



FRASER COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

WILL BE HELD @ THE DUNDOWRAN HALL

ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2022.

Note : This is the 3rd Saturday in September.

Plant of the Month voting, plant sales, etc. will commence at 12:30pm followed by the meeting at 1:00 am.

Don't forget to bring a plant for 'Show, Tell & Ask'.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Neoregelia is "Mini - up to 250mm", and

Tillandsia is "Potted"

CONTENT OF NEWSLETTER

- Broms in the Bay 2022 Report
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members for September :



Michele Mapunda,
Maxine O'Shea, and
Sue Parker.

BROMS IN THE BAY - 2022

BROMS in the BAY 2022 is done and dusted and by all reports that we have received, it was a big success. Delegates attended from Queensland, New south Wales, Victoria and New Zealand.

THANK YOU ...

Firstly, thank you to our speakers - George Stamatis, Andrew Devonshire, Mal & Michelle Cameron, Val Honeywood, and John Byth who shared their knowledge and experiences with our delegates. They were all very informative and entertaining.

A highlight of the weekend was the 'rare plant auction' held on Saturday evening. Thank you must go to the sellers for provided us with a great selection of Bromeliads to bid on with broad spectrum of prices and varieties. A very big 'Thank You' to our guest auctioneer, Rob Murray from Brisbane who kept us all entertained with his banter and encouraging bidders to part with their money.

To Dani and the staff at Kondari Resort, the venue, service, accommodation and food was all excellent. Thank you for your assistance both before and during the Conference.

The sellers provided both the delegates and the public an opportunity to purchase some very desirable and collectable bromeliads to enhance our collections. Even though conditions were a little cramped sales were encouraging.

To the organising committee, thank you and congratulations on a great weekend.

So you, our members, can all be very proud of our Society for achieving this.

FRIDAY ... BUNK IN DAY

Friday saw the venue set-up, sellers establishing their sales area, the Fraser Coast Bromeliad Society Display constructed by Maxine and delegates arriving and socialising.

At 5:00pm, the sales area was opened to a frenzy of delegates buying plants from the various vendors. Space was at a premium and it was a bit tight for both sellers and delegates.

Although there were no formal events, most delegates remained at the hotel and socialised in small groups in the bistro for dinner.



*Our Convention display ...
another wonderful Maxine creation.*

THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS ...

Nigel started the formal proceedings by welcoming the 92 delegates attending the Conference to Hervey Bay, providing a brief history behind the Broms on the Bay Conference and communicating essential housekeeping.

He then introduced our first speaker - George Stamatis (who as a 9 year old used to keep coming to Nigel's Nursery in South Africa eager to learn all about the world of Bromeliads).

THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS ...

CONSERVATION THROUGH CULTIVATION ... George Stamatis

This topic was delivered over two sessions. The first session is quite depressing as it highlights the impact of climate change and habitat on the **bromeliad** family (Bromeliaceae). He highlighted some of the habitats that are particularly in danger, ie. The Atlantic Rainforest (Mata Atlantica), The Cerrado, (both in Brazil) and all the bromeliad habitats in Mexico are severely reduced and fragmented. He then outlined a way forward that we as collectors, growers and societies can help in the survival of the species.

Conservation through Cultivation ... Part 2, focused on the way forward for Bromeliad conservation by Australian and New Zealand collectors and societies.

He explained the Conservation Status table and its role in prioritising species. He noted that less than a tenth of all Bromeliaceae have been formally assessed by the IUCN. This is where the knowledge in our societies and networks to determine the likely conservation status not assessed.

The climatic zones of Australia and New Zealand were introduced and how they relate to the provenance of species in their natural habitat. He emphasised that plants of a species found over a wide geographic range, ie. Mexico, Belize & Guatemala, should be treated as different species to maintain locality variants. This also applies to district and regional variants of plants over a small geographic range. We as collectors and grower/sellers need to keep as much provenance information as possible. George discussed ways to broaden our local gene pool.

He finished discussing the creation of a Bromeliad Conservation document to help individuals and societies to make a start on the journey to preserve Bromeliaceae species that are currently recognised by the IUCN as 'endangered' or greater.

HYBRIDISING - THE JOURNEY CONTINUES ... Andrew Devonshire

Andrew began with a number of slides of Auckland Gardens that feature prominent displays of bromeliads. He went on to describe the Auckland environment and his east coast beach location saying it is definitely cooler than Melbourne on average but Auckland is warmer in winter.

He explained his hybridising methods from pollination, thru collecting seed, explaining how he uses artificial light and heat for germination and giving us a tour of his seedling house made of plastic and covered with shade cloth in summer.



The 'Zoom' hookup with Andrew in NZ.

We were then given an insight into his hybrids. He started out in the large tough landscape plants, ie. **Neoregelia 'Life Star'**, **Neoregelia 'Pacific Maui'** but he was soon running out of space. So to alleviate this problem, turned his attention to mini Neos. Andrew then introduced us to a number of his hybrids, often with anecdotal information. Below are some of Andrew's mini Hybrids:



Neo. 'Espresso'



Neo. 'Altura'



Neo. 'Ritzy Tiger'



Neo. 'Firestarter'

THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS ... CONTINUED

He mentioned that his slower growers, ie. **Neo. 'Life Blood'**, **Neo. 'Fever Pitch'**, give better stacking of the leaves. Neo. 'Fever Pitch' has been painted by an Auckland artist and also featured on the front of the 21st Australasian Bromeliad Conference "Kiwi Broms" brochure. Andrew then offered an insight into his "Mai" and "Sunfire" series of Neos.



Neo. 'Mai Purple Passion'



Neo. 'Mai Java Lava'



Neo. 'Sunfire Dream'



Neo. 'Sunfire Fever'

Finishing up, he showed us some of the Begonias and tropical plants that he had a bit of fun with during lockdown.



Neo. 'Golden Aztec'

FOOTNOTE :

Another of Andrew's hybrids, Neo. 'Golden Aztec' (pictured right) was released in Australia by Nigel Thomson at the Broms in the Bay 2022 Conference.

Andrew Devonshire 'Zoom'ed to us from 'across the Ditch', courtesy of Rob Murray's technological talents.

IN SEARCH OF THE HOLY GRAIL ... Mal & Michele Cameron

Mal and Michele took us on their journey to find the 'Holy Grail of Pattern Leafed Vriesea'.

Mal took us on a walk-through of their specially built 'Seed House'. A very professional approach to aid their quest to reach their goal. It is fully automated with misting and temperature control that varies across the seasons. It had the growers in the audience envious.

Mal then described the various stages of M&M's Hybridising. A very good piece of advice was to use pollen as close to the species as possible.

Stage 1 ... Pollination:

Keep as much information as you can, ie. time, date, plants crossed and their provenance. Label flower/pod on plant. He also went through the method and timing (long nights involved) required to collect pollen and impregnate the seed parent.

Stage 2 ... Seed Collection.:

Pick the mature pod just as opening. put into a paper bag or something dry. Label bag with details and include the label.

Stage 3 ... Germination:

Use plastic containers, put holes in the bottom and leave lids on for 9 months.

THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS ... CONTINUED

Stage 4 ... Plug trays:

At 9 - 12 months plant seedlings into plug trays.

Stage 5 ... Small pots:

Around 18 months Plant seedlings into small pots.

Stage 6 ... Selection:

Around 24 months seedlings are beginning to mature. Start looking at the seedlings to identify any variegations and margination. This process can take up to 6 years to show potential.

Mal then explained the time it can take to get to a stable pattern-leafed plant, for example, it can take up to 10 years and the 3rd generation plant for a plant with medium variegations. The more the variegation the longer the time.

Sometimes grex siblings from the same seedling batch can be taken to the third generation with differing characteristics, ie. **Vr. 'Colosseum'**, **Vr. 'Julius'** and **Vr. 'Caesar'**.



Vr. 'Caesar'



Vr. 'Julius'



Vr. 'Colosseum'

Below are some of their other beautiful creations that they brought along to exhibit to the delegates.



Vr. 'Zues'



Vr. 'Dream Maker'



Un-named seedling
Vr. 'Gulz' X Vr. 'Big Red Fosteriana'

Mal and Michele finished up showing some of their David Fell imports and their current 'work in progress' creating Vriesea hybrids.

Definitely some beautiful plants to look out for in the future from Mal & Michelle.

THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS ... CONTINUED

GROWING TILLANDSIA FROM SEED ... *Mike Miller*

Mike entertained and enlightened us with his 'down to earth, no nonsense' presentation on raising Tillandsia's from seed. He is a keen supporter of species conservation and keeping the species true to form.

Unlike other bromeliad genera, Tillandsia growers don't have to sneak around in the dead of night with torches to collect the pollen and fertilise the seed parent plant. For best results, collect the pollen from a plant that has a different clone parentage to your receptor plant. Tag and record details of both seed and pollen parent, date, time, etc.

When the seed pod is forming, tie a mesh gift bag or similar to capture the seed before the pod explodes so you can get it to control the release of seed. Tills are notorious for exploding seed pod quickly with weather changes, ie. warm, windy day. The best time to pick the seed pod is when the tip is just opening before releasing. This allows the seed to be removed in a cluster and the filament (fluffy tail) to be cut off before storing in a clean, dry paper bag/envelope with the date time and the previously recorded pollination details.

For germination of the seed, Mike uses small pouches that he makes out of a fine mesh. He soaks the seed in a very weak solution of Seasol for 4-5 days and then hangs them from a plastic carousel that he has made up. (Hint : Use philatelist's tweezers to handle seed. These have a flat surface unlike surgical tweezers which have a serrated surface.)

Make sure pouches get plenty of air, moisture and light. Fertilise occasionally with about 1/10th strength solution. If algae is an issue, use clean, tap water to rinse the pouches. Mike has used all the usual steriliser at varying times and has found fresh tap water gives the best results. He also mentioned that tank water (particularly low usage tanks) often harbours the algae. (*Note that the algae attacks the filament so it's removal can help prevent algae blooms.*)

Seedlings can stay in the pouches up to 12 months or more as long as they are not being restricted. Mike doesn't glue seedlings onto pegs, paddle pop sticks, After removing them from the pouches, he keeps them in either flat or seedling trays.

He finished by re-iterating a need to focus on keeping species true to form.

VAL'S JOY - BILLBERGIAS ... Val Honeywood

Val said she was very nervous at the beginning but soon her passion and dedication for the Billbergia genera quickly took over. She began by taking us on a walk-through of her 'Bill House' and the history behind how she got into Billbergias.

She presented many varieties of Billbergia from her collection, both her own creations and those she has acquired from local and overseas collectors and growers. She gave the anecdotal history behind a large number of them.

She explained how she like to allow her plants to clump but also explained how some are displayed best as single plants.

She has done a lot of hybridising and told us that Billbergia growers get more sleep than Vriesea growers.



Billbergia 'Val's Joy'

THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS ... CONTINUED

ALCANTAREA ... John Byth

John introduced us to the Alcantarea genera and told us how they are the 'Landscaping Bromeliad', ie. large. He then related to the audience his experiences of moving his collection from Brisbane to Woodford where he had bought a hydroponics nursery for his expanding collection.



We were given an insight into a selection of his hybrids and the trials and tribulations he had to endured bringing some of his creations to fruition.

Some of his creations, I noted during his presentation were - **Alc. 'Hawaiian Red'**; **Alc. 'Big Snowy'** and **Alc. 'Landscape Red'**. The story behind 'Landscape Red' was that the seedlings were watered by hose at one stage and they all laid down like the trees impacted by the "Tunguska explosion" in Russia many years ago. Only two of the seedlings survived. He showed the delegates a picture of them today producing some pups.

DINNER AND THE RARE PLANT AUCTION ...

The conference dinner and rare plant auction on the Saturday night was attended by approx 100 delegates and partners. At the Rare Plant Auction, twenty three plants went up for auction with most plants passing the reserve and being sold. Bidding was lively and Rob Murray, our auctioneer from Brisbane keeping the bidding alive and the audience entertained.

Following are some pictures of the night:



FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING :

❖ Hervey Bay Orchid Show

All members selling should have received the timetable including the show schedule and aerial photo of the site layout from Sue. For further information contact : Sue or Maxine.

❖ Membership Fees 2023

Membership for 2023 will stay at the current fee level ... Individual - \$10.00 and Family - \$15.00. However, the committee have decided to charge an administration fee of \$10.00 for those members who wish to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter by Australia Post Mail.

❖ Annual BBQ Lunch & Charity Raffle

Don't forget, this meeting/event has been rescheduled to Saturday 22nd October at Narelle and John Hoffmann's in Maryborough.

❖ Plant of the Month

The September monthly meeting is **Neoregelia** - "Mini - under 250mm" and **Tillandsia** - "Potted".


❖ Show, Tell and Ask!

Bring along your favourite plant and share its success with the other members.

Share it with others to see, learn and enjoy.

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	
	Seed Parent X Pollen Parent	BCR No.	State
	x Hohenmea "Koah Skitzo"	Draper, Ross / Sturgess, Ian*	
	Aechmea chantini (green form) X Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii	BCR_17355	QLD

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

DIARY DATES FOR 2022 ...

FCBSI Monthly Meetings:

Date	Event / Guest Speaker	Venue / Location
September 17 *	Monthly Meeting	Dundowran Hall
October 22	BBQ Lunch incorporating Monthly Meeting and Charity Raffle	Narelle & John Hoffmann Maryborough
November 26	Christmas Party	Kondari Hotel - Urangan

Events:

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 Tottness Street, Scarness
November 20	BSQ Tillandsia Day	Kedron Wavell Services Club Chermside
March 23/26 (2023)	Kiwi Broms - 2022 21st Australasian Bromeliad Conference	Waipuna Hotel Auckland - New Zealand

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.

* Please note, meeting dates marked with an asterisk have been moved from the regular fourth Saturday of the month.

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

BROMELIAD SUPPLIES ...

The current **FCBSI PRICE LIST** as of 12-July-2022 is published below.

Item	Unit	Price per Unit	Status / Comment
SQUAT POTS, 125mm	(10 pk)	\$3.60	<i>In stock</i>
SQUAT POTS, 140mm	(10 pk)	\$4.60	<i>In stock</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>In stock</i>
LABELS, LARGE, WHITE	(25 pk)	\$2.25	<i>In stock</i>
LABELS, SMALL, WHITE	(25 pk)	\$2.00	<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>In stock</i>
FERTILISER (Slow Release)	(500gm)	\$3.10	<i>In stock</i>
FERTILISER (Foliar)	(500gm)	\$6.80	<i>In stock</i>

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 prior to the meeting.

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

POTTING MIX ... Goff Loughran has potting mix for sale at **\$10** 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.

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