



# Bromelcairns



**Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2013 # 2**

*P.O. Box 28 Cairns Queensland 4870 Australia*

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

**Honorary Life Member - Kay Edington**

**Life Member - Lynn Hudson**

**Life Member - Robert (Bob) Hudson**

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### **Aims of the Society**

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

**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 &/or Bromelcairns will be Emailed on request to

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Previous issues are on my website [www.bromeliadsdownunder.com.au](http://www.bromeliadsdownunder.com.au)

## Club Activities & Around the Members



**MARCH:** Another really hot day, we arrived early at the air-conditioned venue to find it occupied until 1pm! We had a 'hot' committee meeting outside while we waited. Set up was amazingly fast, everyone just did a job, it was great! Pulldown was the same, done in no time - we have a wonderful Group of Members.

Thank You to each of You.

\* **New Members:** **Diana Vidotto** was introduced by Maria and **Maureen Blair** was introduced by Nalda. Welcome to each of you, we know you will enjoy our happy meetings. Most of us had met Maureen before, at "Bloomin Broms" and the occasional meeting (that did not line up with Bridge).

\* The air-conditioning prompted us to use our data projector and screen - Bob took members for a stroll around our garden, it was good - we were cool and no prickles! So many beautiful plants of many genera - even I was amazed! We also caught up with the wildlife, umpteen frogs and the Willy Wagtail hatchings.

### MINI SHOW – Flowering Bromelioideae

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Tillandsia* 'Bob's Amigo' - Bob Hudson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Aechmea* 'Shogun' - Darryl Lister
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Tillandsia tenuifolia* - Marguerite Sexton

### POPULAR VOTE NOVICE - Nil Entries

### OPEN - Bromeliad

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Neoregelia* 'Chirripo' - Darryl Lister
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Orthophytum glabrum* – Dave Weston
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Orthophytum* 'Warren Loose' – Sharron Millar

### Cryptanthus

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Cryptanthus* 'Anne Collings' - Lynn Hudson
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Cryptanthus* 'Frost Zeb' – Lynn Hudson
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Cryptanthus* 'San Juan' – Gail Taifalos

### Tillandsia

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Tillandsia* 'Bob's Amigo' - Bob Hudson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Tillandsia tenuifolia* - Marguerite Sexton (beautiful, Marg.)



*Tillandsia* 'Bob's Amigo'



*Orthophytum*  
'Warren Loose'



*Cryptanthus*  
'Anne Collings'



*Tillandsia*  
*tenuifolia*



*Aechmea*  
'Shogun'



*Club Activities & Around the Members*

**APRIL:** We travelled down to Darryl’s at Babinda through just a little rain then members were delighted to wander through the brightly coloured greenhouse of beautifully grown bromeliads of many genera. Real soul food.

- \* For ease of carriage, on trips we schedule either tillandsias or billbergias as mini show genera but this tillandsia mini show was not well supported - just three entries, however each was very well grown and well presented.
- \* Popular Vote voting was hard to decide but Darryl’s *Werauhia kupperiana* would take a lot of beating - huge, well marked and looking crisp. Beryl said she found her *Neoregelia* ‘Maya’ among some other plants, yet the colour and markings were perfect. Dave’s *neoregelia* had strong burgundy colouring darkening at the tips. *Cryptanthus* are becoming more popular as Members are growing them much better, they chose the clean markings of Dave’s ‘Milky Way’. Gail’s *zonatus* silver was very scurfy and Darryl’s pot of ‘Ruby’ was really bright.

**POPULAR VOTE:**

**NOVICE - Bromeliad – Nil entries**

**OPEN - Bromeliad**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Werauhia kupperiana* - Darryl Lister
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Neoregelia* ‘Peter Sargent’ - Dave Weston
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Neoregelia* ‘Maya’ – Beryl Watson

**Cryptanthus**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Cryptanthus* ‘Milky Way’ – Dave Weston
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Cryptanthus* ‘Anne Collings’ - Lynn Hudson
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Cryptanthus zonatus* silver – Gail Taifalos

**Tillandsia**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Tillandsia tectorum* - Bob Hudson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Tillandsia crocata* – Dave Weston
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* hybrid – Bob Hudson



Beryl & N. ‘Maya’

Dave & ‘Peter Sargent’



*Cryptanthus* ‘Milky Way’



Darryl & *Werauhia kupperiana*

**Tillandsia Flowering**1<sup>st</sup> *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* – Bob Hudson2<sup>nd</sup> *Tillandsia crocata* – Dave Weston**MINI SHOW – Tillandsia**1<sup>st</sup> *Tillandsia tectorum* - Bob Hudson

- \* This double *Tillandsia tectorum* was really fluffy with trichomes. In habitat they survive in arid areas by holding moisture and food for photosynthesis at night. During our rainy season we store these under cover and manually water them - if they remain too wet, they choke and cannot photosynthesise.
- \* Dave's cute *Tillandsia crocata* was perfect, the yellow flowers emitting a sweet perfume. Everyone had a 'sniff' of this little beauty.
- \* Other perfumed tillandsias are *duratii*, *straminea*, *mallemonitii*, *reichenbachii* and don't forget *usneoides*.

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**To Pot or to Mount & How To... Bob's Way.***Tillandsia ehlersiana**Tillandsia rothii x bradeana*

Some tillandsias grow better on plate mounts rather than hanging, especially those that grow large and heavy. When hung the leaves at the rear of the plant will not grow as long as the others, so the plant will have a 'flat' side. This spoils the wonderful natural shape of these beauties. When mounting an already large plant firstly he attaches a small block of timber to the mount, then glues the plant base up against the block. A tie of craft ribbon around the back of the plant to the front of the block will hold it steady until the plant sets. Some southern growers prefer to pot these, if you pot them ensure the mix is very open. Bob plate mounts *capitata*, *xerographica*, *rothii*, *streptophylla*, *fasciculata*, *jalisco-monticola*, *roland-gosselinii*, 'Amigo', 'Padre' and 'Madre'.



# “Bloomin Broms” 1-2 June 2013

Guest Speakers - Andrew Flower (NZ), Doug Cross, Nigel Thomson

Information & Registration Form - [www:bromeliadsgdownunder.com](http://www.bromeliadsgdownunder.com)

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## April Meeting: “Show & Tell” by Lynn

*xBiltanthus* ‘Red Burst’ by T.L. Mead (*Cryptanthus bahianus* X *Billbergia nutans*) &

*xBiltanthus* ‘Goodale’ by Grace Goode (*Cryptanthus* ‘It’ X *xBiltanthus* ‘Red Burst’)

‘Red Burst’ has maroon narrow arching leaves shiny on top, scurfy underneath. The flowers are green with navy blue stripes like *Billbergia nutans*.

‘Goodale’ leaves are darker, wider, longer and flatter. The flowers were unopened just red points grouped in the centre.

*Cryptanthus* species purchased at the Bromeliad Identification Centre Auction 2010

WBC and survived quarantine:



*argyrophyllus*



*ubairensis*



‘Red Burst’ & flowers



*Cryptanthus argyrophyllus* - round flat leaves, coloured grey diffused with soft pink, with white flowers.

*Cryptanthus pseudopetiolus* - this one is large, long green leaves narrow from the crown, flaring outwards then tapering to an end point. The centre is a defined circle, accentuated by brown leaf colouration. The stoloniferous one succumbed to post quarantine death.

*Cryptanthus ubairensis* - leaves of shiny lime green with brown bleeding inwards from the edges, average size.

Propagation - cryptanthus habitat is on the forest floor among the rich humous, they enjoy a good feed but not straight chooky poo Harry! As they also feed through their roots a rich mix that will hold moisture will give best growth results.



**Confidor:** Members have used Confidor very successfully against bromeliad scale. The 750mil spray bottle of Confidor price ranges around \$10+ and it now also comes in a small bottle, to be mixed with water and sprayed onto the plants. It does not have to be all used on the day of mixing, the concentrated liquid is far cheaper when you need quantity.

Yes it works but ... it has a warning label on the use directions - obey it!! It is also systemic, ie., it is sucked into the plant growing system and therefore can be sucked into your body! We can always get new plants but there is only one You, and we want You!



Exquisite Vriesea hybrids of Andrew Maloy

## Dave & Brendan's New Zealand Cool Broms Experience at the 17th Australian Bromeliad Conference

We arrived in Auckland about a week prior to the conference and toured areas north of Auckland, some really great scenery and places of interest. We used a B&B at Kerikeri as our base and it worked out very well. We found some excellent restaurants around Kerikeri, reasonably priced and great variety of cuisine.

While in the area we called on Poppy Fuller at Poppy's Bromeliads. Poppy was most welcoming and pleased to show off the sales area and private collection, she has some really interesting cultivars and species. One of which we took particular note was her *Guzmania lindenii*, as the NZ cultivar is quite different to the strain in FNQ. The leaves are stiffer, not as lax, a bit narrower in the blade width and the variegation not so pronounced, and being more creamy white whereas as the FNQ strain is quite white in the chlorophyll devoid areas of the leaves.



Poppy's *Guzmania lindenii* & Bromeliad production area.

The colour in the Neoregelias, Vriesias and Alcantareas were vibrant and stunning, we were most envious of the intensity of the colours the New Zealand growers are able to produce in their bromeliads.

## 8 (Cool Broms cont.)

The Cool Broms Conference was in almost every respect a well planned and executed event. The attendance was truly amazing with good representation from the USA. Oz bromeliad growers were well represented and made up a large percentage of the conference attendees. We really appreciated the high calibre presenters and their well delivered interesting talks and topics. Unfortunately Elton Leme was unable to be present however he provided very high quality pre recorded presentations of his talks for the conference.

Jose Manzanares gave us a long anticipated update on the results of the new classification of Tillandsioideae based on DNA studies. This is going to be rather bad news for those who have a distain for renaming broms and moving them into new genera. For those who have struggled to come to terms with some Tillandsioideae which are clearly in incongruent genera, then they may be some light on the horizon. There will be significant changes to where species sit in Tillandsioideae with the creation of a number of new genera. The complexity of Bromeliaceae never ceases to amaze us.

Attendees of the “Cool Broms” Conference were provided with a great choice of garden tours. Peter and Jocelyn Coyle’s gardens at Totara Waters were so incredible and amazing; a garden of national significance. This garden is hired for various events such as weddings and other functions, the grounds are set against a striking river backdrop, complete with old shipwreck! Incredibly well manicured and an unbelievable collection of rare and unusual plants including cycads, agaves, cacti and succulents, and of course bromeliads were the focal planting throughout.

For those who have a penchant for vriesias the next garden was sheer bliss and a huge overdose of the success and achievements of breeder Andrew Maloy. Andrew’s hybridization has produced many stunning and fantastic cultivars, I am sure that there will be quite a few attendees who are still on a ‘vriesia high’ who visited this incredible production nursery. Keep a watch out for the Maloy hybrids, there seemed to be quite a few that made their way back to Oz. For those of us who think they have too little space for too many plants well we suggest that you take a leaf from the inventory book of Peter Waters. Peter has a fairly regular residential home site, somewhat sloping and terraced to take advantage of space and aspect. However the use of this space is optimal to the max. Not a centimeter wasted or any bare ground visible, truly the sign of an incurable bromaholic.

The last garden which we visited was of Margaret Flanagan south of Auckland, this garden is set on some acreage in a rural background. Very well maintained, we saw some really wonderful mature Tillandsias, unfortunately a lot of which we could not put a name to. However, really interesting old farm buildings converted to the culture of interesting broms.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Australasian Bromeliad Conference – ‘Bromsmatta’ is happening in Parramatta NSW, on the 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015. A line up of some great bromeliad experts such as Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora Nursery, Florida USA is already confirmed to present. If you have not had the opportunity to attend such events in the past, we encourage you to consider coming along and meet up with others who like you have a love for Bromeliads.// (Dave & Brendan.)



## Cool Broms Plant Show Grand Champion *Tillandsia tectorum*

Photographs by Dave & Brendan, with thanks.

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### **Cool Broms - the 17th Australasian Bromeliad Conference - by Barry Burke**

After a 4hr flight from Cairns we landed in Auckland and took a taxi to Waipuna Hotel.

Walking into the foyer, we were greeted by an amazing collection of colourful bromeliads. Every where we walked, there were bromeliad displays.

On each floor there was a Guzmania to greet us as we exited the lifts. After freshening up we went downstairs and had a look at the main display and judged plants. The varieties and forms were absolutely breathtaking. Mary posted a lot on Facebook and received comments from around the world about these colourful plants.

Waipuna Hotel was situated on one of the many tidal lakes with some magnificent views. The catering was excellent and so ended our first day.

The mornings were taken up by lectures by some outstanding speakers. Of special interest to me were Jose Manzanares with his discourse on the DNA of tillandsias and how this has enabled the re-classification of several "species". Elton Leme with his interpretations of several new cryptanthus was very informative, as was his lecture on the various forms of alcantarea. What was stunning was when he picked up a pot of what looked like a pitcairnia and said this was the smallest of the alcantreas!

The afternoons were taken up with bus trips to various gardens and nurseries. Some the gardens were too magnificent to describe by mere words. It would take a poetic genius to give them justice. Auckland was going through a dry spell so they appreciated the rain we brought with us. Being true spirited on the bus trips it rained while we were on the bus but stopped when we exited to enjoy the various gardens. We let those behind enjoy the wetness as we had had sufficient in Babinda.

The Auckland Bromeliad Society is to be highly commended for the work and organising that took place, Every thing ran like clockwork. The venue and the catering was flawless. We truly enjoyed our time there.//

## Some Large Intergenerics & their Parents.

The genera *Ursulea* has two plants being *macvaughii* and *tuitensi* -, *macvaughii* is larger and has a pendant inflorescence. The inflorescence structures are similar and both have navy blue flowers. *U. tuitensis* has waxy reddish leaves and Dave showed his very well grown bromeliad at the August meeting, just when the flowers started to open.

Currently I have *Ursulea macvaughii* in flower - what a majestic plant - large thick green leaves with sharp serrations ending in a vicious point. The inflorescence rises as a fat pointed white bulb, then as it develops the bracts turn pink, it opens and comes out, and down tumbles a 40cm stalk of scurfy knobs that finally produce navy blue flowers.



*Ursulea macvaughii*



*Ursulea tuitensis*



Each of these species have been used to produce intergenerics.

*Androlepsis skinneri* is a large plant that tolerates our all day sun. It has strong glowing red (albeit cruelly spined) leaves and has some interesting offspring.

- \* *xUrselepis* 'Sam Smith' is *Ursulea macvaughii* x *Androlepsis skinneri* - see page 10 by Registrar Geoff Lawn.
- \* Just one *Ursumeia* is registered - an aechmea x ursulea. *xUrsumeia* 'Ma Williams' is *Aechmea fendleri* x *Ursulea tuitensis*, the inflorescence shape showing a *fendleri* parent
- \* *xAndrolaechmea* 'Craterformis' - *Androlepsis skinneri* x *Aechmea fasciata*.
- \* *xAndrolaechmea* 'Cyclops' - *Androlepsis skinneri* x *Aechmea lueddemanniana*, the plant has the strength and colouring of *skinneri*, the inflorescence follows *fendleri*.
- \* *xAndrolaechmea* 'Dean' - *Androlepsis skinneri* x *Aechmea mariaae-reginae* most of you have seen this large majestic plant in my yard. The inflorescence is huge, triangular with the colouring of *skinneri*.
- \* *xAndrolaechmea* 'O'Rourke' - *Androlepsis skinneri* x *Aechmea distichantha*, another strong plant that has the delicate colouring of *distichantha* in the inflorescence.
- \* *xAndrolaechmea* 'Sampson' - *Aechmea tessmannii* x *Androlepsis skinneri* has bright red bracts of *tessmannii*, the inflorescence reflects both parents.

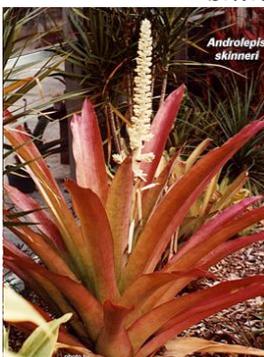
*xAndrolaechmea*  
'Cyclops'

*Androlepsis*  
*skinneri*

*xAndrolaechmea*  
'Dean'

*xAndrolaechmea*  
'O'Rourke'

*xUrsumeia*  
'MaWilliams'





## *xUrsulepis* 'Sam Smith'

by Geoff Lawn



It transpires that the bigeneric *Ursulaea macvaughii* x *Androlepis skinneri* has been cultivated in Australia for at least a decade, having been imported by the Olive Branch nursery (and possibly other growers) from U.S.A., but the original source was unknown. My enquiries led to grower and breeder Sam Smith of Fort Myers, Florida who acknowledged that he bred this cultivar in 1992, but it was never named or registered. Sam says that he and wife Hattie Lou still grow it on their rural property as tree epiphytes, and appreciate the long-lasting, attractive inflorescences in Winter, despite the overall large rosettes' size.

The quest to photograph a blooming specimen was met by Brisbane grower Rick Cairns who in early 2011 had ground-planted a huge advanced rosette in his garden landscape. This bigeneric can reach 2 metres diameter or more with a water-holding tank, maturing to at least 1 metre high. The green foliage reddens or turns pink in strong light, taking after the pollen parent *Androlepis skinneri*, which is a unisexual (with separate male and female plants) epiphytic species hailing from Mexico, central America and through to Peru.

The arching or semi-pendant inflorescence of *xUrsulepis* 'Sam Smith' resembles its seed parent *Ursulaea macvaughii*, a Mexican epiphyte inhabiting mixed tropical forest at 500-600 metres altitude. Flamboyant shell pink scape bracts enclose the dense raceme to about 80cms. long of white lepidote stems and ovaries tinged pink. The petals of *xUrsulepis* 'Sam Smith' are tawny gold, evidence of the purple flowers of *Ursulaea macvaughii* combined with the yellowish petals of *Androlepis skinneri*, the male parent of which extended the inflorescence length in this bigeneric progeny.

No hybrids from *xUrsulepis* 'Sam Smith' have been reported, but possibly it may prove to be sterile like most other registered bigenerics to date.

Published in *BSI Journal*, March-April, 2011, pp. 90-91.

<http://registry.bsi.org/?genus=xURSULEPIS&id=11008#11008>



**Pithy Aphorisms - from Reinaldo**

The original point & click interface was a Smith & Wesson  
It's not whether you win or lose, but how you place the blame.  
You are not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.  
We have enough 'youth' - how a bout a fountain of 'smart'?  
A fool and his money can throw one heck of a party.  
When blondes have more fun, do they know it?



Five days a week my body is a temple, the other two it is an amusement park  
Learn from your parents' mistakes - use birth control.  
Money isn't everything but it sure keeps the kids in touch.  
Don't drink and drive - you might hit a bump and spill something.  
Reality is only an illusion that occurs due to lack of alcohol.  
We are born naked, wet and hungry, then things get worse.  
Ninety nine percent of all lawyers give the rest a bad name.  
Red meat is not bad for you. Fuzzy green meat is bad for you.



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**A Blonde's Year in Review**

January: Took new scarf back to store because it was too tight.

February: Fired from pharmacy job for failing to print labels.

Hellllloooo!!!.....bottles won't fit in printer!!!

March: Got really excited...finished jigsaw puzzle in 6 months..

Box said ' 2-4 years!'

April: Trapped on escalator for hours ... Power went out!!!

May: Tried to make Kool-Aid.....wrong instructions....

8 cups of water won't fit into those little packets!!!

June: Tried to go water skiing.....Couldn't find a lake with a slope.

July: Lost breast stroke swimming competition.....

Learned later, the other swimmers cheated, they used their arms!!!

August: Got locked out of my car in rain storm.....

Car swamped because soft-top was open.

September: The capital of California is 'C'.....isn't it???

October: Hate M & M's..... They are so hard to peel.

November: Baked turkey for 4 1/2 days ...

Instructions said 1 hour per pound and I weigh 108!!

December: Couldn't call 911. 'Duh'....there's no 'eleven' button on the stupid phone!!!

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As long as we have memories, Yesterday remains;

As long as we have hope, Tomorrow waits;

As long as we have friendship, Today is beautiful.



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Nothing just happens or just gets done,  
Someone has to make it happen or do it.





**Megan & John Welch**

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*Hudson's Bromeliads Down Under*

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*Cairns "Bloomin Broms" 1-2 June 2013*

*Guest Speakers - Andrew Flower (NZ), Doug Cross, Nigel Thomson*

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*"Bromeliad Cultivation Notes" by Lynn Hudson.*

**A little 'how to' book. Cultivation made easy. Basics in language anyone can follow.**

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

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

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Contact Lynn on 07 40533913 or [lynnie@ledanet.com.au](mailto:lynnie@ledanet.com.au) or  
[LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com](mailto:LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com)

