



Bromelcairns



Bimonthly Newsletter of Cairns Bromeliad Society Inc. 2013 # 1

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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

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

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

lynnie@ledanet.com.au or lynnhudson@bromeliadsdownunder.com

Previous issues are on my website www.bromeliadsdownunder.com.au



2012

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dave Weston



I have no doubt that we have the most interactive and progressive Bromeliad Society in Australia. Interactive; because our members are prepared to get involved in the club activities and support the meetings and events. Progressive; because we do not sit and wait for the information to be delivered to us, we actively seek out and involve Bromeliad experts to participate in our “Bloomin Broms” workshops and we support and encourage our members to host meetings.

2012 was the first year we held two Bloomin Broms workshops and sales weekends in the one year, and whilst I was somewhat skeptical about how successful such an arrangement might be it was quite apparent that my concerns were unwarranted as both were very well attended and enjoyable events. The September Bloomin Broms event was particularly notable as we were privileged to have Harry Luther as the main guest speaker. Harry had already committed himself to return to Cairns for 2013, then we were advised of his sudden death in Singapore a few weeks after his return from Cairns. In certain respects the Cairns Bromeliad Society was especially honored to have the company of Harry and for him to impart some of his expertise and knowledge to us in 2012.

The quality of the show plants at our monthly meetings in 2012 was excellent, whilst the grower plays the major part in producing a quality plant for the judges, the vagaries and whim of the climatic conditions also have a significant role. The weather in 2012 was certainly kinder to us than 2011 when we were left to contend with the aftermath of cyclone Yasi.


Brendan and I were the only members from our Society who were able to attend the 2012 WBC conference in Orlando Florida although there was at least a good representation of other Queensland bromeliad society members in attendance. I am hopeful that our members will at least endeavor to remedy this by attending the “Cool Broms” conference in New Zealand this coming March. There is an excellent itinerary with a number of well respected Bromeliad experts delivering lectures on a range of relevant topics. The registration and accommodation costs are quite reasonable with current Au/NZ \$ exchange rates.

With the advent of new pest control products on the market bromeliad growers now have no excuse for not being able to control scale infestations, particularly Fly Spec scale which has in the past been very difficult to manage as the old products were not only highly toxic to people and the pets etc but

also prone to causing damage to the plants as well if not flushed out after application. The Imidacloprid based products now available two applications only is generally sufficient to remove scale infestations entirely, these products are safer to use, are more effective and you don't end up donating plants to the Council via the wheelie bin. Furthermore you can be much better assured when showing or selling plants that they are free of that insidious Fly Spec scale.

Thank you to all members who contributed to our Society over the past twelve months, even small efforts make a difference. Your involvement is key to the success of the group, even if you only attend meetings you are at least still making a contribution and hopefully you will be able to take something away with you as well – whether it's a snippet of information or another plant for your collection. However, once again, if it were not for the dedication of one person in particular I doubt if we would have such an active Society that we have now. Lynn Hudson has once again taken on more than is reasonable to expect of one member, the past year has been particularly onerous and quite stressful for Lynn and I congratulate her for the perseverance and tenacity which she has applied to the various roles in Cairns Bromeliad Society; Lynn a sincere heartfelt thank you from me.

At the conclusion of my two year term as President it is with some regret that I hand the reins back to Bob Hudson. Not due to any misgiving about Bobs' ability to run a meeting for he is more than qualified in that regard, but more to the fact that we do not currently have any other member prepared to give it a go. Running a meeting is the easy part, being an arbiter and diplomat though can be a test.
Dave Weston.

On behalf of the Cairns members, thank you Dave for the professional way you executed the duties of our President over these two years and for volunteering to be our 2013 Treasurer. Lynn 

Dave's other statement: With the retirement of Bob Hudson from bus driving we will no longer have access to the discounted bus hire arrangements we have had in past years. It will not be financially economical to hire a bus at commercial rates for our trips and we now need to car pool to get to our more distant members. Perhaps the best solution to save any sort of embarrassment to members and in particular car drivers and to make it clear up-front to all is have a motion passed; "That where a member elects to car pool for transport to meetings / events outside of the Cairns suburban area that each passenger will be expected to contribute a set amount of \$10 direct to the car owner to offset any costs which may be incurred". (Cairns includes of the Northern Beaches suburbs). The amount of \$15.00 is what we would normally have paid for each person when we hired a bus under Bobs' former work arrangement. Motion was moved by Barry and seconded by Lesley and carried.





Club Activities & Around the Members

FEBRUARY: Members enjoyed the air conditioned comfort after our humid 36C+ week. A wonderful range of favourite bromeliads were on show - excellent members, well done! With that quality standard it makes judging hard!

* First was the AGM - Helga did a sterling job of President inducting committee members. Thank you Helga, your expertise is recorded for the future! Thank you to Frances, Maria and Moyneen, Each of You did a Sterling Job in 2012. Welcome back rerunning members Dave, Karen & Nalda, plus new - Sharron, Bob & Shane.

*Minishow plants were of high quality and other plants should have been entered. Brendan said *Neo*. 'Catlan's Leopard' was a slow grower but kept good conformation. Darryl's huge *Neo*. 'Chirripo' was brightly coloured and almost perfect. Dave again showed the glowing double *Dyckia* 'Yellow Glow'. Stuart showed a healthy well spotted *Vriesea guttata*. They grow well in Cairns but do not flower here. They need a cooler climate, their habitat is Brazil. Nalda showed *Neo*. 'Morning Rain' a miniature of bright green leaves, speckled with red dots. It was named by Grace Goode for the hybridiser (the late) Josef Bek. Gail showed *Neo*. 'Perfection'. This attractive plant is a variegated sport from the deep maroon 'Fosperior' but is very unstable in Cairns - a good clone is divine. Developed by Bert Foster who said "I truly believe that this is the most beautiful bromeliad in the world". In 1978 it probably was - the multitudes of variegated neoregelias had not begun. Note - this plant is registered as 'Perfection' - not 'Fosperior Perfection'.

MINI SHOW – My Favourite Plant

1st *Neoregelia* 'Catlan's Leopard' - Brendan Leishman

2nd *Neoregelia* 'Chirripo' - Darryl Lister

3rd *Dyckia* 'Yellow Glow' - Dave Weston

POPULAR VOTE: (Nil Entries Novice Section)

OPEN - Bromeliad

1st *Neoregelia* 'Chirripo' - Darryl Lister

2nd. *Neoregelia* 'Captain Moxley' - Brendan Leishman

3rd. *Dyckia* 'Yellow Glow' - Dave Weston

Cryptanthus

1st *Cryptanthus* 'Anne Collings' - Lynn Hudson

2nd. *Cryptanthus* 'It' - Frances Boyd

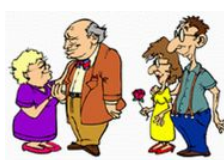
3rd. *Cryptanthus* 'Milky Way' - Dave Weston

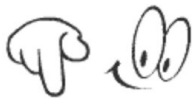
Tillandsia

1st *Tillandsia xerographica* Hybrid - Bob Hudson >>>

2nd *Tillandsia magnusiana* - Marguerite Sexton

3rd. *Tillandsia exserta* - Gail Taifalos





The Beautiful Plants you showed us



Bob: About 6 or 7 years ago in Townsville a grower bought in a very large plant that looked like *Tillandsia xerographica* for me to split up. It had three large pups and after I separated them I tried to get one of the offsets, but to no avail. Three months later to my amazement he gave an offset from the *Tillandsia xerographica* type plant. I grew it on the top shelf of the bush house until it started to spike and then shifted it to a lower shelf. I did not fertilize it, it just got bigger and bigger.

We are not sure just what this plant is; the parent was in seed when I separated the offsets, the grower said he had not pollinated it, so experience tells me that it is not a *Tillandsia xerographica*. Also the flowers are a very deep purple colour and the pollen does not turn yellow and fluffy until 9am - another reason that it is not a *xerographica*. It has 36 branches and reaches 120 cm in height with a leaf spread of 160 cm. A big beautiful mystery.

* Whilst Bob's plant overshadowed the other two entries, they were well worth a good look. Marguerite's *magnusiana* was a perfect fluffy ball and Gail's *exserta* was well grown.

* *Guzmania conifera* shown by Kath had a perfectly formed cone, the colour was deep orange, but this plant seldom shows flowers in Cairns.

* There were eight *Cryptanthus* entered. They have become far better looking and more popular and since growers started feeding them.

* *Cryptanthus* 'Anne Collings' had wide deep pink/brown leaves, a good contrast to the green with the white bands of Dave's 'Milky Way'.

* Wendy's 'Silver Lining' was quite white with lots of scurf on the pale green leaves.

* Kath entered 'Ruby' with deep red colouring and dark edges, proving how this plant enjoys a feed. It is always a good seller.



The Rules (Constitution) & the Bylaws. by Secretary Lynn

When a new person joins our society they are given a clipboard folder. Inside is a copy of our Constitution, our Bylaws, a Library List and a current Programme. I started this when I joined in 1998 and at that time I purchased them myself. Members have found the clipboard useful for holding meeting papers and forms. Since 2000 when it became more financial, the society has been paying for them.

As we are incorporated with the Dept. of Fair Trading we have the safety net of not being sued as individuals - but we also have duties. Our Constitution must be approved, and annually we must submit a statement of our monetary accounts, our current major committee members, and must hold a prescribed amount of insurance.

Our Bylaws are for day to day running of the society and can be altered at any general meeting when passed by a majority. We do not expect you to know these rules or Bylaws by rote, but you should be aware of the content and automatically remember to refer to them in times of query or need of change.



6 Written by Roberto Burle Marx as the preface to

“*Bromeliads in the Brazilian wilderness*” author Elton M.C. Leme (1993)

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< Elton Martinez Carvalho Leme,
High Court Judge, Rio de Janeiro
Bromeliad taxonomist, author & habitat collector.



(Late) Roberto Burle Marx >
Famous Landscape Architect & bromeliad lover

It is common knowledge that the number of beings in nature is virtually endless. The more we seek new species, the more we realize that we are still far from discovering everything we would like, despite the extraordinary techniques that reveal unknown realms. Out of an estimated total of 3.5 million species inhabiting our planet, only some 1.5 million are classified. These figures reflect the dimensions of our ignorance and are cause for alarm. In fact, this indicates that what we think we know about biodiversity is still very limited.

Here in Brazil, however, a few people are struggling to reduce the vast gap revealed by these figures, seeking to unveil the mysterious lives and hidden worlds of these species. Elton Leme is one of these. With his painstaking studies of bromeliads, in this book he seeks to portray neglected aspects of Brazilian Nature, through the magnificent photography of Luiz Claudio Marigo.

I would like to comment on this family – the Bromeliaceae – which to me are a real miracle, an extraordinary revelation. Curiosity prompted me to work as a landscape designer. Bromeliads are always an outstanding feature of special projects such as the Fazenda Vargem Grande of Clemente Gomes.

Bromeliads! Smooth or hairy, silvery or vividly coloured against the light ... they recall human figures, inter-kingdom hybrids with pineapple-shaped heads, trimmed with disheveled *Tillandsia usneoides*. Some bromeliads give us the impression that they were once sea anemones and jellyfish, or falling stars caught in the treetops, revealing in loving moments their secrets in multi-toned leaves, ensuring happier marriages.

Every time we travel through South America, and particularly in Brazil, we find huge bromeliads. Sandy coastal plains feature *Streptocalyx*, always so *floribundus*. And *Vriesea imperialis*? Gone to the hills in search of steep escarpments. During the day they bask in the warmth of the rocks, bathed at night in the drowsy mists that rise from the sweat of the afternoon.

I never see bromeliads growing alone. They are always linked to animal life and even other plants. They are inverse islands, as they encircle water. Nurseries for larvae that swim in these grails, where frogs go to feed and snakes find the vital

balance. Other bromeliads, as is well known – is it not? – hold the water needed to slake the thirst of the *Philodendron leal-costae* when water runs short at certain times of year. I have rarely seen a demonstration of such sincere friendship! Fantastically well adapted to its surroundings, this plant family manages to populate places that are at times extremely inhospitable. Its shapes are amazing. We find bromeliads in mangrove swamps almost touching the brackish water. As epiphytes they grow on remote branches, or they may cover the forest floor. Shaded by tall trees, they glow with the same incandescent light as the sunset and, like *Cryptanthus zonatus*, spread over the ground like shed snake skins.

Many bromeliads are covered with so many thorns that they are always defensive: they must have suffered greatly to act in this manner. Some, like *Neoregelia pauciflora*, are joined together and seem to float in the air like a Calder mobile. The Indians had also discovered them. Their bromeliform headdresses crowned noble heads. Enchanted, painters Frans Post and Margaret Mee sought to portray them.

I must not forget the pineapple, king of fruits with both crown and throne, sweet with indigenous sap. All that remains is for genetic engineering to create new shapes and blend colors: cobalt blue would be much appreciated. But here, removed from Nature, the merit would be Man's. In fact credit always goes to those who work to increase human knowledge. This is why Elton Leme makes me respect more deeply this quest for the Unknown. He reveals the world to us where Nature has been mercilessly scourged. This world needs to be protected and safeguarded. Those who seek it out will thus be able to enjoy the beauty of bromeliads. They will have access to the keys that open the doors to infinity.

Roberto Burke Menezes

Ed. Streptocalyx are now Aechmea. *Vriesea imperialis*, now *Alcantarea imperialis*.



The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen supply.

The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon river is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States .

Our Popular Vote Trophies - made by Scavenger Bob



Our society annual trophies are unique constructed by Bob from recycled timber, scavenged from various places.

Junior Trophies. - 2 Bromeliads and Tillandsias

The uprights are Red Box, the bases are New Guinea Rosewood.

The Red Box is from dry country north of Mt. Molloy where termites have eaten the soft part of the trees and left the outer shell, hence each piece of timber is uniquely shaped.

The New Guinea Rosewood is from the discard pile at our Johnson Joinery.

Novice Trophies - 3

Tillandsia, Cryptanthus and Bromeliad. The uprights of the first and third are Red Box, the bases are New Guinea Rosewood. The centre one Cryptanthus is extra special - the upright being Red Box, the base from an African Mahogany tree my father grew & planted here.

Grace Goode donated Silver Ingots to USA Cryptanthus Soc. as trophies, this one Grace sent to us for a trophy. Bob used a U-shaped piece of timber - as Grace included 'Silvo' - it sits at back!

Open Section Trophies - 3

Tillandsia, Bromeliad and Cryptanthus. 1. The Tillandsia upright is Twisted Tea Tree from Laura, Cape York, the base Silky Oak. 2. The upright is Red Box, the base African Mahogany. The Sundial

came from WBC 2002, as I entered a Book Display about our Society. 3. Upright is Red Box, the base was very old Silky Oak scavenged by Bob when the Boardwalk was replaced at Cairns Botanic Gardens.

Juniors are up to age 18 years. Members can be Novices for two years after joining, then they move to Open Section, unless they win a trophy in the first year. Each must win three times in one year to get the trophy.

You did a good job Bob



Member Showcase - Gloria Wegner - by Moyneen

Gloria's foray into Bromeliads started over 10 years ago. She has always been interested in gardening, something she inherited from her mother as a child. On a few occasions she had been on bus trips to gardens and on one occasion accompanied a friend on a Bromeliad Society bus trip. She thoroughly enjoyed it and at her friends recommendation she joined the Bromeliad Society - that was 10 years ago next October!

Gloria lists many favorites including *alcantareas*, *aechmeas* & *billbergias*. At the first "Blooming Broms" she was happy to purchase a couple of *Vriesea* "Tiger Tim" a plant she is very keen on. She explained to me how she likes to see a few of the same kind together for more impact.

Gloria told me about her garden, she has tree ferns nearly as tall as the house and a few different shades of Angel Trumpets which provide dappled light ideal for her bromeliads. I was left thinking Gloria must have a lovely garden.



Member Showcase - Moyneen Charlton - by Moyneen

My first "known" bromeliad purchases were *Billbergias* 'Hallelujah' and 'Pink Champagne'. These were purchased at a Big W plant morning I attended with Pina and Maria, presented by Lynn and Bob. I was and still am very impressed with these plants.

A couple of years passed and while at the Cairns Show I found myself at the Bromeliad Society display, I spoke with Lynn and she encouraged me to come along to society meetings.

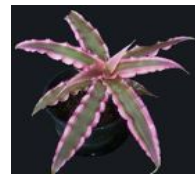
After attending my first meeting in August 2009, I went home with my first raffle prize - *Neoregelia* 'Beefsteak'. Looking around my garden I realized I had a few other bromeliads so I started to group them. About a year later I decided everything in the front yard had to go. We set about benching the front yard to accommodate more bright bromeliads and a couple of tree ferns for shade.

These plants kept increasing every month, after every meeting. They gave us enormous pleasure. As a result of being in the society I got to collect plants I had never seen before. I had many favourites, especially *Guzmania* 'Gisela' and my all time favorite plant *Neoregelia* 'Blood Plum', that just loved living in the pot with my lemon tree, I felt I couldn't separate them. It was sad to leave them all behind.

The big surprise for me was *Tillandsias* - they creep up on you. At first I gave them no thought but ended up being a big fan.

Once again thanks for all your shared knowledge and companionship and privilege of seeing your gardens. The reoccurring theme when speaking to members is that most have been keen gardeners from a very early age. That goes for me to, my grandmother was a very keen gardener.

Ed. While Moyneen was my Assist. Editor, notes arrived unbidden, what was a blessing! She has moved to Tasmania - on 21/12/12 I received these notes! Thank you for all that you willingly gave. Sweet Lady I do miss you, but we all hope you are very happy.



“Bloomin Broms” Cairns 1-2 June 201 Guest Speakers

Andrew Flower from New Zealand - Tillandsias & Photography

Doug Cross from Ipswich - Cryptanthus - growing & hybridising

Nigel Thomson from Cootharaba - Bromeliads light up your life

Saturday 1st June - Seminars & Plant Sales for Registrants 8am-5pm

Registration open to members and public. Sorry - no babies or infants.

Sunday 2nd June Plant Sales & Cultivation open to the public 8am-2pm

Edge Hill School, Pease St. Performing Arts Centre & Basketball Court.

Food for the mind and the soul.

Tell your friends, encourage them to attend at least one day.

They will learn and enjoy our company.

xCryptbergia to xBiltanthus

When two genera are cross pollinated to produce another plant it is called a bigeneric or intergeneric plant - the new plant genera name reflects each of the parents. There is a set of Rules for naming plants - it is called the ICBN being the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. These rules state that the first validly published new bigeneric genus name must be accepted.



The bigeneric name of xCryptbergia has been changed to xBiltanthus

While perusing old documents Derek Butcher found reference to a xBiltanthus and after further investigation he discovered the name had been used in 1947. Yes, time to change your labels.

I have listed the most commonly grown in our area.

xCryptbergia ‘Goodale’ now xBiltanthus ‘Goodale’ - Grace Goode
(Cryptanthus ‘It’ X xCryptbergia ‘Red Burst’)

xCryptbergia ‘Mead’ now xBiltanthus ‘Beucker’ - T.L. Mead
(Cryptanthus beuckeri X Billbergia nutans)

xCryptbergia ‘Red Burst’ now xBiltanthus ‘Red Burst’ - T.L. Mead
(Cryptanthus bahianus X Billbergia nutans)

xCryptbergia ‘Topaz’ now xBiltanthus ‘Topaz’ - Vic Przetocki
(Cryptanthus bivittatus v. major? X Billbergia pyramidalis v. concolor)



We got mail! I received this note from Barbara Surman

Brian & I love coming up to our club and do you know why? Because you are all friendly and you make us feel so welcome. We look forward to the Christmas Party and wish we could come up more often. It was a lovely surprise to get a special award - “Best Country Members”! Thanks Lynn & Bob for accommodation and we love our trip to “Charlies Restaurant” for a seafood feast. We hope you all have a great 2013. Barb.

:Everything I need to know, I learned from **Noah's Ark** ..

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE: Build your future on high ground.

FOUR: When you're stressed, float awhile.

FIVE: For safety's sake, travel in pairs..

SIX: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

SEVEN: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done

EIGHT: Stay fit. When you're 60, someone may ask you to do something really big.

NINE: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.

* Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out. Phyll Diller

*By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. Billy Crystal

* I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. Bob Hope

*I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it. W.C. Fields

* Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. Mark Twain

*Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. Victor Borge



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Looking sharp is easy when

It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived

Don't be afraid of opposition; Remember a kite rises against, not with the wind.

Don't be afraid of tomorrow, for God has already been there.

Don't be afraid to learn. Knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily.

Don't be angry at a friend who told your secret, for neither could you keep it to yourself.

Don't be concerned by others not appreciating you. Be concerned about your not appreciating others (Confucius).

Don't be irreplaceable -- if you can't be replaced, you won't be promoted



Antiques Roadshow: Paddy took 2 stuffed dogs to the roadshow.

"Ooh!" said the presenter, "This is a very rare set, produced by the celebrated Johns Brothers taxidermists who operated in London at the turn of last century.

"Do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?"

"..Sticks?" Paddy replied.

Ha Ha Ha!



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

Bromeliads & Tillandsias **Bob & Lynn Hudson** ABN 66 951 932 976

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Phone: (07) 40533 913

email: lynnie@ledanet.com.au

"Bloomin' Broms" Cairns 1-2 June 2013

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

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

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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.

Both available in bulk at reduced price.

Contact Lynn on 07 40533913 or lynnie@ledanet.com.au or

LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com

