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*Northern Territory Bromeliad Society Inc. presents*

*Broms on Arafura Holiday Inn, Esplanade Darwin*

**Australian Bromeliad Conference, 7-10th April 2011 - Darwin**

Info: Harry Frakking Ph 0889881260 Email: [acacia@octa4.net.au](mailto:acacia@octa4.net.au)

*19th World Bromeliad Conference - New Orleans*

*July 26 - 1st August 2010*

Bromeliad Society International - Email: [bsi.org](http://bsi.org)

Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society - Email: [GNOBromeliads.com](http://GNOBromeliads.com)

**Hudson's Bromeliads Down Under**

*Bromeliads & Tillandsias* ABN 66 951 932 976

**Bob & Lynn Hudson 47 Boden St. Edge Hill Cairns**

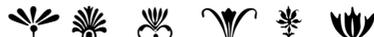
**Phone: (07) 40533 913** Email: [LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com](mailto:LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com)

*"Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree" by John Catlan.*

A 'must have' book to help you think and grow your bromeliads better.

One of the best \$10 you will spend. Available in bulk at reduced price.

Contact **John & Genny on phone 07 5546 1401** or Lynn on 07 40533913



# Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2010 # 2

P.O. Box 28 Cairns Queensland 4870 Australia

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Member Concierge	Greg Witheridge	0740322283
Popular Vote Steward	Karen Cross	0740545497



\*Honorary Life Member - Grace Goode O.A.M.\*

Life Member - Lynn Hudson

Life Member - Robert (Bob) Hudson

\*\*\*\*\*

**Aims of the Society**

**Promote and Develop Interest in Bromeliads through Friendship**

**To Co-operate with similar Clubs throughout the World**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership Fee:** \$15 single, \$25 family,

\$7.50 junior (if not in family membership). Country Member \$25

**Meetings start at 1.pm sharp first Saturday of the month.**

Please bring a cup and a chair.

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

**Plant Display/Sales:** To participate, a member must be financial and circumstances permitting, have attended at least three meetings in the past six months.

Where the society is charged a stall fee - 20% of sales are deducted for club funds. No charge venue & meetings - 10% of sales is deducted.

All plants to be clean, free of disease, named and price tagged.

**Show Plants:** Must be the property of and in the custody of the entrant for the past three months. For Society Shows the entrant must be financial and have attended at least three meetings during the past six months.

**Pens, Plant Tags & Pots:** available at each meeting.

**If reprinting article, wholly or in part, please acknowledge Author & Newsletter.**

Any article will be Emailed on request to [lynnie@ledanet.com.au](mailto:lynnie@ledanet.com.au)

Club Activities & Around the Members



**MARCH:** We gathered at Karen & Brian's on another very hot day but attendance was good. Members who saw Karen & Brian's amazing bromeliad collection for the first time were enthralled. The front is a picture with many bromeliads grown terrestrially and now formed to large attractive clumps. As with most growers around Cairns some of Karen's collection had suffered from our intense summer heat. Plants that had grown in all day sun, all of their lives had burned this year. A walk to the back provided another bromeliad feast and also there was the fern house! Wow, what a display.

\* It was a busy meeting and members were interested in details of the May learning weekend 'Bloomin Broms'.

\* The plants on show were amazing with a high growing standard and the presentation was excellent. Well done to each of you. Good to see Bernice & Mark entering and 2009 Novice Beryl taking first in Open.

**MINI SHOW- Flowering Bromeliad, any genera**

- 1<sup>st</sup>. *Tillandsia straminea* large form Grower - Bob Hudson
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Guzmania wittmackii* purple Grower - Darryl Lister
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Tillandsia juncea* large form Grower - Karen Stevens

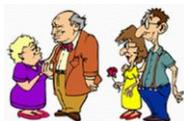


**POPULAR VOTE:**

**NOVICE:**

**Bromeliad**

- 1<sup>st</sup>. *Neoregelia* 'Grace' Grower - Bernice Mark
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Neoregelia* 'Imperfecta' Grower - Rob Giddins
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. {*Aechmea* 'Alvarez' Grower - John Mark  
           {*Neoregelia* 'Maya' Grower - Rob Giddins
- Cryptanthus zonatus* Grower - Marie Giddins



**Tillandsia** - Nil entries



**OPEN:**

**Bromeliad**

- 1<sup>st</sup>. *Neoregelia* 'Purple Star' Grower - Beryl Watson
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Aechmea comata* var. *makoyana* - Grower - Darryl Lister
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Billbergia* 'Strawberry' Grower - Karen Stevens

**Kids Quiz Answers**

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? e.g.abdomen.)

A: The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the Borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O, and U.

Q: Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section"

A: The Caesarean Section is a district in Rome

Q: What does the word "benign" mean?'

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes. A: Premature death.

Q: Name the four seasons. A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour? A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What does "varicose" mean? A: Nearby.

Q: What is the fibula? A: A small lie.



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Good friends are like stars....you don't always see them, but you know they are always there



Aristotle: "We are what we repeatedly do,  
 Excellence then is not an act, but a habit."



People may doubt what you say but they will believe what you do.



## Growing good CRYPTANTHUS {by Lynn in 2002}

In 1998 I read the words of Olwen Ferris "I don't know why they don't grow cryptanthus in Cairns, the climate is so well suited to them". I liked them, I grew a few, they were just OK.

In 2000 Grace Goode said to me "I don't know why you people up there don't grow cryptanthus, they should thrive there". I kept growing them, they were ok but the majority didn't really impress me.

Then I sought more knowledge and found that cryptanthus in habitat grow as under-storey plants in rich leaf compost - they just love a good rich feed. So I fed them better and they were better. All this is common sense - so I decided I was going to grow 'goode' cryptanthus. Grace visited in our winter July, and my cryptanthus were ok but she wasn't impressed, then came spring and they really sprung!

A 'Silver Lila' caught my eye and I thought it was a fading 'Gold Dust' in too much light. The first leaves were long and thin, the central leaves were squat and really fat. I wished Grace were here as I checked the other plants. They were all responding to a good feed, I had never seen cryptanthus like these - and they were mine!

Cryptanthus basic growing was a good combination of mix and food. Cryptanthus, orthophytums and dyckias, the succulent type bromeliads, thrive in a rich mix that holds a little moisture but does not go 'sweet'. As bromeliads like an acid mix it is already 'sour' so they say it goes 'sweet' - yes, it smells yucky!

I use scoria, pine bark, sand, good potting mix, and fertilizer. I half fill the pot with mix, add fertilizer, fill the pot with mix, add the plant and fertilize again, then water it well. You may also foliar feed.

You need to work at a mix that suits your growing conditions eg. if you water twice weekly you will need more moisture holding content than if you water thrice weekly. You will know if you have them in too much light, as their lovely colours will fade. Yes, you can grow them very well as under-storey plants directly into your garden. They are one of the few bromeliads that will not lose their colour if chookie poo or 'Dynamic Lifter' is added to their mix.

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2010 - I happily showed members my cryptanthus and shared my findings for a good mix. At the Cairns WBC18 cryptanthus experts were amazed by the size and health of our plants. After seven years of wonderful plants we expect to see this standard - believe me growers, we grow them REAL GOODE!

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What is the difference between Bird Flu and Swine Flu?  
For bird flu you need tweetment and for swine flu you need oinkment.



## Club Activities & Around the Members



**APRIL:** We travelled south through our very beautiful countryside to Babinda. After all our rain it was bright green and stunning. We arrived at Darryl's without encountering rain and there we beheld a large house extension, it was marvellous. Did we miss the tarpaulin that filled with pockets of water for the guys to make one slight push to drench the girls? - the boys sure did! It didn't even rain! New members were amazed at Darryl's collection and sale plants, we had to drag them out of the shade house for the meeting.

- \* We had an influx of earwigs crawling over us - one of the joys of countryside living!
- \* There was an interesting assortment of billbergias in the mini show and it was hard to select one favourite cryptanthus as they were each stunning.
- \* Marie Giddins won the mini show with *Billbergia rosea* tall and fat yet elegant, with good splattered markings on the grey leaves.

### MINI SHOW- Billbergia

1<sup>st</sup>. *Billbergia rosea* Grower - Marie Giddins

2<sup>nd</sup>. *Billbergia 'Imriposa'* Grower - Karen Cross

3<sup>rd</sup>. *Billbergia 'Strawberry'* Grower - Karen Stevens

### POPULAR VOTE:

**NOVICE:** 1<sup>st</sup>. *Billbergia rosea* Grower - Marie Giddins

2<sup>nd</sup>. *Billbergia 'Nez Misso'* Grower - Rob Giddins

3<sup>rd</sup>. *Billbergia (vittata X 'Medowie Gift')* Grower - Rob Giddins

**Cryptanthus** *Cryptanthus 'Misty Glen'* Grower - Marie Giddins

**Tillandsia** Nil entries



 Club Activities & Around the Members 

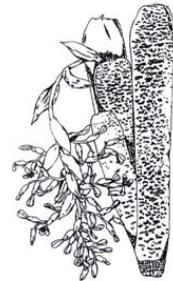
April continued

- OPEN: 1<sup>st</sup>. *Vriesea* 'Tiger Tim'** Grower Darryl Lister  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Billbergia* 'Strawberry' Grower Karen Stevens  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Billbergia* 'Imriposa' Grower Karen Cross,  
*Billbergia* 'Poquito Blanco' Grower Marguerite Sexton  
*Neoregelia* 'Moana Beauty' Grower Gail Taifalos
- Cryptanthus 1<sup>st</sup>. *Cryptanthus* 'Ruby'** Grower Marguerite Sexton  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Cryptanthus* 'San Juan' Grower Lynn Hudson  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Cryptanthus* 'Elaine' Grower Karen Stevens
- Tillandsia 1<sup>st</sup>. *Tillandsia* 'Silver Queen'** Grower Bob Hudson  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Tillandsia juncea* lge fm Grower Karen Stevens  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Tillandsia hondurensis* Grower Stuart Howe  
*Tillandsia bulbosa* Grower Gail Taifalos

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**Billbergia** are often the genera that attract humans to bromeliads. They come in all sizes, ranging from a metre to 12cm tall. Some flare at the top, some curl tightly and some curl just a little. The colours are amazing ranging from pure green to almost white, through purples to multicoloured in spots and with both longitudinal and crosswise stripes. With many growers currently hybridizing billbergia, this range is about to become enormous and very interesting.

The billbergias in the mini show were a good indication of the differences in the genera. The stately *Billbergia rosea* was very tall and fat but probably still a fair wait to see the magic flowering. The inflorescence firstly appears as a fat pink cone atop a white furry looking scape. It then proceeds to rise above the leaves, then as the pink banners open it becomes pendant and produces a sheath of flowers that can be over 30cm long. This is one of the 'watch spring' flowerers - the petals spring back to curl at the base of the stamen. Sometimes this can be seen as a fast shuddering movement. At the base of the flower the seed pods form as knotty balls and take months



before they are ripe and ready to harvest. [See 'Blooming Bromeliads' p.86]

Our society emblem is *Billbergia zebrina* and I finally obtained some plants from Allan Ladd. Two of the largest zebrinas flowered just after arrival - this is normal when plants are brought up to our warm climate. It was so good to be able to show members the 'real' *zebrina* with green petals that become yellow when they contract. Some were pretty interested as I had been presented with so many '*zebrinas*' that proved to be *rosea* and me saying "not *zebrina*".

Most billbergia are grown for their attractive leaves as the inflorescence being of striking contrasting colour is usually pendant and is short lived. It is easy to miss seeing the flowering.

The most well known is *Billbergia pyramidalis* or the "fool proof plant" and is seen in many gardens. The inflorescence is upright and compound, composed of many small flowers.

Billbergia are hardy, easy to grow and need good light to obtain colour in their leaves. They need little fertilizer and will lose colour if given too much. They attract bromeliad scale and need regular treating.

Karen Steven's 'Strawberry' has been very popular with three plants of cream leaves covered in spots of green, pink and brown. Karen Cross showed 'Imriposer', also a light coloured plant with white leaves and coloured spots. It is very hard to grow light leaved plants and keep them free of markings - KC had succeeded and really impressed KS! {I could find no registered details for this plant.}

Marguerite showed a pot of 'Poquito Blanco' a small brightly coloured plant that quickly clumps. Well done each of you.



**Nothing just happens or just gets done - Somebody has to do it**

