Aims of the Society
Promote and Develop Interest in Bromeliads through Friendship
To Co-operate with similar Clubs throughout the World

Membership Fee:
$7.50 junior (if not in family membership)

Meetings start at 1.p.m 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 &/or Bromelcairns will be Emailed on request to
lynnie@ledanet.com.au or lynnhusdon@bromeliadsdownunder.com
President’s Report on 2015

Here we are at another AGM for our great little Society which is envied by many.

We gained new members and I do hope they are enjoying our meeting days, and we have lost a few for one reason or another.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work during the past year, also the helpers who clean the hall etc. Our new meeting venue is proving to be great as we have seen great & interesting slideshows. Our many learning segments are proving to be rewarding to you our members and it shows in the great plants that you are growing and bringing into our shows and meetings.

I thank all who entered plants in the shows and Popular Vote sections of the meetings and would like to see more members contribute. The raffle table just keeps getting bigger as members are bringing in great prizes.

The “Bloomin Broms” weekend was a great success and I do hope you all support the next one in June.

With your support this year will be better than the last.

I would also like to thank you all for the support you have given me over the past two years. Our new President Brendan will capably guide us through the next two years.

Bob Hudson

Brendan has served his apprenticeship as Vice President/Minutes Secretary for the past two years and now moves up to President. (Bob will always be our ‘Big Daddy’ unless he is grumpy, then we just ignore him!) Matt was cajoled into the Vice Presidency - you will be right Matt, we will help you. Kelly is now officially our Treasurer and thankfully the rest of the Committee stays as is.

Thank You to Each of You, you bind all the bits together to make our society a success.

Sharron our Concierge ensures we all sign in, Steven brings the reading materials, Frances is an excellent Pot Lady, Karen flogs the raffle tickets and Jodie sends me interesting pieces for the newsletter. Great Team.

The Christmas Party was a happy event, plenty of food and plenty on the Raffle Table, lots of plants now have new homes. I hope some turn up on the show tables during the year.

Our programme for the year is busy, ‘Bloomin Broms’ looking good. Get your plants looking great for shows & sales. Sell some to get the ones you really want. Anyone can have lots of bromeliads, smart people keep only the best.

The best are the ones you really like & we tend to tend better the ones we like! Happy growing,

Lynn
Food & Eating

Winners in POPULAR VOTE

Novice Growers ^Kelly v Glenn

Steven French Bromeliad Trophy

Bob presenting Lynn with Tillandsia Trophy!
Club Activities & Around the Members

**FEBRUARY:** Firstly we flew through the AGM and new President, Brendan took over the meeting. Matt was elected to Vice President. I am sure they are quite capable of doing a good job. Numbers were down and several apologies received.

*NEW MEMBER:* Welcome **Maurice Anderson.** He certainly has been bitten by the bug, already has an interesting collection and is dabbling in hybridising! Nothing is safe!

*We had a feast of different genera in our Mini Show and Popular Vote, many beauties. Mini Show:** Dave’s *Hohenbergia edmundoi* was quite fat and with good colour and dark spines. Kelly’s *Quesnelia marmorata* was almost perfectly symmetrical & shining with health. Brendan’s *Neoregelia* ‘Lucifer’ was very bright with excellent markings.

**MINI SHOW**

My Favourite Bromeliad

1st *Hohenbergia edmundoi* - Dave Weston  
2nd *Quesnelia marmorata* - Kelly Knight  
3rd. Neo. ‘Lucifer’ - Brendan Leishman

**POPULAR VOTE:**

**NOVICE** *Orthophytum vagans* - Jo Smith  
**OPEN** - Bromeliad

1st *Hohenbergia edmundoi* - Dave Weston  
2nd. *Neoregelia* ‘Pacific Maui’ - Lynn Hudson  
3rd. *Neoregelia* ‘Cane Fire’ - Steven French

**Cryptanthus**

1st *Cryptanthus* ‘Black Mood’ – Lynn Hudson  
2nd. *Cryptanthus* ‘Frost Zeb’ - Dave Weston  
3rd. *Cryptanthus fosterianus* - Francis Boyd

**Tillandsia**

1st *Tillandsia tectorum* - Lynn Hudson  
2st. *Tillandsia roland-gosselinii* - Bob Hudson  
3rd. *Tillandsia xerographica* - Steven French  
3rd.*Tillandsia streptophylla* - Bob Hudson

*Hohenbergia edmundoi*  
*Quesnelia marmorata*  
*Neoregelia* ‘Lucifer’  
*Neoregelia* ‘Cane Fire’  
*Cryptanthus*  
*Tillandsia xerographica*  
*Neoregelia* ‘Mauve Star F2’
Steven showed a very neat *Tillandsia xerographica* and *Neoregelia* ‘Cane Fire’, the picture does not reveal the pink glow the plant exuded, it was absolutely beautiful - should have been in the mini show.

Darryl showed an F2 of *Neoregelia* ‘Mauve Star’ a metre across and just finished flowering. He also had different seedlings of *Cryptanthus beuckeri* - the only likeness being the height of the plants, but they had good colours and leaf shapes.

*Neoregelia* ‘Pacific Maui’  *Cryptanthus* ‘Black Mood’  *Orthophytum* ‘Warren Loose’

*Neoregelia* ‘Pacific Maui’ - I imported the Andrew Devonshire hybrid, from the 2013 Australian Conference held in New Zealand. It is *correia-araujoi* x ‘Barbarian’ a large plant, very bright, lime green leaves heavily spotted in red.

Thank you Members for voting it best - that was a surprise, proving we become immune to some of the beauty that closely surrounds us!

Note: I have grown it in very strong light, the pic on BCR has a more purple colouration.

Frances showed the red form of *Cryptanthus fosterianus* - we had 8 in the cryptanthus section, each multiple specimens and well grown. Frances also showed a healthy multiple specimen of *Orthophytum* ‘Warren Loose’ with the main plant in flower.

The tillandsia voting was tight - Bob’s *roland-gosselinii* & my *tectorum* scored 4 each and Steven’s *xerographica* [p4] & Bob’s *streptophylla* scored 3 each, then Brendan’s big clump of ‘Halley’s Comet’ 2 votes.

*Tillandsias* roland-gosselinii  tectorum  streptophylla  Belize
* Tillandsia roland gosselinii had bright leaf colour as it was in spike. The leaves on Tillandsia streptophylla Belize was not as curly as we are accustomed to seeing. This variety came from Belize, on the eastern coast of South America.

* Brendan’s ‘Halley’s Comet’ is a cultivar of baileyi. It keeps offsetting from the from the flowering stem and forms a clump which can be quite large. The inflorescence is usually small and easily missed with pink bracts and purple flower. Bren’s clump was “as big as your head”, fat and healthy.

* Hohenbergia edmundoi (page 4) came from Chapada Diamantina, Bahia in NE Brazil. It is an interesting shape, the inflorescence is typical hohenbergia. Dave has grown his well with good light to bring out the contrasting dark colours.

* Neoregelia ‘Lucifer’ (page 4) is another of Chester Skotak’s variegated/spotted plants with 500 parental names. Brendan showed it - interesting markings and red margins - apparently the centre does not suffuse with red at flowering.

* Our Novice section had just one entry but I expect it to get busy this year! Jodie showed a multi specimen of Orthophytum vagans - named for it’s vagabond wandering habit. This plant really enjoys plenty of water and there is also a variegated one.

From Jo, our Assistant Editor - Quesnelia marmorata - (kwes-nail’ea) Kelly said she favours this bromeliad due to its unique shape as the form is very different to neoregelias and vrieseas. It grows under a palm tree in her garden.

This genus was named for Martin Quesnel and contains 22 known species, and range in form from Kelly’s marmorata with tight upright tubes to vase shapes like alvimii, and the large tank rosettes of arvensis and testudo. The inflorescences vary, some resemble billbergia while others are club shaped. There are two popular marmorata cultivars - ‘Tim Plowman’ with curled leaf ends was found in Rio Bonito and the variegated ‘Raphael Oliveira’ at Silva Jardim, both in Brazil but they are not directly linked.

L-R Q. marmorata, arvensis, seideliana

v Q‘Raphael Oliveira’

Quesnelia ‘Tim Plowman’  Q. testudo cv
Growing Quesnelias

Quesnelia thrive in our climate and most tolerate a lot of our heat, especially arvensis, testudo and their cultivars and readily produce offsets before flowering. They need a well draining mix and plenty of light and even sun.

When growing marmorata hybrids like ‘Tim Plowman’ and ‘Raphael Oliveira’ do not give too much fertiliser or they will not curl and that is one of their major attractions. As they grow older, the tubes grow wider and when they are given good light they produce red markings as well as brown markings along the tubes. Up here the offsets can be taken off as early as 15cm high.

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Hybrid Question to Geoff Lawn, BSI Cultivar Register

Q: I have a named hybrid of known parentage.
   If I cross the same named parent plants, does that give the offspring the same name as the registered hybrid?
A: The short correct answer to your question is NO ! Such offspring are F2 (second filial generation) of the original hybrid and depending on the parent's parentage, the grex siblings will be different to the registered hybrid.
   In other words, the registered hybrid when selfed will not breed true. So the progeny will need a new, different name (s) and could well be different to each other as well.

   It is only where a primary hybrid has occurred (species x different species) that you are likely to see a fairly uniform batch grex of seedlings which can probably share the same cultivar name.

   Before that occurs, in theory you should grow the batch to flowering maturity before allocating cultivar names, a process that can take up to 20 years. Commercial breeders / growers cannot wait that long with Tillandsias and usually release them a lot earlier under parentage only, hence all the I.D. discussions & hybrid naming confusion here on Tillnuts.

Tillandsia ionantha exists in many forms in regard to size shape and the formation of the inflorescence. There are forms sold under the name 'Hazel Nut' they have almost spherical rosettes the size of a hazel nut; some with large rosettes and upright leaves and forms with spread out, elongated leaves.

   Of all these different size and colours it is very hard to give all a name or variety. The only one that really stands out is T. ionantha var. vanhyningii with its elongated type growth and open rosette. This variety does not colour as intensely as most of the other forms. T. ionantha var. vanhyningii is found only on steep walls of the Rio Gravilja Canyon of Chiapas, Mexico, whereas the others are found in Mexico, Guatemala & Nicaragua.

   There are many colours in the leaves when in bloom but I think the most vivid is T.ionantha var. fuego - it is fire engine red with dark purple flowers.

By tillandsiabob@gmail.com
Selling Tips by Lynn

* You can only tell people what you know - never make it up.
* Never be afraid to say “I’m new to bromeliads, I do not know but ask ---- over there. When you do this you are placing the Asker on the same level as Yourself and they will feel more comfortable.
* Do not ask people “Can I help you?” as you give them the chance to say “No” and walk away. Never boom out “What do you want?” as I heard one day and cringed - had I been the customer I would have left but that person stayed and bought plants!
* Better to say Are you having a good day; enjoying the show; have you seen bromeliads before; do you have any bromeliads; isn’t that one beautiful; do you like this one, I grew it, etc. Stay with the plants, do not stray to other topics.
* My favourite is to look at their eyes - some look confused and stunned .. I say ‘haven’t you seen bromeliads before?’ especially with tillandsias. Some look like they are in a lolly shop, wondering “which one will I get first”. Some you can read their lips “I have that one, that one”, etc.
* Never place the plant into the hands of the customer until they want to take it - I have been told the plant was ‘forced onto them’ by this ruse - yes it is the old “once it is in their hand they own it” sales pitch from way back before even we were born!
* Usually at a plant sale people go just to buy plants. There will always be the “I’m just looking” people - they also deserve your attention. Maybe today they do not have spending money but will remember you were accessible to them. You never know when they will come back. Some of us have been told “I met you at ....” even 4 years later!

* PRICE TAGS - We make them BIG.
We put them where the buyer can easily see them, even in the top, centre of the plant. Many people do not wear their glasses when they go out - their choice. Many people will not ask the price of a plant in case they cannot afford it. We put the price on big and bold and it says, ‘This is what I want for growing this plant.’ ‘It is worth this much for the care and time I gave to produce it.’ After the sale the Treasurer sorts the tags into seller lots, tallies them, the % is deducted, monies are allocated for each seller with their tags - for reuse. The tags can be made from any plastic container - ice cream, milk and fruit juice bottles are ideal. The price on the top and seller’s initials on the stem. If the tag is in the centre it is easily seen and no one has to get prickled reaching under the leaves.
New Members - you are invaluable, especially at busy times. You can be the plant bagger or the tag sorter. You may even find out you know a lot of stuff about bromeliads and you did not know you knew!

*BOTTOM LINE #1: That person you are speaking with is not just a customer - They could become an important person in your life. They could become a club member - treat them as special.
* BOTTOM LINE #2  It is not easy to sell another member’s plant when you have equal or better available there for sale. You are representing your Society - fly the flag high!
**New Plant Import Restrictions.** Information from George Stamatis & DAFF

Nov 2015 From George

1. The bacteria is called *Xylella fastidiosa*.
2. It is spread through sap-sucking insects.
3. It can only survive in living plant tissue with xylem fluid. This includes stems, roots, leaves and fruits. It is not known to transmit through seeds except in Citrus.
4. The EU has only banned the import of particular plant species that are proven to be carriers. AQIS has banned / regulated imports at a genus and family level.
5. The EU is also developing criteria for export nurseries to become 'approved'. How their requirements will compare to Australia's requirements will not be known until finalised. It is in our best interests of ALL countries have the same requirements as us.
6. The EU does not require any DNA testing yet. New Zealand will conduct their testing in NZ and not offshore. Australia requires testing offshore of both mother-plants and a sample from shipments. There is also the possibility of testing plants here in AU to confirm the lab results of the exporting country.
7. If we are the only country with such stringent requirements, there will be many exporters that will not be willing to deal with us.

The pathogen they are concerned about is a bacteria that is native to the Americas. It lives in the xylem vessels of plants (the plant equivalent of blood vessels) and it feeds on their xylem fluid (plant equivalent of blood). If the bacteria proliferates sufficiently, it leads to the plant being unable to sustain itself and the bacteria can also block the xylem vessels once there are too many of them. This then leads to the death of the plant. The only known ‘cure’ for infected plants is hot water treatment. This involves submerging plants in water at 50 degrees Celsius for 45 minutes. The bacteria can not withstand this. Unfortunately, this treatment would also be lethal to bromeliads.

Anyway, the pathogen has never been known to occur outside the Americas and but recently it has popped up in Italy where it decimated olive plantations. It has also been recently found in a few other countries in Asia and the middle east. So, it appears to be spreading and is adapting to different hosts as it spreads, and this has got the IPPC a bit spooked.

So, why have AQIS decided to apply new rules to the entire bromeliad family? This is where it gets a bit ridiculous. There was one report from the EU of *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish moss) having the bacteria. I am still trying to get access to this report so that I can better understand if it was just one isolated case, or if the circumstances were different. Anyway, the EU has only banned the importation of *Tillandsia usneoides* as it is a known carrier. AQIS has gone way, way further. They are currently prohibiting the importation of plants of ALL Tillandsia species, AND they are subjecting the entire bromeliad family to stringent import requirements. The requirements at this point appear to be impossible to meet unless you are a mega importer and your supplier is a mega
nursery. Their protocols are not catering for small, medium, large or diverse
nursery businesses at all.

They have divided the world into 2 categories. High and low risk countries.

You can import all bromeliads except for Tillandsias from high risk countries
(e.g. the USA including Hawaii, Europe) if you meet the following requirements:
(a) The supplier’s nursery operation needs to be ‘approved’ by AQIS. There are
criteria they need to meet with regard to how they run their nursery operation. Their
local authorities would need to audit them according to the criteria supplied by AQIS,
and grant approval if the criteria are met. The criteria are both vague and
excessive.
(b) The mother stock need to be DNA tested, and a sample of plants in a shipment
also need to be DNA tested prior to shipping. This testing needs to give a negative
result or the plants won’t be accepted into Australia. The specifics of how the
testing needs to be done are still very vague.
(c) As far as I am aware, Australia is the only country making these demands.
The only nurseries for whom AQIS’ requirements would be feasible would be the
mega nurseries that have a small inventory of cloned plants that they pump out by
the million from tissue culture. Smaller, specialised and diverse nurseries will find
the requirements very hard, if not impossible to meet.

That’s where it is currently at. Not nice. We will all have to take very good care of
our Tillandsias because we might not be able to import new stock again for a very
long time, if ever. We will need to make sure we make a concerted effort to produce
pure species from seed here at home, and not just hybrids.

So, take good care of your plants everyone. We might not be able to rely on plant
imports for a very long time. George.

February 2016 - I received an amendment to my Import Permit. Lynn
“The following measures apply to plant tissue cultures and nursery stock that are hosts
of X. fastidiosa, and are applied in addition to current import requirements:
• nursery stock and plant material coming from countries or regions where X. fastidiosa
occurs will need to be tested offshore and certified as being free from X. fastidiosa by
the government of the exporting country
• an approved arrangement that ensures the health of plants will need to be in place for
off-shore testing and certification of nursery stock from high risk countries.
• material that does not meet the above requirements may be held and tested in an
approved post entry quarantine facility for 12 months or nursery stock material may be
hot water treated, followed by standard post entry quarantine screening arrangements.”
amended-emergency-quarantine-measures#roles--and-responsibilities

In response to these measures, some Australians have decided not to attend
the WBC in Houston - the changes to the Import Permits plus the low
Australian dollar combine to make the trip unviable.
************************************************************************************
Life isn’t about how you survived the storm, it’s about how you danced in the rain.
Rainey Lien of Florida visited relatives at Miami Zoo ... he said “We were both staring at this beautiful bromeliad.
Yes, it is probably xAndrolaelaechmea ‘Dean’ & this one > “I saw a bunch of these at the Miami Zoo today”
Wot great colour! Thanx for sharing Rainey

* My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 15 hours to Hoover the house. Turns out she was a Slovak.
* Seven wheelchair athletes were banned from the Paralympics after they tested positive for WD40.
* Just had my water bill of $475. That's a lot. Oxfam can supply a whole African village for just $10 a month: time to change supplier I think.
* A mummy covered in chocolate and nuts has been discovered in Egypt .. Archaeologists believe it may be Pharaoh Roche...
* Just A Reminder to those who stole Electrical Goods in Last Year's Riots - Your One Year Manufacturer's Warranty Runs Out Soon.
  *Indian junkies accidentally snorted curry powder instead of cocaine. Both in hospital...one's in a korma.. The other's got a dodgy tikka!

Nothing just happens or just gets done, 
Someone has to make it happen or do it.
Hudson’s Bromeliads Down Under
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6 Alabama Street, Whiterock, Qld 4868
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“Bloomin Broms” 2016  - June 4th & 5th
Cominos House, cnr. Little & Greenslopes St., Edge Hill
Good Company, Interesting Guest Speakers, Great Plants.
Harry Frakking of Humpty Doo, NT. Anil Ghodke of Plant Biotech Sunshine Coast
& Nigel Thomson of Dandaloo Valley Qld.
Seminars Saturday & Sales for Registrants, $30 includes lunch.
Sunday sales to Public, cultivations demonstrations, free entry.
Sunday 5th. June: 8:00am – noon Open to the General Public, free entry
Contact Lynn on 07 40533913 or  lynnle@ledanet.com.au

“Bromeliad Cultivation Notes” by Lynn Hudson
A little how-to book. Cultivation made easy. Basics in language anyone can follow

John Catlan’s notes -“Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree”
A ‘must have’ book to help you think and grow your bromeliads better.
Booklet prepared & printed by Lynn Hudson
Both available in bulk at reduced price.
Contact Lynn on 07 40533913 or  lynnle@ledanet.com.au or
www.bromeliadsdownunder.wordpress.com