

# Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc.

## Newsletter

No. 4

Jun-Jul 2021



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**The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc.**  
**Founded 1999**  
**Affiliated with Bromeliad Society International**

**Office Bearers 2021**

President	Dale Dixon	dale.dixon66@gmail.com
Vice President	Nigel Thomson	reabrook@spiderweb.com.au
Secretary:	Peter Cook	sunnybroms@icloud.com
Treasurer:	Ralf Schenk	ralfschenk@hotmail.com
Membership Secretary:	Ralf Schenk	ralfschenk@hotmail.com
Committee:	Cheryl Basic	
	Steven Flood	
	Sue Pedler	
	Megan McKerrell	
Life Members:	Bob Paulsen (decd.), Grace Goode OAM (decd.) Cheryl Basic, Nigel Thomson	
Librarian:	Kendall Ross	
Popular Choice:	Stan Walkley	Steve Flood
Plant Sales:	Ralf Schenk	Sue Pedler
Catering:	Rostered by Cheryl Basic	
Raffle's:	Gaye Cook	Kendall Ross
Newsletter Editor:	Ralf Schenk	
Social Director:	Ralf Schenk	
Club Website:	<a href="http://scbs.org.au">scbs.org.au</a>	

Monthly meetings are held at the Millwell Road Community Centre, 11 Millwell Road (East) Maroochydore. (Behind the Plaza Shopping Centre.) unless otherwise advised. See [Event Diary](#)  
 Meeting preparation starts prior to 1.30pm with proceedings beginning at 1.40pm .  
 Afternoon tea is available and members should bring their own cup. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1.00 each, proceeds from the raffle help offset the club's meeting expenses.

**Contents:**

1. Front Cover: Tillandsia Puna Punk	11. May-PC-Other Genera
2. Office Bearers	12. May-PC-Neoregelia
3. Meeting Programme - Editors Report	13. June-PC-Goudaea, Guzmania, Vriesea, Nidularium
4. The Little Red Brazilians (Dr. Dale Dixon)	14. June-PC-Tillandsia Hybrids
5. The Little Red Brazilians (Dr. Dale Dixon)	15. June-PC-Tillandsia Species
6. MRCC-May General Meeting -Photo Montage	16. June-PC-Pattern Leaf Vriesea
7. May P.C.Goudaea, Guzmania, Vriesea, Nidularium	17. June-PC-Neoregelia
8. May-P.C.-Tillandsia Hybrids	18. June-PC-Pattern Leaf Vriesea
9. May-P.C.-Tillandsia Species	19. Time for Some Humour
10. May-PC-Pattern Leaf Vriesea	20. June-General Meeting -Photo Montage

**Meeting Attendance**

May 15th - Meeting	Members 46	Visitors - 2	Apologies - 3
June 19th - Meeting	Members 44	Visitors - 3	Apologies - 4

**Message from the editor Newsletter: Ralf Schenk**

Articles appearing in this Newsletter are for information only and are not necessarily endorsed by the committee or the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc.

## Meeting Programme 2021

1. Hall set up (members)
2. Committee Meeting when advised.
3. Popular choice set up and judging
4. Opening and introduction by President
5. Tea break and plant sales
6. Guest Speaker or Show and Tell
7. Popular Choice results & photos for Newsletter
8. Plant Raffle draw

**Note: Variation of meeting programme in place when not held at the hall venue.**

### Date                      Location & Topic

Sat 17th July      Maroochydore RSL - Christmas in July

### Editors Report

The member profile of Doug and Margaret Cross was a highlight of our last Newsletter, I'm keen to have feed in from other members and their introduction into Bromeliads and there association with our club.

To get the ball rolling I've put myself into the limelight.

#### **Ralf Schenk,**

I must admit I knew very little if anything about plants let alone Bromeliads when I first became involved with the club, mind you knowledge wise there has been limited improvement.



My partner Cheryl was President at the time when I got involved with the club. Having had extensive experience in administration duties with various clubs from a very young age, I was only too happy to help out when the club was in need of a Treasurer.

Club accounting and recording were manually entered, great I thought an opportunity to sharpen my computer skills with Excel spread sheets. To date our finances are in the black so I must be doing things right.

Given a year or so later there was a need for a Newsletter editor, I couldn't resist the opportunity to further my skills using "Publisher" a program introduced to me while I was working as a design draftsman. Little did I realise that this knowledge would come in handy later in life having been retrenched from design work at the young age of 52.

The move from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast saw the opportunity to expand Cheryl's passion for plants starting up Wildfire Garden.

I was fortunate enough to get work in Property Maintenance with a local Real Estate Agency until my retirement at the end of April this year.

Retirement has caught up, but my enthusiasm to keep the brain ticking should see many more years of administration work.

### Member Snipits

- Congratulations to Una Fallon who will turn 92 on 13 July 2021—Still going strong
- We wish Spence Grubb a speedy recover from his recent medical episode

## The Little Red Brazilians

By Dr Dale Dixon, Plant Taxonomist, Botanist and Horticulturist.

Taxonomy is the science of naming, describing and classifying living organisms. You could think of it like grouping similar organisms, based on their shared evolutionary history, into smaller and smaller closely related groups. Modern classifications are now mostly based on the comparison of DNA. Many collectors will be very aware of the recent reclassifications within the Bromeliaceae as it caused us to relabel many plants in our collections. These reclassifications were based on DNA comparisons.

Sometimes however, collectors, and for that matter some taxonomists, like to identify some groups based on what we perceive as similar characters even though these groups are not formally recognised in a taxonomic sense. This is done for many reasons, one of which is a method to help us easily identify groups of species with similar characters. The Little Red Brazilians are one such group. And the Little Red Brazilians are one of my favourite groups in *Tillandsia*. Yes we are talking about Tillandsias.

What are the Little Red Brazilians?

This informal group of 15 *Tillandsia* species contains some of the smallest growing in the genus apart from those tiny plants in the *Tillandsia* subg. *Diaphoranthema* of course. Generally they are small plants and have a similar habit with a rosette of globose to subglobose spreading leaves (*T. brachyphylla*, *T. grazeliae*, *T. heubergeri*, *T. kautskyi*, *T. organensis*, *T. reclinata*, *T. roseiflora*, *T. sprengeliana* and *T. thiekenii*) or in some species spreading and/or strongly secund leaves (*T. chapeuensis*, *T. gardneri*, *T. geminiflora*, *T. globosa* and *T. sucrei*). One species, *T. paraensis*, is pseudobulbous and it is also the only Little Red Brazilian not in the *Tillandsia* subg. *Anoplophytum*. All the species are considered to have flowers in various shades of pink or red. And all species occur only in Brazil or have part of their natural distribution in Brazil. Hence them being affectionately known as 'Little Red Brazilians'.

Probably the cheapest and easiest species of the Little Red Brazilians to acquire and grow is *T. gardneri* var. *gardneri* and if you are considering broadening your collection to include one of these gems, I'd start with this species first. Some collectors in southeast Queensland grow this species attached to shrubs and trees in their garden. It readily sets seeds and in some cases self sows on surrounding trees. *Tillandsia gardneri* var. *rupicola* is harder to come by and as such is more expensive. It will take full sun conditions and I grow mine on an external west facing wall of the shade house.

Another relatively easy species to grow is *Tillandsia geminiflora* var. *geminiflora*. It has a rosette of bright green spreading broad leaves and thrives in a semi-shaded northeast facing position in my shade house. When in flower the leaf colour and inflorescence/flower colour contrast very nicely.



*Tillandsia kautskyi* and *T. sprengeliana* (pictured) are becoming more common and the two species require similar conditions. I've found that they like it a little more cooler and humid and in my shade house I grow them on a northeast facing wall at mid height. This ensures that they get dappled morning sun and are shielded from the harsh afternoon sun. At mid height on the wall they are in amongst other species ensuring a suitable microclimate.



Images of *Tillandsia kautskyi*



Images of *Tillandsia sprengeliana*

Of the species I have in my collection, I find *T. roseiflora* the most difficult. It maybe that it requires slightly cooler conditions than what I can offer in my shade house or I've just not found the ideal spot for it. I do know of other collectors successfully growing it in Southeast Queensland.

Apart from the cultural requirements of sunlight and position described above, my plants are regularly watered and fertilised. In winter and depending on prevailing conditions, they are watered once per week and fertilised once per month. I increase the frequency of watering and fertilising during spring and summer such that watering occurs 2-3 times per week and fertilising once per week. These are delightful species to have in your collection. They take up little space and are colourful gems when in flower.

# General Meeting - Millwell Road Community Centre Sat 15th May 2021



Covid spacing



Relaxed atmosphere prior to meeting



Left: Popular Choice selection by members



Above: Hierarchy in deep discussion



Meeting in full swing



Show and Tell



**Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021**  
**GOUDAEA, GUZMANIA, VRIESEA, NIDULARIUM**



1st Stuart/Jill Cheyne  
*Guz. sanguinea*

2nd Cheryl Basic  
*Vriesea elatior*



**Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021  
TILLANDSIA HYBRIDS**



1st - Stan Walkley  
Tillandsia El Ultimo



2nd - Sue Murray  
Tillandsia Lucky Strike

**Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021  
TILLANDSIA - SPECIES**



1st - Greg Jones  
Till. xerographica





## Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021 TILLANDSIA - SPECIES



2nd - Stan Walkley  
*Tillandsia caerulea*



Equal 3rd Lilliana McKerrell  
*Till. ionantha*



Equal 3rd Stuart & Jill Cheyne  
*Till. disticha*



**Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021  
PATTERN LEAF VRIESEA**



1st Sue Murray  
Vr. Coolabine Princess



2nd Stan Walkley  
Vr. Fools Pink



2nd Sue Murray  
Vr. Dark Knight

## Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021 OTHER GENERA



Left - 1st Stan Walkley  
*Sincoraea albopictum*



Right - 2nd Sue Murray  
*Billbergia Arriabelle*



Left - 3rd Megan McKerrell  
*Sincoregelia Ecstasy*



## Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021 NEOREGELIA



1st Stan Walkley  
Neo. Jaws



Equal 2nd

Sue Murray  
Variegated Dyn-o-mite

Greg Jones  
Cooroibah Warrior



**Popular Choice - 19th June, 2021**  
**GOUDAEA, GUZMANIA, VRIESEA, NIDULARIUM**



1st Stuart/Jill Cheyne  
Goudaea Tiger Tim



2nd Sue Murray  
Vriesea Dusty Shadow



Equal 3rd - Sue Murray & Sue Pedler  
Goudaea Smudge Grub                      Guzmania (unknown)

## Popular Choice - 19th June, 2021 TILLANDSIA HYBRIDS



1st - Dale Dixon  
Holm's White Star



2nd - Nigel Thomson  
Puna Punk



3rd- Nigel Thomson  
Roy Ford Hybrid



## Popular Choice - 19th June, 2021 TILLANDSIA - SPECIES



Equal 1st

Sue Murray  
*xerographica*

Stan Walkley  
*schiediana Giant*



2nd Lillian McKerrell  
*Till. araujei*

**Popular Choice - 19th June, 2021  
PATTERN LEAF VRIESEA**



Equal 1st - Stan Walkley – Nigel Thomson  
Eldorado Hunua Fireburst



2nd Megan McKerrell  
Pedra Branca X



3rd Stuart & Jill Cheyne  
C.B.Pink



## Popular Choice - 15th May, 2021 NEOREGELIA



1st Nigel Thomson  
Bum Blebee



2nd Stan Walkley  
Donger



3rd Stuart Cheyne  
Sugar Mill



## Popular Choice - 19th June, 2021 OTHER GENERA



1st Sue Murray  
*Sincoraea albopictum*



2nd Jill & Stuart Cheyne  
*Quesnelia Tim Plowman*



3rd Lilly McKerrell  
*Sincoregelia Cosmic Blast*

## Coming Event

Christmas in July

Sat 17th Maroochydore R.S.L.

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## Time for some Humour

### Adoption

A couple who work in the circus go to an adoption agency.

Social workers there raise doubts about their suitability.

The couple produce photos of their 50 ft motorhome, which is equipped with a beautiful nursery.

The social workers then are doubtful about the education that the child would get.

"We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills."

Then there are doubts about raising a child in a circus environment.

"Our nanny is an expert in pediatric welfare and diet."

The social workers are finally satisfied.

They ask, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"It doesn't really matter, as long as he fits in the cannon"

\*\*\*\*\*

### Taxation Office Audit

The Australian Taxation Office suspected a fishing boat owner wasn't paying proper wages to his deckhand and sent an agent to investigate him.

ATO Auditor "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them". Boat Owner: "Well, there's Clarence, my deckhand, he's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$1000 a week plus free room and board.

Then there's the mentally challenged guy. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of Bundaberg rum and a dozen Crown Lagers every Saturday night so he can cope with life. He also gets to sleep with my wife occasionally".

ATO Auditor : "That's the guy I want to talk to-the mentally challenged one".

Boat Owner: "That's me . What'd you want to know".

\*\*\*\*\*

## Humour Continued

### Paddy and the Merc

Paddy was walking down a street when he saw his buddy Mick driving a brand new Mercedes.

Mick pulled up to him with a grin.

"Mick, where'd you get that car?"

"Sue gave it to me " Mick replied.

"She gave it to you? I knew she was kinda sweet on ya lad, but a new Merc?"

Well Paddy, let me tell you what happened...

We were driving out on a country road at 6 in the morning, in the middle of nowhere, Sue

pulled off and headed in to the woods, she parked the car, got out, threw off all her clothes and said "Mick, take whatever you want".

So I took the car!"

"Your're a smart man" says Paddy. Them clothes would never have fitted you.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Humour or Fact

Dear son, unload and reload the dish washer then take a pic of it.

Then walk the dog and take a pic of it. Then send me both pictures and I'll tell you where the power cord is for your Xbox.

\*\*\*\*\*

Men at 26 play football.

Men at 40 play tennis

Men at 60 play golf.

Have you noticed every time you get older the ball gets smaller.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Three Old Sisters

Three sisters, ages 92, 94, and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts one foot in and pauses.

She yells down stairs, "was I getting in or vout the bath?"

The 94vyear old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up up the stairs and pauses.

Then yells out, "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea and listening to nher sisters.

She shakes her head and say, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful."

She knocks on wood for good measurer. She then replies, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door.



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