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Life Members

Debbie & Hans Kruger
Narelle & John Hoffmann
Karen Thomson

Hello again

It was great to see so many members at our March meeting, and as the year goes on we hope the numbers will continue to rise. We also welcomed a new member, Reine Gunther.

George Stamatis from Brisbane was our guest speaker, and he gave an excellent talk and slideshow presentation on "Dentate Scale" that affects Tillandsias, and his new Vriesea hybrids. He will be sending us written details of his talks and these will be included in a future newsletter.

This month Nigel will be giving a talk on "Light and Dark – growing your plants under varying conditions". Future speakers include Mel and Michelle Cameron in May, Nev Ryan in June and Narelle and Greg Aizlewood in August, so quite a line-up so far for the year ahead.

The Rockhampton Social Group will be visiting us on 17th – 19th September, and will be touring several member's gardens as well as attending our monthly meeting. We have the names of some members who have offered already, and if you would like to be included please let Sue know. Mark this date in your calendar so we have as big a turnout as possible for them. We will be having a dinner on the Saturday night, with the venue to be advised, and will be asking for names of those who would like to attend at a later date.

Names are needed for those who wish to sell at the Hervey Bay Orchid Show on 24-26 September (setup 23rd). As we are only allowed six tables space is somewhat limited.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR APRIL
Meg Pailthorpe, Karen Thomson, Helen Safstron, Edna Ray,
Lynne Smith, Jan Hutchins, Jenny Menzies, Goff Loughran

Meetings start at 1.00 pm, with plant sales at 12.30.

Plant Of The Month Competition

Neoregelia - Midi

First – Rangeview Pink Jewel – Ian Fluerty	7 votes
Second – Lana Kila – Nigel Thomson	6 Votes
Third – Lorena Lector – Stuart McDonald	5 Votes

Pattern Leaf Vriesea

First – Karra Pink Lady – Ian Fluerty	11 Votes
Second – Lemon Surprise – Nigel Thomson	5 Votes
Third – Sherlette Shigii x Mambo – Goff Loughran	4 Votes

Flowering Bromeliad

First – Wallisia Antonio – Nigel Thomson	14 Votes
Second – Guzmania Passion – Goff Loughran	9 Votes
Third – Guzmania Coniferi – Goff Loughran	3 Votes

Tillandsia - Potted

First - Etna – Nigel Thomson	8 Votes
Second – Samantha – David Ward	7 Votes
Third – Punctulata Red Form - Maxine O'Shea	4 Votes

Other Genera

First – Wallisia Cyanea – Allan Miller	8 Votes
Second – Sincoria Navioides – Nigel Thomson	6 Votes
Third – Goudea Euro Smudge – David Ward	5 Votes

(This month – Neoregelia is large and Tillandsia is mounted)

This came from BSQ. The Club will be ordering 40 to give to future new members, and if current members would like one please let Sue know and we will order them at the pre-release price of \$10.

Fellow Bromeliad Societies and Study Groups

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase our new “Starting with Bromeliads” book that we will be printed soon.

This is a newly edited version of the books that BSQ published many years ago. It is NOT just a reprint, there has been months of work put into this new edition with new information, more pictures and up to date information that would benefit any new or experienced grower.

This is a Full Colour A5 size book, 112 pages including the cover, and I have attached copies of the cover, Table of Contents and also some pages as an example of the information and pictures in this new edition for your reference.

We are offering this at a Special Pre-Order price to other societies at only \$10 each, the book has a Recommended Retail price of \$20 giving you all a good profit margin when selling to your members, as this will be a quality reference book.

This Pre-Order price is available for all orders placed by the 31st May, the books will be available in June when back from the Brisbane printers who will be producing these books for us.

Member Profile

When Val Honeywood moved into her Coonarr property 22 years ago she had her sights set on creating a tropical rainforest.

After growing up in a family passionate about gardening, Val obtained her Certificate in Horticulture and before she knew it, her plant collection grew into the thousands as her outdoor area began to grow.

“There were no real gardens only some young shrubs, eucalypts and palms,” she said.

“This was a real challenge as my main interest in plants at that time was tropical foliage.

“I set about creating a tropical rainforest with all the lovely colourful foliage plants like Crotons, Aralias and I had a very large collection of Cordylines.”

The shade houses are a favourite for Val, who said the gardens were a part of her.

“My happy place is spending time in my shade houses and I love to wander about my gardens late in the day and spot something new,” she said.

“I also love the wildlife and so many birds - their calls are pretty much all I hear all day.”

With victory there was also loss. Val said for several years the garden thrived on regular wet seasons and bore water until periods of drought struck.

Succulents made their way to the forefront with their hearty nature after the dreams of a lush tropical garden were dashed.

“The recent drought proved that not only succulents are drought hardy, but my Bromeliads have also bounced back with all the lovely rain of late,” Val said.

“I did the huge job of repotting thousands into larger pots in the hope of retaining moisture for longer and happy to say it worked.”

The local green thumb said she loved collaborating with gardeners throughout the region.

“I am a member of several garden clubs in Bundaberg and bromeliad societies,” Val said.

“I enjoy the friendships and interactions of other gardeners of which there are many in our beautiful region.

(Reprinted from “Bundaberg Now”)



TEN TIPS FOR ENTERING A BROMELIAD SHOW

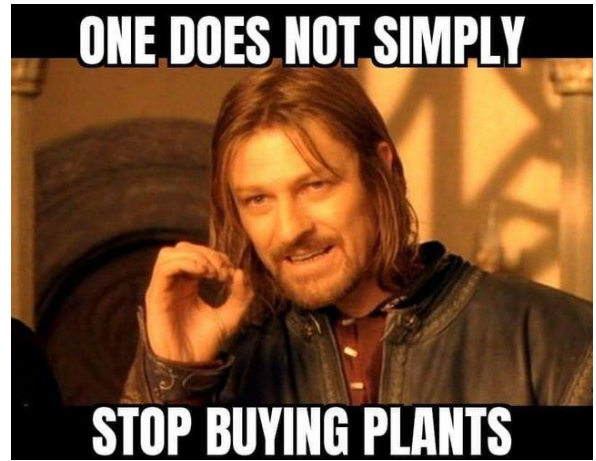
1. Remove unsightly lower leaves by splitting them down the middle and pulling the two halves away at the base.
2. Dusty leaves can be cleaned with a 1" sponge paint applicator or an old, damp wash cloth. Each leaf should be cleaned, but artificial leaf-shine is a no-no.
3. An emerging inflorescence can be supported with balled up newspaper so it won't lean. It can also be staked. Supports must be removed before taking the plant to the show.
4. If the entry is blooming, remove old, spent flowers.
5. If one plant in a clump is the one you want to enter in the show, but it's rootless as a result of removal from the clump, try this neat trick: tie a string tightly around the base, then either run the end of the string out of the center hole in the pot and attach it to the pot bottom with a piece of masking tape, or tie the string to a rock of the appropriate size and shape. Once the potting medium is added and packed tightly around the plant, the anchor, whether string alone or string plus rock, will hold the plant in place. Make sure the string is completely hidden.
6. Fresh top dressing will probably be necessary if you're not repotting the plant. Although you're not allowed to use anything decorative, you may use plain black gravel, the smallest pine bark nuggets you can find, or any clean, fresh potting mix.
7. Trimming brown leaf tips on tillandsias is a challenge since the leaves on many types are brittle and fleshy. If cutting is necessary, try to cut only one edge of the leaf, preferably the edge toward the back of the plant, so the trimmed edge is as inconspicuous as possible. When cleaning and trimming tillandsias (and other genera with scaly leaves) take care not to damage the scurf (trichomes) on the leaves.
8. The cut edges of trimmed leaves can be rubbed with aloe jelly. This retards drying the shriveling. This aide works best when done the day the plant is entered for competition.
9. If you have a plant that has become distorted, consider using a decorative container. You may have a container with an opening on the side in which to insert the plant. In the Decorative Container class, you (the exhibitor) may place the entry yourself on the table to insure the best view of the plant. Immature plants may be used, and any number of blooming or non-blooming plants
10. Cut inflorescence. This is a non-standard class (entries won't be judged against standard entries) but is a good way to show off a beautiful inflorescence. Just place it in a plain glass container of water. It should, of course, be as clean as possible.

(Thanks to: Nat DeLeon, Lynne Fieber, Connie Johnson, and Ed Prince.)

(Reprinted from Florida Bromeliad Society Newsletter April 2021)



more awesome pictures at THEMETAPICTURE.COM



Don't forget our Bus Trip to Rockhampton in September; please give your names to Sue if you would like to go. We are hoping to have a fundraising sausage sizzle at Bunnings to help with the cost of the bus. The price at this stage for the bus trip and motel accommodation is \$200 per person, but the committee hopes to be able to subsidize some of that amount. Even at the full price it's still cheap for a weekend's getaway.

Date saver May 8th Sausage sizzle to be at the Botanical Gardens. The Orchid House will be open for us and tea and coffee facilities will be available. This is NOT a meeting but a social get together and chance to view the gardens and check out our Bromeliad garden.

A Bit Of A Laugh

So I woke up and my dog is laying on the back patio covered in dirt with a rabbit in his mouth. The rabbit's not bloody, just dirty. My neighbour's kids raise blue ribbon rabbits. I instantly knew it was one of theirs.

I took the rabbit away from my dog, rushed inside, and washed all the dirt off it before my neighbours could come home. It was stiff but I heard some animals play dead when they are afraid but I couldn't remember which ones.

I took it and placed it back in one of the cages in their back yard then I raced back home. Not 30 minutes later I hear my neighbours screaming so I go out and ask them what's wrong?

They tell me their rabbit died three days ago and they buried it, but now it's back in the cage.

DIARY DATES FOR 2021

BYO 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.

All monthly meetings except June and October will now be held in the Dundowran Hall at the corner of Lower Mountain Road and Dundowran Road.

June 26th Narelle and John Hoffmann 287 John Street Maryborough

September 18th 1 week early due to the Hervey Bay Orchid Show And Sale

October 23rd Elizabeth and Ron Southern 60 Serenity Drive Tinana

OUR LATEST PRICE LIST

125MM SQUAT POTS	\$2.70 for 10
140MM SQUAT POTS	\$3.75 for 10
165MM POTS	\$3.00 for 5
200MM POTS	\$3.50 for 5
HANGERS (4 PRONG)	\$3.30 for 10
SMALL WHITE LABELS	\$1.25 for 25
LARGE WHITE LABELS	\$1.50 for 25
YELLOW SALES LABELS	\$3.00 for 50
LABELLING PENCILS	\$3.60 each
FERTILISER	\$3.10 for 500 grams
<u>Paper Sleeves</u>	
140mm x 10	\$2.90
170mm x 10	\$3.40
200mm x 10	\$3.60

If you are running short and need something it would be appreciated if you could ring Sue and Stewart on 41286217 to possibly make arrangements to pick them up from their home prior to the meeting, or let them know in advance and they will have them ready for you at the next meeting.

Goff has potting mix for sale at \$8 for a 30 litre bag, and if you ring him on 0416783773 you can also make arrangements to get some from him.

Library: All books and magazines borrowed are to be returned in good order to the following meeting. If they aren't on a wait list, they may be rebooked.

(If reprinting an article, wholly or in part, please acknowledge the author and newsletter.)

Member Input Wanted

If you have a special plant or growing method you would like to tell your fellow members about, now is a good time to write it up and send it in. Within the area our club covers there are many diverse micro-climates, even within different parts of Hervey Bay, and it would be interesting to know what you find grows best and what growing methods you use. You can also send in photos of your favourite Bromeliads to make us green with envy.

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies," he replied.

"Oh, killed any?" she said.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," came the answer.

Intrigued, the wife asked, "How can you tell them apart?"

Husband: "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

