landfill.

I'm not sure if it's done everywhere, but here in Hervey Bay (and I presume Maryborough) there is a way you can dispose of them and make a difference to a young person's life.

"You Can Recycle Hervey Bay", on Booral Road, has special bins that you can put all your plastic lids, and even the tags off your bread into, and they will then forward them to a centre where they are processed and then used to make prosthetic limbs for children. Unlike adults who can be fitted with one prostheses that will last for years, children need to have theirs replaced as they grow, so there's a constant need for them. And being made from multi-coloured plastic they look a lot better than the normal ones and the kids love them.

If you'd like to help this great cause but can't get to the recycling centre, or don't have enough to make the trip worthwhile, keep hold of them and bring them to our monthly meetings and give them to me and I'll drop them off. You won't be benefiting the club, but you will help to put a smile on someone's face.

