



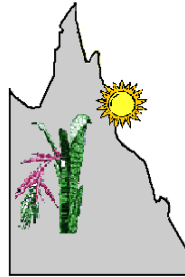
# Bromelcairns



Newsletter - Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2008 # 2

P.O.Box 28 Cairns. Queensland 4870

President	Bob Hudson	0740533913
V-President	Thomas Jones	unlisted
Secretary	Lynn Hudson	0740533913
Treasurer	Sharron Miller	0740322283
Librarian	Stuart Howe	0402832354
Editor	Lynn Hudson	0740533913
Editor Assist.		
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

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## Aims of the Society

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

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

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**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](mailto:LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com)

## Club Activities & Around the Members



**March:** We travelled south to Babinda to Paulita & Darryl's colourful garden where Darryl has always told us it rains every day. President Bob was his usual positive self, "tillandsia growers & bus drivers are good weather forecasters" vowing it would not rain. Ten minutes from Babinda light showers started but cleared just as we arrived. During the first half a few light showers did not interrupt us but when I got into the serious stuff - show plant preparation - I was drowned out, as it also got serious and just bucketed down!

\* Members had a good look among Darryl's excellent bromeliads and some fine examples now have new homes. He certainly has a knack for growing neoregelias - they are perfect.

\* Members voted against a stall at the Cannon Park Mother's Day function in favour of an April bromeliad stall & sausage sizzle at our Lakes Area.

\* Bob had a ripping time, showing how to separate Linda's Tillandsia 'Eric Knobloch' with two offsets - teasing them apart rather than cutting.

\* Bob also skited about his Tillandsia jalisco monticola x xerographica in spike. A large well shaped plant with compound inflorescence, just coming into flower. He promised to bring it in each month.

\* Delmae showed an Aechmea recurvata that had flowered and asked "what next?". It was shown as purchased, the mix a mush of black stuff. We suggested she removed the basal leaves, repotted the plant in 3:1 scoria:mix, add some fertilizer and look forward to lovely offsets, that will flower next year.

\* Lynn is burning out!! After again mixing up the plant owners Karen Cross agreed to have entrants list their entries!

**POPULAR VOTE: Junior:** Nil entries

**Novice:** Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector' - Delmae Meehan

**Open:** Billbergia 'Hallelujah' - Karen Stevens  
Cryptanthus fosterianus hybrid - Zaiga Gardiner  
Tillandsia chiapensis Giant form - Bob Hudson



**MINI SHOW:** My Favourite Bromeliad.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Billbergia 'Hallelujah' - Karen Stevens
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Neoregelia 'Anna' # 58 - Dave Weston
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cryptanthus fosterianus hybrid - Zaiga Gardiner





**APRIL:** We again travelled south, and then west, the trip seemed interminable but the scenery was just beautiful. Then we arrived at Bruce Hanson's slice of paradise. With a backdrop of rainforest, Kaylene & Vince have turned a cane farm into a vista of colour with cordylines, crotons, bromeliads and other bright shrubs. It is beautiful and relaxing – ok for them it is work!

\* Gail arrived with a flowering *Pitcairnia maidifolia* to show members, most had not seen one before and it come second in Flowering section. Well done.

\* We had three well grown *Cryptanthus* 'Marion Oppenhiemer' on show with Karen Stevens plant voted best.

\* Most had a sniff of Marguerite's *Tillandsia cyanea*, with newcomers marvelling at the spicy aroma. Thomas had a bursting potful to demonstrate the dividing of offsets – another ripping time for Bob. They have had a good flowering season this year. I always pot them and bring them to perfume the verandah when flowering; my triangular ones again produced 4 corners.

\* Darryl arrived with a beautiful *Neoregelia* 'Red Macaw'. These plants are very dependant on good light to attain and maintain a bright yellow colour. They can lose all yellow and become green in just one overcast day.

\* Dave Weston won the flowering section with *Billbergia* 'Afterglow' with colour bright I doubt anyone took notice of the perfect inflorescence.

\* Dave gave a presentation on *Dyckia*, *Deuterocohnia* & *Hechtia* and provided each attendee with a descriptive handout that included coloured pictures. He had put in a lot of time in the preparation, did an excellent presentation and he even separated offsets without using gloves! Thanks Dave.

\* Bob spoke on self pollinating tillandsias, showed fluffy viable seed and handed out seed of *Tillandsia pseudobaileyi*.

**POPULAR VOTE: Junior:** Nil entries **Novice:** Nil entries

**Open:** *Neoregelia* 'Red Macaw' – Darryl Lister

*Cryptanthus* 'Marion Oppenhiemer' – Karen Stevens

*Tillandsia cyanea* – Marguerite Sexton

**MINI SHOW:** Flowering Bromeliad, any genera.

1<sup>st</sup>. *Billbergia* 'Afterglow' – Dave Weston

2<sup>nd</sup>. *Pitcairnia maidifolia* – Gail Taifalos

3<sup>rd</sup>. *Guzmania wittmackii* purple – Darryl Lister



## Some self pollinators of the Tillandsia World by Bob Hudson

I have been growing tillandsia seed for 30 years. When I started it was very hard to acquire seed but when I became a BSI member in 1978 I started to buy seed from Harvey Beltz who operated the BSI Seed Bank. I found a mixed result; some was not viable and did not germinate, probably due to ageing.

The Queensland Bromeliad Society had tillandsia seed growers and I eventually managed to get some from Greg Stewart. Now I have enough plants to have a good supply of seed but always welcome alternate seed from other growers.

Many species self pollinate and set seed. Should you desire to hybridise with any of these plants you would need to gather their pollen and transfer it to the other plant.

The self pollinators are –

All of the *Diaphoranthema* group (your Uncle Derek will be talking on these at the WBC in June) plus the following

<i>adpressifolia</i>	<i>balbisiana</i>	<i>belloensis</i>	<i>bulbosa</i> silver	<i>butzii</i>
<i>elongata</i> v. <i>subimbricata</i>	<i>festucoides</i>	<i>gardneri</i>	<i>hammeri</i>	
<i>juncea</i> large form & minor	<i>juncifolia</i>	<i>limbata</i>	<i>makoyama</i>	
<i>paucifolia</i>	<i>pruinosa</i>	<i>psuedobaileyi</i>	<i>schiedeana</i> major & minor	
<i>utriculata</i>	<i>variabilis</i>	<i>fasciculata</i> (some forms)		

Natural hybrids *floridana*, *smalliana*

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## Tillandsias that are reluctant to flower in the Tropics by Bob Hudson

Over the years I have purchased plants that looked nice in books but have found they are reluctant to flower for me. Some are the soft green leaf types are not only reluctant to flower but I also find them harder to grow.

We are very lucky that we can grow a wide variety of plants – not all are from the tropics but we can grow them well and also have them flower.

While these do not flower in Cairns, some flower on our Tablelands

'Creation'	<i>aeranthos</i>	<i>bergeri</i>	<i>cacticola</i>	<i>deppeana</i>
<i>funkiana</i> (grey leaf form)	<i>imperialis</i>	<i>ixioides</i>	<i>kirchhoffiana</i>	
<i>multicaulis</i>	<i>punctulata</i>	<i>tectorum</i>	<i>zecheri</i>	

We can grow the plants that need cooler climates to flower and many growers from outside our area are happy to be able to purchase these plants.

World Bromeliad Conference - "Bromeliads Downunder"



**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> June - Board Meeting, Golf Game**

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> June - Show Entries 9am – 4pm**

Tillnuts 8am – 5pm. International Reception 6pm

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> June – Show Judging, Sales setup**

**Optional Tour – Breakfast with the Birds**

**Official Opening 4pm, meet the BSI committee Sales open 7.00pm, Registrants only.**

Sales open to public Friday & Saturday 1-5pm, Sunday 9-noon.

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> June – Seminars 8am to 4.30pm Rare Plant Auction 7pm**

**8:00 am Opening – Friday Activities**

**8:30 am Paul Isley III "A Tillandsia Species, Hybrid & Cultivar Cornucopia"**

**9:30 am Vic Przetocki "Bromeliads in Time & Space"**

10:30 am Morning Tea

**11:00 am Cristy Brenner "Bromeliad Adventures in the Venezuelan Tepuis"**

12:00 noon Lunch

**1:00 pm Herb Plever - "Indoor Techniques and Insights For All Setups"**

**2:00 pm Larry Giroux - "What about Cryptanthus?"**

3:00 pm Afternoon Tea

**3:30 pm Chester Skotak "Skotak's Colourful World"**



**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June – Seminars 8am to 5.30pm**

**8:00 am Opening – Saturday Activities**

**8:30 am John Catlan - "Colour in Neoregelias"**

**9:30 am David Liddle - "Reactive Microclimates"**

10:30 am Morning Tea

**11:00 pm Andrew Flower "Dihydrogen monoxide and its interaction with bromeliads"**

12:00 noon Lunch

**1:00 pm Derek Butcher - "Diaphoranthema."**

**2:00 pm Robert Kopfstein - "Ed Hummel – Plantsman, Hybridizer, Eccentric"**

3:00 pm Afternoon Tea

**3:30 pm Jay Thurrot "The Weevil control update & Bromeliads in Hurricane Winds"**

**4:30 pm Peter Bak "The art of breeding and producing millions of seedlings"**

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> June – Local gardens tour 8am to 3pm**

Finale - Gala Dinner 6.30 pm for Full Registrants & Partners only.

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> June – Optional tour to Whyanbeel**

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**Donations from other Societies – Thank You**

Bromeliad Society of New South Wales	\$1500	Bromeliad Society of Australia	\$1500
Fraser Coast Bromeliad Society	500	Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society	500
Townsville Bromeliad Study Group	300	Gold Coast Succ & Bromeliad Soc	250
Western Australian Bromeliad Society	250	Northern Territory Bromeliad Soc	200
Hunter District Bromeliad Society	200	Bromeliad Soc of South Australia	180

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**Please return Monster Raffle Ticket Stubbs – Draw Date 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**The Tillandsia Participation Event at the WBC – How it works**

The TPE by its nature is a discussion group. For this reason we have always kept the numbers down by insisting that attending members present a session. This has also helped pick the people that will speak up in such a forum, not blend into the background. After all, we have the Australian Bromeliad Conference for those wanting to go to a presentation and not have to contribute to a discussion – so that forum already exists. The other members of the TPE have always been supportive of the session leader in this forum, as they are all very keen growers. So each time we have had a nervous newer grower, they have soon lost their nervousness as everyone is interested in the topic - tillandsias.

It was suggested we stage this 6<sup>th</sup> Tillandsia Participation Event at the WBC, and this proposal was approved by the group through its internet chat group – the Till Nuts. Although I have been appointed convener, it is up to the loose coalition of participants to decide how we handle the thing (the TPE). For this reason we have a situation where we have no real guidelines on how to manage the group at the WBC, which will break with the essence of how the group has previously run. That is, we have previously had minimal organization at TPEs – no-one to issue name tags, when swapping or selling plants everyone just does what they want, etc - the venue is there and it is up to everyone (all participants) to help as I want to be part of the discussion.

So this time the discussion group (the inner circle) will be in a horseshoe shape with the leader of the session at the front. The leader will be miked this time – something we've never needed to do. The leader will "have the floor" & may at any time invite comments from another member, or open discussion with the group. Some leaders use their session to lead a discussion, some use it to put a presentation – it is up to them. This situation, from an organizational point of view, will be harder for me to handle this time – making sure that those in the outer circle can hear all of the comments. To insist that the microphone get handed around before **all** comment is made may bog things down, and we may lose the essence of what makes the situation work. To some degree those in the outer circle may have to wear some of this – though we will be trying to address it.

The outer circle is a rather indefinable thing at the moment. I am unsure of the numbers that will be there, and some organization will have to be made, at least to some degree, on the spot. The outer circle will not be participating in the conversation, but will be looking on. I ask anyone that wants to register to understand this situation. I also ask that registrants arrive on time, and do not come and go during the sessions.

The inner circle will be meeting in the room between 7.30 and 8.30 am. The room will be open to the others in the outer circle at around 8.40 am (ie sometime after 8.30 am). The opening of the TPE will be at 9 am and the sessions commence immediately after. We are there to discuss tillandsias, and do not really have much concern for formalities – but we are a friendly bunch.

We welcome those that would like to attend, but ask those attending for the first time to understand the principles, and realize that it is a no frills Event. The charge to attend will be \$70 per person and this charge includes morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch. Those choosing to attend should contact me by 1<sup>st</sup> May now.

Sincerely, Chris Larson 4 Caloola Ave., Oakleigh, Vic 3166

Phone A/H: 03 9568 8856. Mob: 0413 019 065 Email: [chris.larson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:chris.larson@optusnet.com.au)

Payments can be made by cheque, money order, credit (Visa or MasterCard), or direct debit.

**Cheque or Money Order made out to: CBS-Conference Account.**

Direct Debit to: BSB 034-664 20-4263 Westpac, Cairns Central. CBS - Conference/Account

Mention TPE

**Show & Tell** – Tony Scott showed how he had left the offsets on his timber mounted Tillandsia brachycaulos. They had grown almost identical and had contrasting T. schiedeana on the base of the timber.

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### **Bromeliad Sale @ Lakes Area – 12/4/08**

It took us 5 minutes to put up the tent & 10 minutes to set up. With balloons and signs on the bridge, Bob heated up the BBQ and got our saliva glands working with the aroma of frying onions, buyers began to arrive and this was the start of a happy relaxing day. We had a steady trickle of new and old customers and finally packed up at 1:30.

We had a few dollars for the WBC funding and each seller had a few dollars for their conference spending kitty. We have chatted since and decided we should plan to do this regularly while the weather is balmy and it does not sap our energy. It is so easy there and with more publicity it could become a very popular event and even include a workshop.

**Thank You to the Sellers, Helpers and the Packers.**



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**Wot! Only 8 pages & No jokes?**

Yep – because no member gave me a bromeliad article for your newsletter.

This situation will change when/if articles are submitted.

Each member can write a short/long article on how they became involved with bromeliads; the first one they saw; their favourite plant; their best growing area; successes & failures; happenings in their garden; observations on other growers achievements & report on articles they read or see on TV.

As the majority of Members have Internet access, I choose not to pad your newsletter with these articles.



**Megan & John Welch**

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*Bromeliads & Tillandsias*

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

**47 Boden St. Edge Hill Cairns**  
email: [lynnie@ledanet.com.au](mailto:lynnie@ledanet.com.au)

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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.