

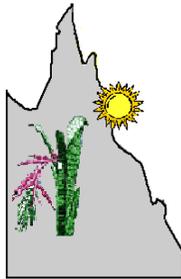


Bromelcairns

Newsletter - Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2008 # 1

P.O.Box 28 Cairns. Queensland 4870

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V-President	Thomas Jones	unlisted
Secretary	Lynn Hudson	0740533913
Treasurer	Sharron Miller	0740322283
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OIC Raffles	Karen Stevens	0740361086
Member Concierge	Barry Osborne	0740532047
Popular Vote Steward	Karen Cross	0740545497



***Honorary Life Member - Grace Goode O.A.M.*
Life Member - Lynn Hudson**

Aims of the Society

**To 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 Country Member \$25

Meetings start at 1pm 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 LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com



PRESIDENTS REPORT - 2007

It has been so pleasing to me to be president of such an enthusiastic group of people with the willingness to learn.

We have achieved so much in 2007 and at the same time had some good times with shows, sales, bus trips and with the huge effort from our own Lynn (BSI Director), we had an extremely successful Australian Conference at Port Macquarie in NSW. From this we cleared just over \$10,000 and it will be used to help fund the 16th World Bromeliad Conference.

I congratulate all the winners of trophies and prizes from our Shows and Popular Vote sections of our programme.

A very big "Thank You" to my committee for their assistance during the year. A special thank you to Marguerite who has been our Treasurer for the past two years. We must always remember the committee members are volunteers and without their input we would not have a society.

I am really looking forward to 2008 with the BSI World Conference being held in Cairns and also being the first one to be held outside of USA - the work of our Lynn who put her hand up to run this conference. She requires all the assistance you can give now and at the conference.

Again Thank You to my committee who have assisted this society throughout 2007. Let us work together and make 2008 just great.

R.J. Hudson, President

Club Activities & Around the Members



FEBRUARY: We had good attendance for our AGM. As Bob was away at a family reunion we had Thomas preside for our first 2008 meeting – he was cheeky but pretty good. It was good to have Barbara & Brian Surman attend and Brian took the Chair for the committee elections – he is a much better auctioneer than president, believe me! Luckily all positions had just one nominee, so we survived and we have a few new faces on the committee. Sharron Miller is Treasurer, Stuart Howe our Librarian and Karen Stevens is OIC Raffles so she will have a busy 2008, and I am sure they are each quite capable of doing a good job. We also had five Visitors who said they would be back- we must have made some sense amid the laughter!

* There were just a few Popular Vote entries but they were well grown and well presented plants. Neoregelia 'Fairchild' was Lesley Davies first ever entry and what a real beauty. It is a hybrid from Neoregelia johannis and named by Dean Fairchild. It is large, with bright red tips and red mottling over the leaves and we look forward to the anthesis when the colour really deepens and it will flatten out. Well done Lesley & Tony.

* *Vriesea fenestralis* was perfectly formed "like a big rose" Karen said. It has more growing to do and I hope we will often see it before it flowers.

* Since Tony Scott rejoined, cryptanthus have really exploded in size. He brought in 2 fine examples but Cryptanthus 'Elaine' grown by Marguerite stole the votes. The plant is large, well formed and the pink edges vibrant. Marguerite also entered an excellent XNeophytum 'Galactic Warrior', grown from Brendan & Dave instructions – large and with good colour, well done.

* Sheryl whopped the till. section with a gigantic *Tillandsia fasciculata* – she will need the loggers to come in when it flowers!

* Gail entered a perfect Cyptanthus 'Ruby' & *Tillandsia 'Eric Knobloch'*. Do not be disheartened Gail, they are well grown plants and can win a show.

Popular Vote: Junior: Nil entries

Novice: Neoregelia 'Fairchild' – Lesley Davies

Open: *Vriesea fenestralis* – Karen Stevens

Cryptanthus 'Elaine' – Marguerite Sexton

Tillandsia fasciculata var. *fasciculata* – Sheryl Cavanagh



Three Bromeliads – three Neoregelias – three Species



Neoregelia compacta is a well known plant, usually referred to in terms of 'that green plant that goes red in the centre', 'that one that grows up the tree' etc. It has green leaves that will go yellow if grown in all day sun. It is adaptable to most situations - shade, sun, along the ground, up a tree or post, potted or just left anywhere. The leaves usually grow to 20cm long and the centre turns red at anthesis. It reproduces on stolons with each plant easily providing at least four more plants.

Neoregelia mcwilliamsii The first time Karen saw one of these she said "look at that huge *Neoregelia compacta*" – good description. Again a green plant with leaves 40cm long, 8cm wide, reproduces on stolons, will 'climb' a tree or post, also goes red in the centre, spreading to one third the length of the leaf.

Neoregelia eltoniana is about the same size as *compacta* but the leaves are thicker. It reproduces on stolons, at anthesis the plant stays cup-shaped, centre goes more orange than red and the seed pod top also turns dark orange.

Tillandsia cyanea are in spike but not in flower yet. The ones I imported from USA with the triangular paddle are also in spike and again four of these have 4 sides.

Happy New Year

May peace break into your house and may thieves come to steal your debts;

May the pockets of your jeans become a magnet for \$100 bills;

May love stick to your face like Vaseline and may laughter assault your lips;

May your clothes smell of success like smoking tyres;

May happiness slap you across the face and may your tears be that of joy; and

May the problems you had, forget your home address!

In simple words

May 2008 be the best year of your life!!!



Blessed are the cracked, for they are the ones who let in the light.



General Plant Propagation

by John Catlan

A long, long time ago, 1950's mist propagation of general nursery lines hit the nursery scene. The cry of the nursery owners was that the market would be flooded with plants and that they would be so cheap no one would make a living. It did not happen. The limiting factor is manpower (wages) and space (capital).

A long time ago, 1960's tissue culture hit the nursery scene and the cry of the nursery owners was that the market would be flooded with plants and they would be so cheap no one would make a living. It did not happen. The limiting factor is manpower (wages) and space (capital).

Certain plants are easier to produce from tissue than others. With crop lines where millions of plants are required (strawberry production in Milan) research has streamlined this production therefore cutting costs. Tissue culture is the removal of a growth eye, this eye is then sterilised so that all fungi are destroyed but the eye will still grow. The eye is then placed in sterile nutrient that causes multiplication. This is time consuming and fifty percent plus becomes contaminated and has to be destroyed. They are then replanted in nutrient that produces plants with root. This procedure cannot continue ad infinitum as there will be deterioration of colour and growth. You have to go back to taking fresh eyes from original stock. They are then transplanted into pot culture usually using a misting system. Our plant patent laws appear to allow plants produced this way to be covered by plant patent. There are not that many bromeliads produced using this method.

The more usual way that bromeliads are produced in flask is a seedpod from line breeding (plants almost identical) prior to opening but mature is sterilised. This is relatively easy as the seedpod protects the seed and the seed within the seedpod is sterile until the seedpod is opened. The seedpod is opened under sterile conditions and sown on a growth medium. When seedlings are large enough, plants are transplanted into pot culture. Our plant patent laws do not appear to allow plants produced this way to be covered by plant patents. The majority of bromeliads that we consider as being produced by tissue culture are being produced this way. There is confusion between patented plants and plants that are patented.

Of the bromeliads that find themselves into our collections, very few have been produced by tissue culture. As a matter of fact very few of our collector plants will come from production nurseries. As the nurseries grow in size, collector plants will play second fiddle to production plants and as customers, collectors will become a nuisance. If collectors are not treated as preferential customers, they will become disenchanted with nurseries. Looking elsewhere for a source of plants, they will turn to other collectors and they will meet them at the clubs.

Our club (Gold Coast) has been encouraging its members to produce plants for our trading table at meetings and shows and it is starting to pay off. As collectors acquire desirable plants, it is in their interest to produce plants that may be used in exchange through the trading or direct with other collectors.

From "Bromlink" - Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society M/A 2006, p.12

Billbergia For many bromeliad growers billbergia was the first genera that attracted them to our favourite plants. They range from plain green through a colour kaleidoscope to brightly spotted pink, white and purple hybrids. They are grown mainly for their leaf colours as the inflorescences are highly coloured, but do not last very long.

Billbergias – subgenus *Helicodea* These large billbergia grow 5-6 leaves to one metre tall and have recently created interest as we have had some flower, the latest being *Billbergia rosea*. I had hoped one was *zebrina* and although the scape bracts were vivid pink, the flower petals were green not yellow. Now the colours of the flowers and scape bracts have gone I am left with a chain of fat seedpods that most people find interesting.

In 'Bromeliana' vol.44 # 8 Herb Plever wrote an interesting article discussing light requirements for billbergia to achieve good colouration. The following is an extract

"Many billbergias in habitat have green leaves, sometimes accompanied by some horizontal silver barring. Most of these appear to grow epiphytic and somewhat shaded in forests at relatively low altitudes, eg. *Billbergia nutans* and the helicoid *Bill. decora*.

In fact most of the species of subgenus *Helicodea* do not sport very vivid leaf colour or bright markings, though many have silver bars. The helicoid billbergias, with petals coiled up like watch springs, are distributed randomly over Central and South America. The species of subgenus *Billbergia*, however are mostly found concentrated in southeastern Brazil. ... I still have not been able to come up with a clue to what evolutionary advantage, if any those coiled petals have. As the coiling fully exposes the stamens and stigma, you would think that this would facilitate fertilization by various pollinators, an evolutionary advantage.

Instead we are faced with a strange anomaly: The species of subgenus *Helicodea* with coiled petals have colourful primary bracts which can last in colour for 2 weeks, yet many helicoids create seed only by self fertilization; their stigmas are receptive only to their own pollen. This self-compatibility is genetically controlled.

In contrast, many of the species of subgenus *Billbergia* are self-incompatible, and they must rely on cross-pollination from the pollen of another plant carried by pollinators to set seed. This is even stranger when you consider that the colourful primary bracts of many of the species of subgenus *Billbergia*, clearly adapted to attract pollinators, are short-lived and fade after 3 to 5 days. In some species the bract color fades even before anthesis when the flowers open and the stigmas are ready to accept pollen.

Dr. Benzing comments with regard to this issue .. that some evolutionary advantages are gained at a cost. It occurs to me that this anomaly may be the reason for the development of leaves with bright white and colourful blotches and spots by those species of subgenus *Billbergia*. The vivid markings can attract certain pollinators even after the primary bracts have faded."

(If someone out there has *Billbergia zebrina* may I purchase one/two please as it is Cairns Society emblem?)



Conference Cauldron

Countdown – just 4 months !!

Many Delegates have moved into the excitement mode.

At beginning of February we had 304 Delegates registered, and they continue to arrive in Dan's mailbox. The \$US165 rate ends on 30th April 2008, then becomes \$US200, so get those forms in. The room holds 600 Seminar style, Banquet 400 – we still have plenty of room.

Those who have registered have received a six page letter with lots of information and some forms to be completed and returned to me. If your form is not returned, please do so as I need the information for planning.

Monster Raffle is now open with 20 prizes, the lowest prize value being \$30. Tickets are available at all societies and from me.

Seminars will be on Friday & Saturday with local gardens tour on Sunday, culminating with the Banquet at 6.30pm. There are still some persons who expect a conference to be too technical for average growers. This certainly is not the case; a bromeliad conference is fun, learning, plants and friendship for every grower. Join us, you will have fun while you learn.

Each registrant is encouraged to bring at least one plant for the competitive Show and some sale plants. Displays by societies, nurseries and hobbyists will festoon the foyer in a feast for the soul. The Sales section will be open to the public on Friday & Saturday afternoons & on Sunday morning.

The Show Schedule and Registration Forms are available online. I am aware some readers for several reasons cannot attend society meetings but are eager to attend the conference. Feel free to contact me by email, telephone or snail mail for forms or information. If you are on line I will be putting all information on the website and forms are downloadable on the BSI site www.bsi.org and the event website www.bromeliadsdownunder

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Email: lynnhudson@bromeliadsdownunder.com

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The Ones who keep the Conference boat afloat



The WBC Donors @ 24/2/08

Society Donations

Bromeliad Society of New South Wales	\$1500 !!
Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society	\$ 500
Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society	\$ 250
Northern Territory Bromeliad Society	\$ 200
Bromeliad Society of South Australia	\$ 180



Business Donors

- Cairns City Council - \$2000
- Cristaudo's Industrial Electrics \$250 (solicited by Elaine Asher)
- Woree Hotel - \$50 Meal Voucher, Wine & accessories (Brian Stevens)
- Alsco Pty Ltd - \$150 & Set of Bath towels (solicited by Karen Stevens)

Monster Raffle Donors

- Olive & Len Trevor - \$100 of bromeliads
- Barbara & Brian Surman - \$50 Bunnings Voucher
- Bob Hudson - \$50 of tillandsias
- Margaret Draddy - 2 Towel sets
- Lynn Hudson - plants & witch
- Cairns Society - Books, CD, Garden Packs.



Plus Each ticket Buyer & Seller – You are also Donors!

Jeanette & Patrick Robertson – Show Prizes

Karen Cross – Show Prize

Thank You to each & every Donor



Show Plants.



The first rule is **clean it!** Many times we cannot stop grasshoppers from nibbling or almost completely deleting our plants but we can wash our plants. To enter a dirty plant in a show is unforgivable and an insult to the Judge. You will lose many points. Clean it before you remove it from the pot as it is secure and easier to work with.

Clean it completely, preferably months before the show. First hose it out thoroughly. Use a few drops of mild washing up liquid. Make sure the cupped bases of the leaves are clean. A small long handled paintbrush is good - do not cut the leaves with the metal hair holder. An old pair of undies is perfect for rubbing dirt and algae off the leaves.

If your plant has had green slime in the centre you could have white patches on the leaves. The green slime is simply algae from the water and sun, and it turns white when it dries and is like thin tissue paper. It must be wetted to remove, use damp soft cloth and wipe to the outside of the leaf. You may need to do this several times as some can adhere and not reveal until it is dry. You will be surprised how much grot will be hidden in the leaves and amazed at the new sheen of a cleaned plant.

Repot if the plant is not in the centre of the pot. Repot if the pot is tatty. Repot if the plant is wobbly - check the mix, maybe it is not suitable and your plant has not grown roots.

Leaf Removal. At this stage only remove the bottom tatty leaves, leave any that will need to be trimmed. On large neoregelias with heavy leaves, leave as many as you can - removal of one will cause the next one to drop and this can continue! Best to leave it until entry day, even until you get to the hall.

Leaf Trimming - do not trim leaves until the afternoon before or on entry day as usually the edges go brown. Use an old leaf as a template, trim to a natural shape, do not cut it straight across.

To get even colour place the plant in good light and turn the plant around regularly, say 1/4 each week.

The judge will look for the correct growth for that bromeliad, good colour & shape, cleanliness in both plant & pot. Cut potholes in the bottom of a polystyrene box, turn it upside down and keep your plants from rolling around the car floor.

You can do it; it just takes a little time. Good Luck.



Summertime



When summer hits Cairns there are no "lazy, hazy days of summer" - now is payment time for living in our beautiful slice of Paradise. It is just bloody hot and uncomfortable and our plants agree and some even react as we do.

Some just fade out their colour to cope; some go all droopy; some sit quietly doing nothing and suffering in silence; but then it cools down all return to their normal - bright and happy.

Some carry the scars of summer, brown papery patches that we know as sunburn. Human sunburn can heal but leaf burn is permanent.

Many growers have said their plants have burned, even those that have been in our 'all day sun' all of their lives. The sun just seems to be hotter this year; I have had some burned through our 70% shade cloth. I have had some cook - the water in the centre apparently too hot and the centre comes free! Add to this the grasshoppers are out again, any size and many colours and all with voracious appetites.

So we can always find something to whinge, whine and whimper about but at least our bromeliads reproduce and we can hope for kinder conditions next season. At least we have had rain!

~~~~~  
From Sharron Miller:

Quick Question - On which side of your car is your gas tank?

If you are anything like me, you probably can't remember right away. My solution is to uncomfortably stick my head out the window, strain my neck and look. If you don't do this in our own car you have probably done it in a borrowed car or rental car!

Here is a little information so you will no longer look like Ace Ventura at the gas station or put your neck at risk of discomfort or injury.

Look at your gas gauge; you will see a small icon of a gas pump.

The nozzle of the gas pump will point either to the left or right side of the pump. It is simple - If your tank is on the left, the nozzle will point left.

If your tank is on the right, your nozzle will point right.

When I found out about this I felt cheated! Why don't the dealers share such information with car buyers? I don't understand why it isn't in the driver's manual or my mechanic did not mention this to me? Do they know?

Share this with your friends; show them you are not just a pretty face!  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

*One saggy boob said to the other saggy boob:*

*"If we don't get some support soon, people will think we're nuts."*

## Chuckle Time

\* A man walked into the doctor's office. He had a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear and a banana in his right ear. "Doctor, what's the matter with me?" he asked. Doctor's reply – "You are not eating properly".

~~~~~  
* A Scottish farmer was in his field digging up his tatties (Scottish dialect for potatoes). An American farmer looked over the fence and said "In Texas we grow potatoes five times larger than that!"
The Scotsman replied, "Och, but we just grow them for our own mouths!"

~~~~~  
\* An Englishman, an Irishman and Scotsman walked into a pub together and each bought a pint of Guinness. Just as they were about to enjoy their creamy beverage, a fly landed in each pint and each became stuck in the thick Stout froth. The Englishman pushed his beer away in disgust.

The Irishman fished the fly out of his beer and proceeded to drink it as if nothing had happened.

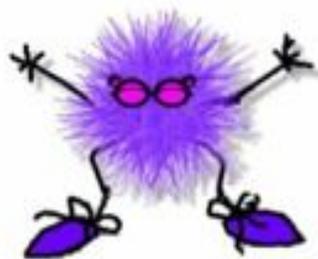
The Scotsman also picked the fly out of his drink, held it over the beer and started yelling "Spit it out! Spit it out you rotten thief".



### **Flight Steward's Quips**

\* On landing "Please be sure to take all your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

\* "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane."

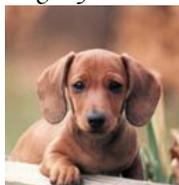


FRIENDSHIP PRAYER

May the fleas of a thousand camels infest the  
crotch of the person who screws up your day  
and may their arms be too short to scratch...

AMEN

From Dan Kinnard  
*Thought for the day*



*Handle every stressful  
situation just like a dog.  
If you can't eat it or lump it..  
Piddle on it and walk away.*

Yes I changed two of the words but the message is still the same!

*Laughter is the brush that sweeps away the cobwebs of the heart*



**Megan & John Welch**

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**Bob & Lynn Hudson**  
**Phone: (07) 40533 913**

**47 Boden St. Edge Hill Cairns**  
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*Bromeliads XV*

*'Bromelaide' 10-13<sup>th</sup> April 2009*

For details & Registration Form.

[www.bromeliad.org.au/BROMADELAIDE2009.htm](http://www.bromeliad.org.au/BROMADELAIDE2009.htm)

Come to our conference. Learn from the experts.  
See new plants. Buy plants. Sell plants. Swap plants.  
Make new friends. Enter the Plant Show.

Buy rare plants at auction. Ask questions. Have fun  
Store lots of memories to brighten your quiet moments.