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Debbie & Hans Kruger
Narelle & John Hoffmann
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Hi all

Another month, another newsletter.

Our thanks to Nigel Thomson for his very informative talk last meeting on the costs and pitfalls of importing Bromeliads into Australia. With all the obstacles put in their way it surprises me that anyone wants to go to all the trouble of doing it, but without their dedication we wouldn't have a lot of the beautiful plants we do now.

For those who came to the barbecue at the Botanical Gardens it turned out to be a beautiful day weather wise, and although the Orchid House wasn't open due to other commitments we had a great few hours of social chat and enjoyed the sausage sizzle. A special thanks to the cooks.
(See the photos on page 5).

This month we have guest speakers Michelle and Mal Cameron coming from Brisbane, who will be talking on their specialty of Vrieseas, how and why they got into growing them, and how they go about it. Over the years they've developed and registered some beautiful specimens, and it's a talk not to be missed.

Next month Nev Ryan will be giving a talk on Tillandsias. That meeting will be at Narelle and John Hoffman's in Maryborough, and we will be putting on a barbecue lunch. It will be an early start, so keep an eye on the next newsletter for further details.

The committee have put in an application to hold at least one Sausage Sizzle fundraising event at Bunnings in July/August, with the money to go towards the Rockhampton trip. We will be asking for volunteers to give a couple of hours to help out when we find out if we are successful.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR MAY
Burnice Fluerty, Narelle Hoffmann, Ronda Newsham,
Joan Donnison, Hans Kruger, Stewart McDonald

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

Plant Of The Month Competition

Neoregelia - Maxi

First – Julia – Ian Fluerty	21 votes
Second – Mailife Blush – Nigel Thomson	5 Votes
Third – Casoba – Sue McDonald	3 Votes

Pattern Leaf Vriesea

First – In-Fell-Able – Nigel Thomson	9 Votes
Second – Black Flamingo – Goff Loughran	6 Votes
Third – El Supremo – Ian Fluerty	5 Votes

Flowering Bromeliad

First – Tillandsia Silver Queen -Val Honeywood	16 Votes
Second – Guzmania Lollipop – Nigel Thomson	6 Votes
Third – Guzmania Orangeade – Goff Loughran	5 Votes

Tillandsia - Mounted

First - Tectorum – Nigel Thomson	12 Votes
Second – Funkiana – Nigel Thomson	7 Votes
Third – Ionantha Display – Goff Loughran	4 Votes

Other Genera

First – Billbergia Legs Eleven – Val Honeywood	11 Votes
Second – Aech Roberto Menescal – Nigel Thomson	8 Votes
Third – Galactic Warrior – David Ward	4 Votes

(This month – Neoregelia is Mini (up to 250mm) and Tillandsia is potted)



Seed Growing – by Bob Hudson

To demonstrate the method he uses to propagate the seed, Bob selected seed from three forms of *Neoregelia* - 'Morrisoniana', 'Shasa' & 'Beauty'.

The seed was firstly squeezed out onto kitchen paper, let dry and then scraped off into a small jar of water with one drop of washing up liquid, shaken and rinsed. Drained onto kitchen paper again and allowed to dry.

The takeaway containers had drain holes so the mix does not get overly wet.

He prepared the seed containers with a layer of scoria, topped with seed raising coir peat and watered.

Then scraped off and sprinkled onto the prepared mix and watered in with a diluted mix of fertiliser.

The lids were placed on the containers and should be looked at every 4-6 days to ensure they do not dry out.

He expected them to germinate in 12 to 15 days. Now the work begins.



The seeds drying on paper have name tags under the peg. These tags Bob placed into the relevant container with the mix. If you lose the name tag it is a long wait to find what sprouted!

Clever Bobbie - they germinated in 14 days!!



(Our thanks to Bob Hudson for this article)



Rockhampton Bromeliad Show And Sale 3-5 September

There are still places available for our Bus Trip to Rockhampton in September; so please give your names to Sue if you would like to go. We have applied 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 \$150 per person as the club is subsidizing \$50, and hopes to be able to subsidize more. Even at the full price it's still cheap for a weekend's getaway.

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.

Botanical Gardens Barbecue



Aren't they a good looking bunch!!

Library

How many members avail themselves of the many books in the library? If you haven't done so check out what's on offer at this meeting. Some months ago we ordered a new book from Brazil on Alcantareas, and this is now available. It's not exactly light reading, but should provide some interesting insights into this particular species, so check it out.



Trying to budget my monthly expenses...

Car: \$300

Phone: \$150

Broms I buy online when I'm sad:
\$3,750

Utilities: \$150



"It's some type of palm."