



FRASER COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 Issue 03

March 2022

Office Bearers Contact Details

President:

Godfrey Loughran
sueloughran1@bigpond.com
Mobile : 0416 783 773

Vice President:

Les Hutchins
tintenters@bigpond.com
Mobile : 0427 466 833

Secretary:

Sue Loughran
sueloughran1@bigpond.com
Mobile : 0416 783 773

Treasurer:

Janine Blaber
janineblaber@gmail.com
Mobile : 0413 571 620

Committee Members:

Burnice Fluerty
John Hoffmann
Narelle Hoffmann
Maxine O'Shea
Megan Perkins

Editor:

Les Hutchins
tintenters@bigpond.com
Mobile : 0427 466 833

Stock Sales:

Jan & Les Hutchins
tintenters@bigpond.com
Phone: 0419 799 483

Life Members:

Debbie & Hans Kruger
Narelle & John Hoffman
Karen Thomson
Maxine O'Shea

PLEASE NOTE : MARCH GENERAL MEETING :

The March Monthly General Meeting will start at 12 noon with a Sausage Sizzle at the Dundowran Hall.

Plant of the Month voting, plant sales, library, etc. will be as normal at 12:30pm followed by the meeting sometime after 1 pm depending on how long the sausage sizzle takes.

We don't have a speaker for March so please come along with a plant or two for 'show and tell', problem plant you have an issue with or want growing hints, or a plant to be identified.

A society member may be able to help!!!

CONTENT OF NEWSLETTER

- Committee Updates
- Plant of the Month - February 2022
- Feature Story - A Diagram of Bromeliad Habitats
- Feature Story - Australian Trees For Bromeliads
- 2022 Meetings and Event information
- New Australian Bromeliad Cultivars
- Our February Meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members for March :



Giles Blaber,
John Casey,
Del and Tori Gough,
Barry and Sue Hagedorn,
Elizabeth Hopper,
Beth Payne,
Denis Priston, and
Stan Walkley.

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR CLUB MEMBER'S ACTION AND INFORMATION :

❖ Membership

As of March, we have 60 financial members in the Society.

There are still some 2022 fees outstanding. Please make payment immediately to ensure the continuing receipt of membership benefits.

❖ Bromeliad Conference Proposal

The committee have prepared a proposal for our Society to hold a Bromeliad Conference here in Hervey Bay in late August this year.

This proposal will be presented to the members at the March meeting for ratification.

Initial interest in the proposal has been very encouraging with interest being shown from far and wide.

❖ FCBSI Bromeliad Supplies - New contact Details

At the beginning of March, the FCBSI 'Stock Sales' role was transferred to Jan & Les Hutchins. Please note the new contact details provided on pages 1 and 10 of this Newsletter.

On behalf of the members, the committee thank Sue and Stewart for their dedication to this important role within the Society.

The latest price list is published on page 10 of the March Newsletter.

Our new Executive Committee members and Stewards ...

President	:	Godfrey Loughran
Vice President	:	Les Hutchins
Secretary	:	Sue Loughran
Treasurer	:	Janine Blaber
Committee	:	Burnice Fluerty; John Hoffman; Narelle Hoffman; Maxine O'Shea; Megan Perkins.
Newletter Editor	:	Les Hutchins
Plant Sales	:	Val Honeywood; Anne Walsh
Stock Sales	:	Jan & Les Hutchins
Plant of the Month	:	Karen Thomson
Afternoon Tea	:	Sue Casey
Display Coordinator	:	Maxine O'Shea
Librarian	:	tba (Les Hutchins)
Raffle Coordinator	:	Megan Perkins

Congratulations Maxine O'Shea ...

Congratulations to Maxine O'Shea, a foundation member of our Society on the recent award of her life membership. Here we have John Casey, retiring President presenting Maxine with his award.



Life membership of any club is an honour and Maxine has been recognised for her tireless and enthusiastic contribution to keep the club ticking over since inauguration almost 20 years.

She has been a driving force behind the club's success, having held many position with our Society over the years and her skills at designing and preparing our bromeliad displays are second to none.



Thank you from Drought Angels ...



DROUGHT ANGELS
DISASTER RELIEF FOR AUSSIE FARMERS

wishes to acknowledge

Fraser Coast Bromeliad Society

THANK YOU for supporting our Australian Primary Producers through your phenomenal fundraising efforts.

Your generous donation helps us deliver a personal touch to our farming families, many of whom are experiencing hardship in the face of natural disasters such as flood, fire and drought.

Please know your assistance is greatly appreciated and makes a *real* difference...

Because of you

"THEY ARE NOT ALONE"

Warm regards

Tash, Jenny, Steele & the Drought Angels Team!
16/03/2022

PLANT OF THE MONTH - RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 2022



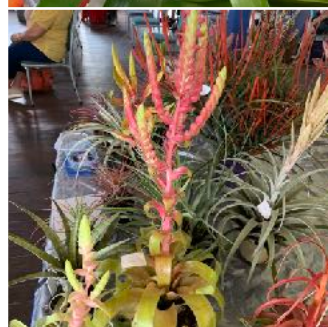
NEOREGELIA - MINI		
First: ⇐	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bumble Bee'	Nigel Thomson (8 votes)
Second:	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Donger'	Goff Loughran (6 votes)
	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Mai Golden Child'	Nigel Thomson (6 votes)
Third:	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Gotcha'	Ray Gough (4 votes)



PATTERN LEAF VRIESEA		
First: ⇐	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Candy Stripe'	Ian Fluerty (10 votes)
Second:	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Blushing Goddess'	Nigel Thomson (8 votes)
	<i>Vriesea</i> 'In-fell-able' [N.R.]	Goff Loughran (8 votes)
Third:	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Hunua Fireburst'	Nigel Thomson (4 votes)



FLOWERING BROMELIADS		
First: ⇐	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Charlotte'	Nigel Thomson (14 votes)
Second:	<i>Guzmania</i> 'Sunnytime'	Goff Loughran (9 votes)
Third:	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Astrid'	Nigel Thomson (8 votes)



TILLANDSIA - POTTED		
First: ⇐	<i>Tillandsia mooreanna</i>	Goff Loughran (10 votes)
Second:	<i>Tillandsia flabellata</i> 'Giant Red'	Nigel Thomson (7 votes)
Third:	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Samantha'	Val Honeywood (3 votes)



OTHER GENERA		
First: ⇐	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Pink Sapphire' [N.R.]	Val Honeywood (11 votes)
Second:	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Ety Bay Flash Kathy' [N.R.]	< name > (7 votes)
Third:	<i>Aechmea purpureorosea</i>	Nigel Thomson (4 points)
	<i>Wallisia</i> 'Antonio' [N.R.]	Nigel Thomson (4 votes)

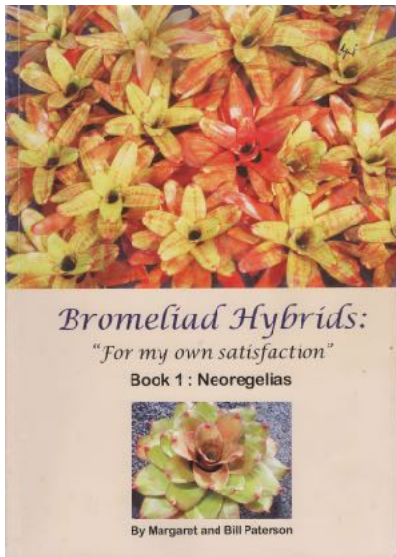
March meeting : Neoregelia is "Midi - 200mm to 450 mm", and Tillandsia is "Mounted"

Books in our library ...

Bromeliad Hybrids : “For my own satisfaction”

Book 1 : Neoregelias

by Margaret and Bill Paterson (2010)



There will be few bromeliad enthusiasts who have not heard of Margaret Paterson and her spectacular hybrids. Her specimens have found their way into all corners of the bromeliad world. This book represents her many years of devotion to creating new hybrids in the small to medium sized Neoregelias.

This beautiful book is valuable not only for its beautiful pictures, but also because it documents the prolific hybridizing work of Margaret over more than 30 years. A handy index lists plants by grex, pollen and seed parent, date and contains notes on naming, and other info.

A valuable tool for hybridizers and hobbyists alike. You may be surprised to find some of Margaret's hybrids in your collection that you did not know you had!

620 colour photos • 106 pages

Please note :

All books & magazines borrowed from the Library are to be returned in good order to the following meeting. If not on the wait-list, they may be re-borrowed.

FEATURE STORY ...

INTRODUCTION :

Two features this month, the first about the habitat of Broms in the rainforest and gives a good insight into why our specimens have varying needs. Secondly an article from the California on using Australian trees. ...

A Diagram of Bromeliad Habitats

By P. Raulino Reitz

(Reprinted from : BSI Journal 1959, Vol.9, No.5. , and F.N.C.B.G. - N.S.W Newsletter, January 2022.)

Thanks to a series of studies based on ecological observations made in southern Brazil, especially Santa Catarina, by Henrique P. Veloso and Roberto M. Klein, we have a clear idea of the habitat of the commoner bromeliads. It has been proved that bromeliads have no particular preference for any species of tree. There is only an indirect relation to the shape and size of the tree. If, for example, a certain species of wild fig, *Ficus organensis* (Miq.) Miq., has a taller trunk and longer stouter limbs that overtop other trees, then more sun-loving (heliophile) bromeliads will grow on it than on other trees. On the other hand, if a given species of tree prefers shady valleys, then it offers a more favorable ambient for shade-loving (ciophile) species.

On entering our forests one soon sees that certain species of bromeliads live only on the bases of tree trunks or on the ground, others only at the middle of the trunk, still others on the great limbs, and a final group at the ends of the branches. It is a perfect staircase of life, which has also been observed in the animal kingdom. A species falling from the outer branches to the ground, dies. Similarly, a ground species is seriously damaged if we raise it to the top of the tree.

The secret of these levels of life is the preference that each species has for certain intensities of light and relative humidity.

After detailed observation we can distinguish 4 levels in the distribution of species from the jungle floor to the treetops.

The first level is the ground.

On it live the ciophile species; that is, those that need little light and high humidity. They are most notably *Nidularium innocentii* Lem. var. *paxianum* (Mez) L. B. Smith and *Nidularium procerum* Lindm. They grow in enormous quantities in the forest shade, making the densest of green carpets, and on the bases of bushes and trees, especially on the buttress roots of the latter. These ground level bromeliads are partly responsible for the great humidity of the environment, since they hold an enormous quantity of water and form veritable hanging lakes.

The second or mid trunk level.

Here live the semi-ciophiles. From some six feet up the trunk nearly to the bases of the first limbs of the high trees there is a second level already less affected by the enormous humidity of ground level and with a little more light; it is also on top of the shrubs. This is the level of *Vriesea incurvata* Gaud., *Vriesea ensiformis* (Vell.) Beer, and *Vriesea carinata* Wawra. These species fasten not only on the tree trunks large and small but on the branches of shrubs and saplings that are below the lower limbs of the large trees. It is a space of about 25 feet in depth.

The third or limb level.

The species which we may call indifferent inhabit the space from the bases of the large limbs to their outer forks. They require a medium light intensity and slightly more humidity than the heliophile species. There are many more species at this level than at the others. The commonest are: *Vriesea jonghei* (Libon ex C. Koch) E. Morr., *Wittrockia superba* Lindm., *Canistrum lindenii* (Reg.) Mez, *Vriesea philippo-coburgii* Wawra var. *philippo-coburgii*, *Aechmea nudicaulis* (L.) Grisb. var. *cuspidata* Bak., *Aech. cylindrata* Lindm., *Vriesea gigantea* Gaud., and *Vriesea flammea* L.B. Smith. Here we find the species of the greatest stature like *Vriesea gigantea* Gaud. whose inflorescence reaches 10 feet, and *Vriesia jonghei* (Libon ex C. Koch) E. Morr. and *Wittrockia superba* Lindm.

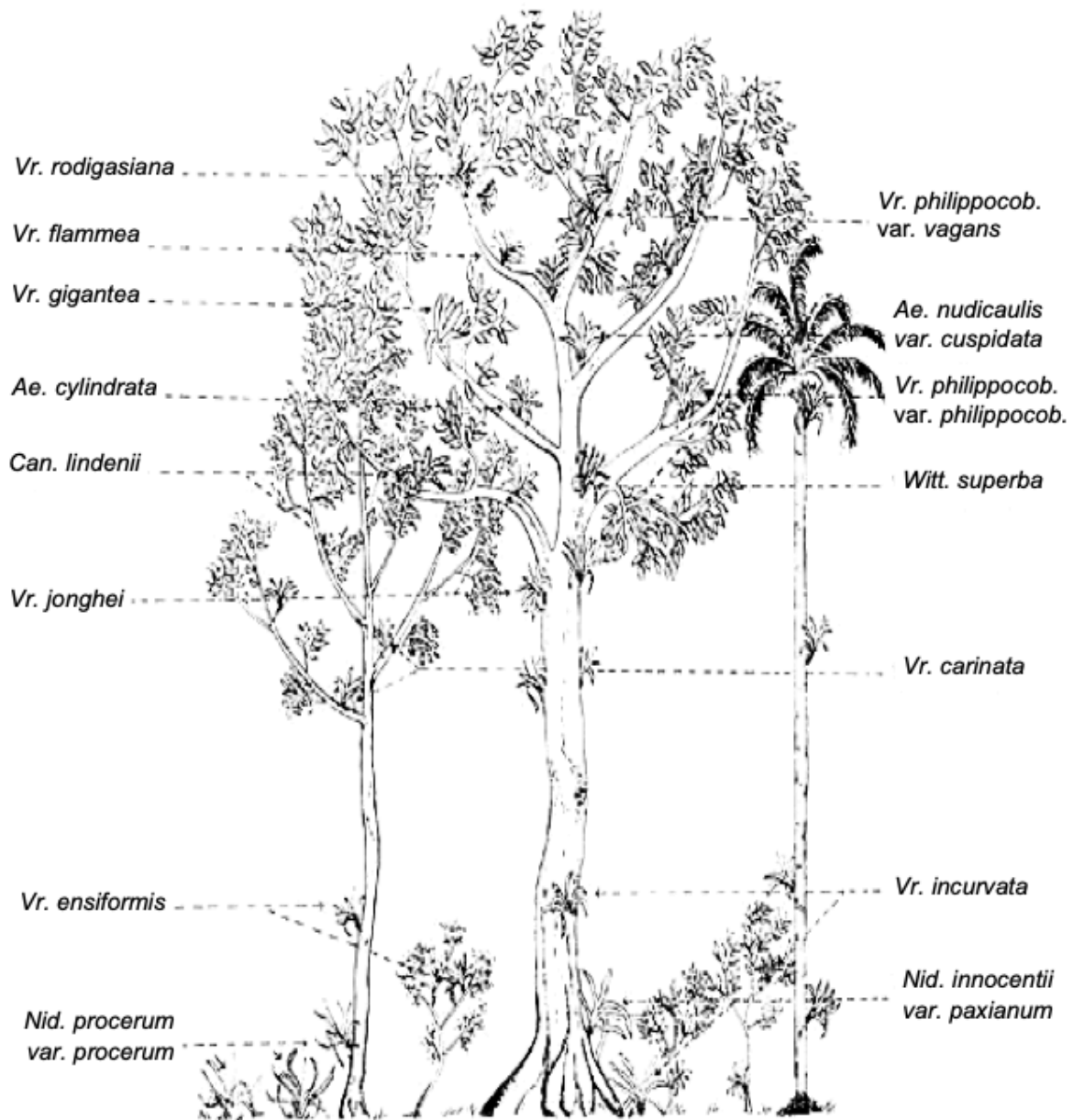
The fourth or branch tip level.

Here live the heliophile elements. They require great light intensity and relatively little humidity. They are principally *Vriesea philippo-coburgii* Wawra var. *vagans* L. B. Smith, *Vriesia rodigasiana* E. Morr. and various species of *Tillandsia*. These plants are directly exposed to sunlight.

It is important for the grower to know something of the ecological life of the bromeliads, especially of their habitat in relation to light and humidity, in order to obtain healthy and beautiful plants by cultivation.

The figure (*on next page*) shows the principal elements of a tropical forest in the State of Santa Catarina (southern Brazil) which reaches an average height of 80 feet. In these forests there can be distinguished the ground cover vegetation, shrubs (3-12 feet), saplings (15-40 feet), palms (up to 70 feet) and large trees (50-80 feet), all represented here. The placing of the bromeliads in order of their altitude on the trees is based on the observation of more than 100,000 specimens. All the species shown in the figure are indicated by arrows according to their altitude in the forest.

Itajai, Santa Catarina, Brazil.



Habitat of bromeliads in the forests of the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil.
(Veloso and Klein, *Sellowia*, 8:198, 1957)

Australian Trees For Bromeliads

By Andrew Wilson

(Reprinted from *The Bromeliad Blade*, newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society, October 2019)

During Robert Kopfstein's talk last month questions were raised about the tree materials that might be used for the mounting of bromeliads. That led to discussion of several types of Australian trees. While deviating significantly from the topic of the talk, the discussion did raise matters that are relevant to growing of bromeliads in our gardens. Here they are:

Eucalypts are toxic?

We see little vegetation growing under eucs in woodland areas such as Rancho Santa Fe, Scripps Ranch and in parts of UCSD. Is that due to toxicity of eucs for other plants? No, it's not. It's due to the effect of deep leaf litter which chokes understory plants and prevents seeds from sprouting by denying them moisture if they do sprout. It's not due to eucalyptus oils preventing the growth of other plants. When eucs were introduced into Southern California to provide lumber for railroads the trees were planted close together and the several species chosen had large leaves and came from regions with higher

rainfall than ours. As a result of these actions the leaf litter built up to levels not seen in their native habitat. In those parts of Australia where the climate is Mediterranean-type and the rainfall levels are low, similar to ours, the leaves and the trees are much smaller, grow widely apart and the leaf build-up is far less than we see in this area. Eucalyptus leaves, if shredded and allowed to decay, produce excellent material for potting. Shredded compost obtained from the city includes material from eucalyptus trees. It is not toxic to other plants. But, unless you enjoy taking risks, do not eat the live leaves. They can be toxic to some people.

Eucalyptus branches for mounting bromeliads

The trees provide excellent material for mounting bromeliads. There are nearly a thousand species and the branch and bark forms are very varied. For bromeliads avoid the species that shed their bark and choose the more suitable such as the ironbarks (see *E. sideroxylon* at right). These trees have a hard, deeply channelled bark that stays on the trees for many years allowing you to mount plants on the trees. If you mount on bark from cut branches, you'll need to drill a hole or two to insert a wire to hold the plant in place or you can simply glue it to the bark. That's a little more work than simply pushing an awl through cork but the euc bark is stronger.

How about Melaleucas?

Another group of Australian trees that can be very useful for providing mounting sites for your bromeliads are the melaleucas. Their leaves are not large, not spiky and not covered in resin. The best known species is *M. quinquenervia* which has thick, soft bark that is used by many Australian bromeliad enthusiasts. In this case you need to pull off the bark, a soft material that can be as thick as 6 inches. Mounting plants on the tree is impractical because it will shed large pieces of that bark every few years. Its bark is easy to work. An awl can penetrate inches through it and it accepts glue attachment well. Note that because it is not structurally strong it must be attached to a firm backing. The trees should be pollarded annually to limit height and encourage a thick, stocky base for better production of the soft, puffy bark.

And Tea trees

A third group of Australian trees that can help us are the tea trees (as distinct from ti trees) or, more accurately, leptospermums. Sometimes called tea trees after Captain Cook's crew, arriving on the east coast of Australia, brewed the leaves (of a different tree, *Melaleuca alternifolia*) for tea that was used for combatting scurvy and other medical purposes. Leptospermums are easily grown in our gardens. Ranging in size from shrubs to small trees they stand up well to windy conditions. Unlike the other two groups they do not provide thick bark materials. On live or cut branches the bark often loosens into strands, making glue attachment difficult or even impractical. It is easier to drill screws for hanging plants.

The large species, *Leptospermum laevigatum* (shown at the top of this article), with its long, arching branches and small leaves provides a moderately shaded cover and is an excellent host for tillandsias, aechmeas or neoregelias either attached, suspended or seated in crotches. It rarely grows taller than 20 feet and is often less. These Australian trees all belong to the myrtle family, *Myrtaceae*. They are easily grown in our area and are not spiny. In drier parts of South America where many bromeliads grow, small trees acting as their hosts occur in dry scrub and thorn forests. You can imagine how friendly they are. Fortunately in such a large region there are many gorgeous exceptions.



DIARY DATES FOR 2022 ...

FCBSI Monthly Meetings:

Date	Event / guest Speaker	Venue / Location
March 26	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
April 23	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
May 28	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
June 25	BBQ Lunch incorporating Monthly Meeting and Charity Raffle	Narelle & John Hoffman 287 John St, Maryborough
July 23	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
August 27	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
September 17*	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
October 22	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
November 26	Christmas Party	Kondari Hotel - Urangan

Events:

April 2/3	BSQ Autumn Show & Sale	Belmont Shooting Complex
June 8/12	World Bromeliad Conference 2022	Sarasota, Florida, USA
August 27/28	Proposed Bromeliad Conference (to be confirmed)	Kondari Resort - Hervey Bay
September 23/24/ 25	Hervey Bay Orchid Show	Xavier College - Eli Waters
September 24/25	BSQ Spring Show & Sale	Genesis College - Bray Park
November 5/6	FCBSI Monster Sale 2022	Senior Citizens Centre Totness Street

Note:

Unless notified otherwise, monthly meetings are on the **fourth** Saturday of the month.

Please BYO mug, plants you need help with, sales plants, Plant Of The Month entries, and raffle donations to our meetings.

Plant Sales @ Monthly Meetings

Plant sales commence at 12.30pm and pause when the monthly meeting starts (usually 1.00pm), then recommence during afternoon tea. Please remember that all sales finish at afternoon tea.

Plants travel much better in boxes or recyclable bags than plastic bags

NEW CULTIVAR REGISTRATIONS ...

The following table is a list of new cultivars registered by an Australian grower or by an Australian collector on a growers behalf since the last FCBSI newsletter.

Photograph	Cultivar Name	Hybridist	
	<i>Seed Parent X Pollen Parent</i>	BCR No.	State
	Neoregelia 'Open Up' <i>ampullacea X White Heaven</i>	Kent Jacobsson BCR_17039	NSW
	xNeomea 'Jacobs Gold' <i>Aechmea Roberto Menescal X Neoregelia ?</i>	Kent Jacobsson BCR_17056	NSW
	Neoregelia 'Stones' <i>Alcatraz x ? X Gold Fever</i>	Kent Jacobsson BCR_17064	NSW
	Neoregelia 'Secret Grove' <i>Purple Star X Purple Star</i>	Phythian, Alan / Vic Przetocki* BCR_17003	QLD
	Billbergia 'Pandora Pink Blush' <i>Talbot Eve X ?</i>	Neil Bain BCR_17010	QLD
	Billbergia 'Stormy Eddie' <i>Kolan Magicus X Kolan Magicus</i>	Neil Bain BCR_17011	QLD
	Alcantarea 'Genesis' <i>geniculata X Silver Plum</i>	Melissa Dilling BCR_17012	NSW
	Billbergia 'Jungle Rumble' <i>Rum Jungle X Spun Sugar</i>	Vic Przetocki BCR_17021	WA
	Neoregelia 'Rangeview Chuckles' <i>Rangeview Jasper X Persian Tiger</i>	Peter Kilpatrick BCR_170029	QLD
	Neoregelia 'Rangeview Red Ruban' <i>Black Opal X Red Cauldron</i>	Peter Kilpatrick BCR_170030	QLD
	Neoregelia 'Rangeview Shy Girl' <i>Black Opal X Persian Tiger</i>	Peter Kilpatrick BCR_170030	QLD
	Neoregelia 'Rangeview Pink Ripper' <i>Black Opal X Snow Tiger</i>	Peter Kilpatrick BCR_170087	QLD
	Tillandsia 'Rocky Red' <i>tricolor X concolor</i>	Peter Tristram BCR_17096	NSW
	xNeomea 'Blood Moon' <i>Neo. Black Opal x ? (variegated) X Ae. pectinata</i>	Kent Jacobsson BCR_17113	NSW

Data and photographs courtesy of the Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR)

AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING ...



A wet start to the AGM ...



Even drips inside ...



Lakeside at the hall ...



Plant of the Month display and members casting their votes ...



The AGM : the Executive table vacated, Giles our returning officer and the aftermath discussion ...



A quiet sales table ...



More of the plants on display ...

BROMELIAD SUPPLIES ...

Please note the Society has new Stock Sales co-ordinators and contact details from 01 March 2022.

The current **FCBSI PRICE LIST** as of 16-March-2022 is published below.

If you are running short and need something, it would be appreciated if you could contact Jan or Les on 0419 799 483 or email tintenters@bigpond.com to let them know in advance so they can have your order ready for you at the next meeting, or to make arrangements to pick your order up from their home (3 Lancaster Circuit, Urraween) prior to the meeting.

Item	Unit	Price per Unit	Status / Comment
SQUAT POTS, 125mm	(10 pk)	\$3.60	<i>New price - stock available late March.</i>
SQUAT POTS, 140mm	(10 pk)	\$4.60	<i>New price - stock available late March.</i>
SQUAT POTS, 165mm	(5 pk)	\$3.00	<i>In stock</i>
SQUAT POTS, 200mm	(5 pk)	\$3.50	<i>In stock</i>
HANGERS (4 PRONG)	(10 pk)	\$4.10	<i>New price - stock available late March.</i>
LABELS, LARGE, WHITE	(25 pk)	\$1.50	<i>In stock</i>
LABELS, SMALL, WHITE	(25 pk)	\$1.25	<i>In stock</i>
LABELS, LARGE, YELLOW	(25 pk)	\$1.50	<i>(For use on sale plants.)</i>
LABELS, SMALL, YELLOW	(25 pk)	\$1.25	<i>(For use on sale plants.)</i>
LABELLING PENCILS	(each)	\$3.60	<i>In stock</i>
PAPER SLEEVES, 140mm	(10 pk)	\$2.90	<i>In stock</i>
PAPER SLEEVES, 170mm	(10 pk)	\$3.40	<i>In stock</i>
PAPER SLEEVES, 200mm	(10 pk)	\$3.90	<i>New Price - In stock now</i>
FERTILISER	(500gm)	\$3.10	<i>In stock</i>

FCBSI PRICE LIST (as of 16 March 2022)

NOTE ... Prices may vary when new stock is ordered.

POTTING MIX ... Goff Loughran 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.

EDITOR'S NOTE ...

The Fraser Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. gives permission to all bromeliad societies to reprint articles in their journals provided proper acknowledgment is given to the original author and the FCBS Inc. Newsletter.

Opinions expressed in the publication are those of the individual contributors and may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Fraser Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. or of the Editor.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information in their articles.

