



# FRASER COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC.

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 21 Issue 04

May 2025

### Office Bearers Contact Details

#### President:

David Ward  
[fcbspresident@gmail.com](mailto:fcbspresident@gmail.com)  
 Mobile: 0421 645 255

#### Vice President:

Giles Blaber  
[Giles.blaber@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Giles.blaber@optusnet.com.au)  
 Phone: 0411 721 559

#### Secretary:

Sue Loughran  
[fcbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fcbsecretary@gmail.com)  
 Mobile: 0414 757 162

#### Treasurer:

Janine Blaber  
[fcbstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fcbstreasurer@gmail.com)  
 Mobile: 0413 571 620

#### Committee Members:

John Hoffmann  
 Narelle Hoffmann  
 Les Hutchins  
 Vacant

#### Editor:

Kim Fitzgerald  
[fcbseeditor@gmail.com](mailto:fcbseeditor@gmail.com)  
 Mobile: 0409 122 490

#### Stock Sales:

Jan Hutchins  
[Ententers@bigpond.com](mailto:Ententers@bigpond.com)  
 Mobile: 0419 799 483

#### Life Members:

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

### May Meeting

**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**VENUE: DUNDOWRAN HALL**

12:30pm Plant & Nursery Sales  
 12:45pm Plant of the Month voting  
 1:15 Monthly Meeting starts

#### Show and Tell

**Neoregelia** are the featured topic for May, so bring along your plants for 'Show N Tell', also enter them in the Popular vote competition. You are encouraged to bring along other plants for 'Show N Tell' that are of special interest to you or that you are having challenges with identifying or growing

#### Variable Categories are:

**Neoregelia - Over 250 mm in diameter, and Tillandsia - Mounted.**

#### Content of Newsletter

- Reminders
- Management Committee Update
- Show and Tell & Presentation
- Out and About
- Plant of the Month Results for April
- Nursery Supplies
- New Australian Bromeliad Cultivars
- Diary Dates

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**MAY YOUR DAY BE SPRINKLED WITH THE SAME MAGIC YOU BRING TO YOUR GARDEN.**



Burnice Fluerty  
 Narelle Hoffmann  
 Hans Kruger  
 Stewart McDonald  
 Sue Murray  
 Judy Barfield

**REMINDER** Social & Discovery Workshop 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Janine Blaber 20 Manchester Court Dundowran Time: 9:30am – 11:30am. This is a wonderful opportunity for hands-on learning about diverse types of plants. Conversations thrive on excitement as we share experiences and explore different techniques to expand your garden knowledge. Bring laughter, smiles, and a sense of humour. Do not forget your gardening gloves, notebook/pen and morning tea. Drinks will be provided on the day. These workshops will be held every 2 months.

**REMINDER** Thursday and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May the 2025 Fraser Coast Agriculture Show (Theme Our Rich History) is at the Maryborough Showgrounds & Equestrian Park if you would like to attend. For those participating in the competition, please remember to take photos, best of luck and enjoy.

## Management Committee Update

**INTRODUCTION OF NOVICE** The Management Committee is introducing a new category of “Novice” for the Popular Vote Competition. The guidelines for this competition are: • Open to any less experienced grower • Plants of any bromeliad genus may be entered • Limit of 5 entries per novice • The overall winner of this competition at the end of the year will be progress to be part of the normal Plant of the Month – Popular Vote for 2026

**Neoregelia’s** are the featured topic for May, so bring along your plants for 'Show N Tell' and also enter them in the Popular vote competition. You are encouraged to bring along other plants for 'Show N Tell' that are of special interest to you or that you are having challenges with identifying or growing

The FCBSI Meeting date in September has been moved to **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. The Hervey Bay Orchid and Garden Spectacular is on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27, and 28<sup>th</sup> September.

## Show and Tell

### *Foliage Plant*



**Lorraine Ward** provided an informative insight into her pursued passion for two years with foliage plants ‘Syngonium’ (Araceae family). Syngonium plants are divided into two types: Runners and Clumping. If you are looking for a foliage plant to use in your garden landscape these are fantastic in rock gardens, compact mounds of foliage. Also climbing up trees or cascading over pots or hanging baskets. In general, these are easy plants to look after, they like dappled sun, and avoid direct sunlight,

as it can scorch the leaves. How to grow from cutting: Cut a stem root, and pop into the ground, keep moist and it will grow. Easy Peasy! Potting mix: Soil moist (not wet), if the soil is dry the plant will look stressed. Regular pruning of long or leggy stems will encourage bushier growth. Fertilising: Suggest feeding every 3 months with ‘Organic Life’ (100% organic) High-Performance Fertiliser Pellets. Alternatively 6 – 12 months slow release fertiliser such as Osmocote or Nutricote. If you have any questions Lorraine can assist. Don’t forget to share your experience with us of the cuttings Lorraine provide

Runners	Leaf	Conditions
Milk Confetti	Milky-green flecked with shades of pink arrowhead leaves	Bright indirect light and sheltered position.
Pink Mosaic -	Pink and green mosaic undersides take advantage of the undersides of the leaves.	Thrive in bright indirect light but will tolerate low light settings.
3 Kings	Striking minty green to creamy white variegated arrowhead leaves.	Thrives in lower light conditions, but bright, indirect light is ideal for vibrant leave colour and variegation.
Wendlandii green velvet (rare)	Arrow shaped leaf with a bold silver mid vein and has a deep green, velvety texture that feels as good as it looks.	Prefers bright indirect light, too much sun can fade the leaf colour.

*Foliage Plant continued*

Clumping Variety	Leaf	Conditions
Silver Fox	Unique, pale green to white-silvery leaves	Thrive in bright, indirect light and avoid direct sunlight.
Pink Lady AKA as Pink Passion or Pink splash.	Vibrant pink and green leaves.	Thrives in bright, indirect light, consistently moist (but not waterlogged) soil. It can tolerate lower light conditions; it will need more light to develop its full pink colour.
White Butterfly	Cream-white leaves compact clump	Thrives in indirect light, morning sun.

*Additional information*

**Common name:** Arrow head plant **Botanical name:** Syngonium species. The most common species are Syngonium podophyllum, Syngonium macrophyllum. **Other common names:** White butterfly, Arrowhead vine, Syngonium  
 REF <https://www.poisonsinfo.health.qld.gov.au/plants-and-mushrooms/arrowhead-vine-syngonium>

## Presentation



*Plant Presentation for Competition*

**Sue Loughran** studied for her judge's accreditation with Bromeliad Society of Queensland (BSQ) A great achievement for Sue as she shared experience and knowledge in this presentation. The segment was engaging, with members interacting with Sue that created an atmosphere that was inspiring. The wealth of knowledge at the meeting, sharing tips and fun facts about bromeliads was outstanding. Sue explained that displaying plants for a feature at an event is not the same as competition.

**Ribbons out of 100**

95 - 100 blue

90 – 94 Purple

85 – 90 Red

Judged

### Plants

- Plants must be registered with BCR or registry and the correct spelling
- No marks on the plant e.g. blemishes
- If the leaf is dry, wipe with water down to the stem
- Single plant entry - Plant must be center of the pot
- Multi plant entry – Not required to be center of pot as plant is connected to mother
- Potting mixture to be level with the plant

### Pots

- Proportion of the plant equals the size of the pot (1/3 plant to pot size)
- You can double pot your plant, if it can't be seen/visual.

### Judging

- If a judge has a plant in that criteria section that is being judged, they are not allowed to vote.
- Maturity of the plant vs half grown
- Rarity of the plant and the difficulty of growing is considered
- Travel damage of plant vs major damage is also considered
- Symmetry of the leaves of the plant

Topic	Material Used	Method	Results
Pot cleaning	Baby oil WD40 Olive Oil or spray	Wipe on wipe off, then do again. Any stickers on the pot will slip off	Super clean glowing pot
Leaf damaged	Old leaf of bromeliad	Put the old leaf on top of the damage leaf and cut/trim around	Provides a similar shape of the leaf
Scale	Exfoliating gloves	Wet and wipe where the scale is on plant. Repeat till removed	Scale removed
Plant clean	Insecticide Searles Conguard or Spectrum 200SC or Surefire Fortune 500 EC	Turn plant upside down and dip into mixture and use tweezers if necessary	Kills pests on contact free of bugs and clean

## Out and About

### *Celebrating Sue Loughran and Nigel Thomson success*

Preparing for the Bromeliad Society of Queensland (BSQ) involves ensuring bromeliads are in top condition meeting the rules of the competition. Getting ready is no mean feat as a list is required and ticked off before leaving for the 3-hour trip down.

- Essentials like fuel, refreshments, comfortable clothes, drink bottle and bits and bobs.
- Plant tags are made and placed in the car in a secure place.
- Car Playlist 'Hopelessly devoted to you' by Oliva Newtown, 'Paradise' by John Farnham, 'Maniac' by Michael Sembello, 'Tonight's going to be a good night' by Black Eyed Peas, and 'Can't stop this feeling' by Justin Timberlake all help to lift spirits and excitement.

Now to think about how to transport the different shapes, sizes and symmetry of Bromeliads?

- Find a friend, who has a van set out to carry plants, once found, ask if they could transport your precious cargo do not forget to smile.
- Carefully place pots in a carry plant basket (based on size of pot used)
- Use paper sleeves to protect the leaves/plant and carry (FCBS sell different sizes see Jan Hutchins)
- Other techniques such as wet old bed sheets to cover the plant to keep cool, cover car windows with visor.

Oh, and do not forget the water spray bottle, and towel these are a must for the any travel trip!

Upon arrival at venue, hearts are racing as plants are swiftly placed on the judge's table. This is the final chance to spray water for a gleaming shine and wipe down. Plant tags are placed correctly not to take the focus off the plant. Anticipation is high with many stunning entries on display. Sue, Nigel, and other contestants walk around, congratulating everyone, showcasing camaraderie, friendship, and respect among growers.

The judges are about to announce their decisions. The crowd's anticipation and excitement were palpable, with mobile phones ready to capture the moment. *(How times have changed it used to be a box brownie camera)*

	<p><b>Grand Champion</b> won by Sue Loughran at the Autumn Show 2025 beautiful grown <i>Tillandsia xerographica</i></p>		<p>Sue and Barry Hagedorn Presented Sue with a stunning photo frame of her achievement.</p>		<p>Sue Loughran won the Olive Trevor Cup for <b>Champion Bromeliad of Show</b> with <i>Tillandsia xerographica</i>.</p>
	<p><b>Reserve Champion Bromeliad</b> Nigel Thomson at the Autumn Show 2025 beautifully grown <i>Vriesea Chocolate Raspberry</i></p>		<p><b>Patrons Award Members Own Hybrid</b> won by Nigel Thomson at the Autumn Show 2025. <i>Miniature Neoregelia</i></p>		<p><b>Best Bromelioideae</b> Nigel Thomson won for <i>Billbergia Talbot Cherry Maple</i> at the Autumn Show 2025.</p>

And then..... drinks  dinner  and Saturday night life. 

On the way home playlist, 'Celebration' by Kylie Minogue, 'I'm on top of the world" by Imagine Dragons and 'Happy' by Pharrell William and let us not forget 'Simply the best' by Tina Turner.

Let us join in celebrating with Sue and Nigel in their achievements in the vibrant world of bromeliads that they are so passionately represent. I am sure Sue and Nigel will enjoy chatting with you about their experiences and achievements.

## Out and About (continued)

### Weather Conditions



Despite the pouring rain, Kim Fitzgerald could not resist a mission in Bunnings. A lady had shared her experience of finding a great purchase, which was the gardenia named 'True Love' for \$10.01 from \$24.95. I went outside with the trolley, placed the plants on the ground to determine which one was best, and then put them in the trolley. When I got back under shelter, after picking out four, I realised I needed an odd number, so I braved the torrential rain again to get one more, voila crisis averted.

Drip drip down my back, drip drip my hair was flat, drip drip my shoes went splat, Drip drip why did I do that!



**Cyclone Alfred** I found a bromeliad Guzmania 'Sir Albert' that could be added to your collection to represent Cyclone Alfred 2025. **Genus's description** Guzmania are stemless evergreen perennials forming a rosette of leathery strap-shaped leaves, with spikes of tubular white or yellow flowers and showy bracts, in summer. Native to GB and Ireland. Consider booking your next holiday to Great Britain or Ireland to pick up a few. Organise your people to talk their people then back into Australia they come. Bonza! If only it was that easy. This bromeliad would make a striking addition to your garden. (Photo Dreamtime.com)

### Plant of the Month -April 2025

NEOREGELIA UNDER 250MM DIAMETER			
	<b>First</b>	NEOREGELIA Totara Red Storm	Nigel Thomson (12 votes)
	<b>Second:</b>	NEOREGELIA Heat Wave	Val Honeywood (6 votes)
	<b>Second:</b>	NEOREGELIA Rise and Shine	John and Narelle Hoffmann (5 votes)
PATTERN LEAF VRIESEA			
	<b>First:</b>	VRIESEA Gold Pillow	Stan Walkley (9 votes)
	<b>Second</b>	VRIESEA Chocolate Raspberry	Nigel Thomson (7 votes)
	<b>Third:</b>	VRIESEA Dillings (Hybrid)	John and Narelle Hoffman(4 votes)
	<b>Third</b>	VRIESEA Bangkok Rose	Ron Murry (4 votes)
	<b>Third:</b>	VRIESEA Queen Ruby	Maxine O'Shea (4 votes)
FLOWERING BROMELIADS			
	<b>First:</b>	To Be advised June newsletter	(votes)
	<b>Second:</b>		(votes)
	<b>Third:</b>		(votes)

TILLANDSIA			
	<b>First:</b>	TILLANDSIA 'Dimmits Talent'	Maxine O'Shea (8 votes)
	<b>Second:</b>	TILLANDSIA 'Xeroerapica'	Sue Loughran (4 votes)
	<b>Third:</b>	TILLANDSIA	Jan Hutchins (4 votes)
OTHER GENERA			
	<b>First:</b>	Ssnucureggela Kaleidoscope	Nigel Thomson (9 votes)
	<b>Second:</b>	Ssnucureggela Cosmic Beast	David Ward (7 votes)
	<b>Third:</b>	Quesnelia Iron Clad	Jan Hutchins (5 votes)
SPECIES			
	<b>First:</b>	Pitcairnia Sanguinea	Maxine O'Shea (15 votes)
	<b>Second:</b>	Pitcairnia Smithiorum	David Ward (7 votes)
	<b>Second:</b>	Dykia Estevsii	Jan Hutchins (7 votes)
FOLIAGE			
	<b>First:</b>	<i>TasselFern (family Lycopodiaceae)</i>	David Ward (10 votes)
	<b>Second:</b>	<i>Begonia (family Begoniaceae)</i>	Giles Blaber (6 votes)
	<b>Third:</b>	<i>Alocosia (family Araceae)</i>	Anne Walsh (4 votes)
	<b>Third</b>	'Dragon Bone' Euphorbia	Ian and Kim Fitzgerld (4 votes)

**June 2025 meeting:** Neoregelia is **Under 250 mm in diameter**, and Tillandsia is '**potted**'

**Editor's Request:** Please include the genus name when registering plants, especially the Flowering Bromeliad & Other Genera categories and write clearly. This helps to identify under BCR and registry.

The raffle table keeps on giving this month with Bromeliads, and foliage plants and bananas to enjoy!



## BROMELIAD NURSERY SUPPLIES ...

The current **FCBSI PRICE LIST** as of **22-October-2024** is published to the right. Prices may vary when new stock is ordered.

If you are running short and need something, it would be appreciated if you could contact:

Jan or Les on 04 19799483 or email 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.

Item	Unit	Price per Unit	Status / Comment
SQUAT POTS, 125mm	( 10 pk )	\$3.60	In stock
SQUAT POTS, 140mm	( 10 pk )	\$4.80	In stock
EXTRA SQUAT POTS, 140mm	( 10 pk )	\$3.50	Available until stock depleted.
SQUAT POTS, 165mm	( 5 pk )	\$3.60	In stock
SQUAT POTS, 200mm	( 5 pk )	\$3.90	In stock
HANGERS (4 PRONGS)	( 10 pk )	\$4.10	In stock
LABELS, LARGE, WHITE	( 25 pk )	\$2.30	In stock
LABELS, SMALL, WHITE	( 25 pk )	\$2.20	In stock
LABELS, LARGE, YELLOW	( 25 pk )	\$1.50	( For use on sale plants. )
LABELS, SMALL, YELLOW	( 25 pk )	\$1.25	( No stock )
LABELLING PENCILS	( each )	\$6.00	In stock
PAPER SLEEVES, 140mm	( 10 pk )	tha	Back in stock
PAPER SLEEVES, 170mm	( 10 pk )	\$3.40	In stock
PAPER SLEEVES, 200mm	( 10 pk )	\$3.90	In stock
FERTILISER (Slow Release)	( 500gm )	\$4.50	In stock
FERTILISER (Foliar)	( 500grr )	\$6.80	In stock

## New Cultivar Registrations

There have been no new cultivar registrations listed by an Australian grower this month.

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

## FCBSI Monthly Meetings:



Date	Event / Guest Speaker	Venue / Location
<b>2025</b>		
May 24th	Theme: Neoregelia	Dundowran Hall
June 28th	BBQ Lunch and Monthly Meeting Guest speaker: Neville Ryan Theme: Tillandsia	Maryborough
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Guest speaker: Ron Murray Why do we pot that plant into that pot? Theme Vriesea – flowering or patterned leaf	Dundowran Hall
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Guest Speaker: Joy Duke Theme Foliage	Dundowran Hall
September 20 <sup>th</sup> <i>change of date</i>	Theme: Aechmea and Alcantarea <i>HBOS Hervey Bay Orchid and Garden Spectacular is on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September</i>	Dundowran Hall
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Theme: Bromeliad Species	Dundowran Hall
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Theme: "Most Dangerous (Spikey) Bromeliad"	Dundowran Hall

## Events:

<b>2025</b>		
September 26,27/28	<b>HBOS Hervey Bay Orchid &amp; Garden Spectacular</b>	
September 27 / 28	BSQ Spring Sale	Genesis College - Bray Park
November 1 / 2	FCBSI Monster Bromeliad Sale	tbc
November 4/5/6/7	<b>22nd Australasian Bromeliad Conference</b> Aussie Broms 2025 <i>Exploring Diversity &amp; Beauty</i>	Eaton's Hill Hotel Brisbane Queensland
December 13	FCBSI Christmas Party	tba

## 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