



# FRASER COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC.

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 Issue 04

April 2023

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Our monthly Society Meeting will be on

**SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2023**

**Venue : Dundowran Hall**

Plant & Nursery Sales start 12:30 pm.

Plant of the Month voting commences at 12:45 pm.

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm.

*Don't forget to bring:*

*Contributions to the monthly raffle,*

*Plant(s) for the Plant of the Month Competition, and*

*Your favourite **Neoregelias** for Show and Tell*

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following members for April :



Jan Hutchins  
 Jenny Menzies  
 Meg Pailthorpe  
 Karen Thomson  
 Bianca Markham

## **MARCH MONTHLY MEETING REPORT ...**

President Les H. got proceedings underway welcoming members and a guest - Lynne from Burrum Heads. This was followed by the birthday draw and Lucky Door number tickets being issued. Les then updated members on key points from the Management Committee.



Next was our featured genus - **Guzmania** as part of the “Show, Tell and Ask” segment. Les introduced the genus and a little about their care as per the book . He then presented 2 species for all to see that he found in the backyard and cleaned up, the first time they had been looked at since 🤔

David then showed a hybrid - Guzmania 'Ice Milk' ( see left ) and explained his plant care technique.

Unfortunately, no further plants were produced. Come on members ... the genus Neoregelia is being featured at the April meeting. My guess is that everyone has a Neo ( mini, midi or maxi) in their collection so bring them along for “Show, Tell and Ask”.

A video presentation - The Beautiful Bromeliad gave an insight into the amazing diversity of bromeliads. It started at the San Diego World Conference, followed by a visit the Pam Koide-Hyatt’s Birdrock Tropicals nursery, then onto an enormous greenhouse operation that specialises in bromeliads, finishing up at the home garden of an artistic landscaper. A very enjoyable presentation.

After a cuppa and biscuit, the winners of the Plant of the Month Competition were announced with a good selection of plants entered despite attendance being low due to the NZ Conference. Each of the owners of the winning plants gave a quick insight into their plant.

The afternoon closed with the raffle being drawn and many members going home with some new plants for their gardens /collections. Thanks to all members for your contribution of raffle prizes.

## **FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ...**

### **❖ MEMBERSHIP FEES 2023 ... A REMINDER**

A final reminder that Membership renewals were due by the end of December. These can either be paid to the Treasurer or through internet banking. Thank You to the many members who have already paid.

### **❖ MONTHLY FEATURED PLANT**

Please note that this month’s featured plant is **Neoregelia**. I’m hoping that members bring in at least one **Neoregelia** each to show ... it may be one of your favourite plants, maybe it’s not looking the best, or just an everyday plant. If you have another genus of Bromeliad you would like show us or ask a question about, they’re still welcome to be part of **Show, Tell and Ask**.

### **❖ PLANT OF THE MONTH - POPULAR VOTE**

The Management Committee have decided to simplify the **Neoregelia** criteria of the Plant of the Month Competition by condensing into two sections. These are:

- **Neoregelia - up to 250 mm, and**
- **Neoregelia - over 250 mm**

The **April meeting** will be the last “**Maxi - Over 450mm**”.

The **May meeting** will be “**Neoregelia - up to 250 mm**”.

## ***BROMELIAD TIP - FORCING FLOWERING IN BROMELIADS ...***

We all know that re-blooming a bromeliad adult isn't possible, but here are a few tips to get young offsets to bloom sooner.

- Add some dissolved Epsom salts to the cup once per month to encourage the production of chlorophyll and flowers.
- Forcing a bromeliad to bloom also requires an appropriate environment. Empty the water out of the tank/depression in the plant and encase the whole plant in a large plastic bag with no holes accompanied by a slice of apple, kiwi or banana. Tie the bag shut at the top and make sure there are no openings. These fruits give off ethylene gas, which will help force the plant into bloom.
- Keep the plant in the bag for 10 days and then remove the covering. Make sure the pot is kept in a shaded area as too much direct sunlight could damage the plant. The plant should bloom in 6 to 14 weeks with a little luck.

### ***ETHYLENE GAS***

It is the ethylene gas that is produced when the apple ripens that stimulates the bromeliads to bloom. There are also chemical versions of ethylene available. They can come in gas, liquid or a crystal form.

Unless you are a commercial grower you will most likely want to use the liquid form. Commercial growers often use the gas, but it is much more difficult to work with. Any product with the active ingredient of Ethefon will work and there are several products on the market. Spray the top surface of the plants with the mixture so they are just covered, but not dripping.

Alternatively, you can add about an ounce of the mixture to the central tank.

**SOURCE :** *The above article was reproduced from BROMELETTER ( Vol.59 No.7 Page 20 ) - The official journal of the Bromeliad Society of Australia Incorporated.*



*Left : A beautiful Bromeliad species in flower last month from Irene Lippross' garden.*

*( Ed : Thanks for sharing Irene. )*

*Below : A couple of other plants from the March meeting.*

*( Ed : Thanks for the pics, Val )*



## PLANT OF THE MONTH - MARCH 2023



*Neoregelia* 'Velvet Rose'

### NEOREGELIA - MINI

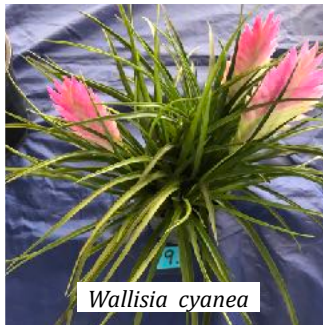
|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>First:</b><br>← | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Velvet Rose' [N.R.]  | Sue McDonald<br>( 15 votes ) |
| <b>Second:</b>     | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'John's Spots' [N.R.] | Alan Millar<br>( 3 votes )   |
| <b>Third:</b>      | —                                       | —                            |



*Vriesea* 'Pink Chestnut'

### PATTERN LEAF VRIESEA

|                    |                                     |                              |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>First:</b><br>← | <i>Vriesea</i> 'Pink Chestnut'      | Sue McDonald<br>( 8 votes )  |
| <b>Second:</b>     | <i>Vriesea</i> 'Bronze Star' [N.R.] | Maxine O'Shea<br>( 5 votes ) |
|                    | <i>Vriesea</i> 'Nova Queen' [N.R.]  | Maxine O'Shea<br>( 4 votes ) |



*Wallisia cyanea*

### FLOWERING BROMELIADS

|                    |  |                              |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <b>First:</b><br>← | <i>Wallisia cyanea</i>                         | Alan Miller<br>( 7 votes )   |
| <b>Second:</b>     | <i>Aechmea</i> 'Chantinii'<br>( dark form F2 ) | Val Honeywood<br>( 6 votes ) |
| <b>Third:</b>      | <i>Aechmea</i> 'Falkland'                      | Val Honeywood<br>( 5 votes ) |



*Tillandsia punctulata*

### TILLANDSIA - MOUNTED

|                    |                                  |                              |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>First:</b><br>← | <i>Tillandsia punctulata</i>     | Maxine O'Shea<br>( 8 votes ) |
| <b>Second:</b>     | <i>Tillandsia</i> 'Eric the Red' | Ray Gough<br>( 4 votes )     |
| <b>Third:</b>      | <i>Tillandsia</i> 'Samantha'     | Jan Hutchins<br>( 3 votes )  |



*Dychia* 'Yellow Glow'


### OTHER GENERA

|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>First:</b><br>← | <i>Dychia</i> 'Yellow Glow'                       | Jan Hutchins<br>( 9 votes )  |
| <b>Second:</b>     | <i>Billbergia</i><br>'Talbot Cherry Maple' [N.R.] | Val Honeywood<br>( 7 votes ) |
| <b>Third:</b>      | <i>Deuterocohnia</i> sp.                          | Denis Priston<br>( 3 votes ) |

**April meeting** : Neoregelia is "**Maxi - over 450 mm**", and  
Tillandsia is "**Mounted**"

## 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 |
|  | <b>Neoregelia 'Freckle Face'</b>            | <b>Bartels, Prue</b> |       |
|   | Vegetative sport of <b>Neo. 'Heat Rash'</b> | BCR_17534            | QLD   |

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

## BROMELIAD SUPPLIES ...

The current **FCBSI PRICE LIST** as of 01-February-2023 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>Low 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 )  | \$4.30         | <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 ) | \$3.45         | <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](mailto: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 ...** Sue Loughran has potting mix for sale at **\$10** for a 30 litre bag, and if you ring her on 0414 757 162 you can make arrangements to get some.

## DIARY DATES FOR 2023 ...

### FCBSI Monthly Meetings:

| Date          | Event / Guest Speaker                                      | Venue / Location |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| <b>2023</b>   |  |                  |
| April 22      | Monthly Meeting  | Dundowran Hall   |
| May 27        | Monthly Meeting  | Dundowran Hall   |
| June 24       | BBQ Lunch incorporating Monthly Meeting and Charity Raffle | Maryborough      |
| July 22       | Monthly Meeting  | Dundowran Hall   |
| August 26     | Monthly Meeting  | Dundowran Hall   |
| September 16* | Monthly Meeting  | Dundowran Hall   |
| October 28    | Monthly Meeting  | Dundowran Hall   |
| November 25   | Christmas Party  | Kondari Resort   |

#### Note:

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

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

### Events:

|                 |                                      |   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>2023</b>     |                                      |   |
| June 18         | BSQ Tillandsia Day                   | Kedron Wavell Services Club               |
| August 20       | FCBSI Field Day / Garden Visits      | Bundaberg                                 |
| September 23/24 | Hervey Bay Orchid Show               | Xavier College, Eli Waters                |
| Sept 30 / Oct 1 | BSQ Spring Show and Sale             | Genesis College, Bray Park                |
| Sept 30 / Oct 1 | Rockhampton Bromeliad & Foliage Sale | Robert Schwarten Pavillion<br>Rockhampton |
| November 4/5    | FCBSI Monster Sale                   | HB Senior Citizens Club                   |

### Editor's Note ...

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