

BROMELETTER

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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CONTENTS

Management Details	2,3,15,18,19
Plant Of The Month, Discussion: November	4,5
Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman' Graham Barclay	6
Vale - 'Mr Billbergia' Don Beadle	7
Billbergia 'Hallelujah'; Spotting on Billbergias	7,8,9
Gum-Leaf Katydid	10
New Registrations <i>Tillandsia latifolia varieties</i>	11,12
Aechmea 'Blue Cone' cylindrata or?	12
Plant of the month - December	13,14
A surprise Dyckia Bloom - Herb Plever	16,17

	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	
President	Ian Hook	0408 202 269
	(president @bromeliad.org.au)	
Vice President(1),	Kerry McNicol	0439 998 049
& Editor	(membsec@bromeliad.org.au)	
Vice President (2)	Meryl Thomas	0401 040 762
Secretary	Carolyn Bunnell	02 9649 5762
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Tonya McEntyre, 23 Blue Gum Drive Aberglasslyn 2320 Townsville Bromeliad Study Group,

C/- Barb Davies, 5 Sharp St, MT LOUISA. Qld 4814. NT Bromeliad Society Inc

C/- Ross Hutton, PO Box 36283, Winnellie. NT 0821

<u>Material for Bromeletter</u> - address to: **editor@bromeliad.org.au** All other correspondence to:

The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc., P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.

Photo Front Cover Billbergia 'Hallelujah' By Ken Woods.

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Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details

Operating Account to October 1, 2018:

 Opening cash at bank
 \$ 37 004.85

 Income:
 897.70

 Expenses
 1 510.71

 Bank Statement as at October 31, 2018:
 \$ 36 391.84

Operating Account to November 1 2018

Don't forget

a mug

 Opening cash at bank
 \$ 36 391.84

 Income:
 1 293.55

 Expenses
 25 588.56

 Closing cash at bank November 30, 2018
 \$ 12 096.83

WEBSITES

Bromeliads in Australia http://bromeliad.org.au
Encyc of Bromeliads http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/

BSI Cultivar Register http://registry.bsi.org/ Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies http://fcbs.org/

Bromeliario Imperialis http://imperialia.com.br/

Facebook users: search for the group 'Planet Bromeliad' & associated 'Planets & Moons' sub-groups for Bromeliad Enthusiasts.

*Annual subscriptions fell due 1.1.19 a renewal

form is available on the website.

January & February meetings in George Bell Pavillion

Plant of the Month Competition November 2018

Open Judge's Choice.

1st Canistrum triangular Carolyn Bunnell
2nd Neo. 'Heat Rash' Kerry McNicol
3rd Vriesea fribergensis tucumanensis Kerry McNicol









& Members' Choice

1st Canistrum triangular Carolyn Bunnell 2nd Till. Albertiana

Chris Cheetham

3rd Neo. 'Heat Rash' Kerry McNicol

=3rd Vriesea fribergensis tucumanensis Kerry McNicol

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.

1st "Oscar the Owl' 2nd 'Lest We Forget' 3rd 'Cornucopia' Joy Clark Carolyn Bunnell Pauline Blanch





'Lest We Forget'



'Cornucopia'



Novice Judge's Choice

1stBillbergia'Starlight Ladd'Mark Belot2ndQuesnelia'Tim Plowman'Siri Kilpinnen-Hughes3rdNeoregelia 'Whirlwind'Siri Kilpinnen-Hughes







& Members' Choice

1st Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman' Siri Kilpinnen-Hughes

2nd *Neoregelia* 'Whirlwind' Siri Kilpinnen-Hughes 3rd Billbergia 'Starlight Ladd' Mark Belot =3rd *Quesnelia marmorata* Ian Hook





Discussion

<u>Di Tulloch</u> had some photos of variegated plants which she would have liked named one could have been Aechmea 'Ensign', the other were variegated Neoregelias, which could have been 'Chirripo', 'Mulberry Jam', 'Cherry Jam' etc all being medium sized plants. Usully photographs show the plant at its optimum, grown in perfect conditions e.g. Aechmea 'Ensign' is cold intolerant and is quite hard to grow well in our conditions, special care needs to be taken with cultivation in the cooler months.

<u>Ian Hook</u>, who obviously has copious amounts of spare time, showed his 'Christmas Tree' that he made at work with some off cuts of electrical cable. Can't wait to see it decorated as the centre-piece of our Christmas Feast!

QUESNELIA 'Tim Plowman' Graham Barclay

Reprinted from 'Bromeliad' the Journal of th Bromeliad Society of New Zealand Jan 2014

This plant is a cultivarof the species *Quesnelia marmorata*, one of the most popular early cultivated bromeliads with its unique tubular form and highly mott-



led or 'marmorated' leaf markings. *Quesnelia* marmorata was often refered to as the 'Grecian Urm Plant', no doubt due to its urn shaped form and leaves. It was also actually known by growers as *Aechmea marmorata* up until about 1965, when learned experts agreed it should fit into the genus *Quesnelia* because of its differing flower morphology.

The 'curly-wurley' cultivar, Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman', was collected from the wild, probably in the 1970s in Rio deJaneiro state, Brazil. It made its way to florida where it was named andregistered in 1983by the late, well known bromeliad authority Harry Luther, in honour of well respected botanist Timothy Plowman. It is differentiated frim the normal Quesnelia marmorata

solely by the overtly recurved leaf tips of each sheath. The dramatic curly form is only seen in a few other bromeliad species, making it a striking featureplant, especially in a potted clump.

While it looks very fragile, like a piece of art, it is surprisingly tough and is easy to grow in most environments. It will do well in bright shade to full sun all year round in new Zealand, both as a potted specimen or mounted as an epiphyte. It will grow well in chunky bark, pumice or scoria based soils in the garden, or amongst rocks where it can gain a firm foothold. The trick to growing it well into a clump and obtaining good curly form, is to pot a single plant into a large pot with a good amount of slow release fertiliser applied in early spring, giving it plenty of light and water. This pushes the plant to send out pups during the warmer months, rather than flowering, which often only occurs once it has formed into a clump of several mature plants. Once the clump is well established cut back on ferliiser and water, which will trigger flowering.



Don Beadle - Mr Billbergia -

Lyn Wegner; East London Bromeliad Society South Africa NEWS LETTER November 2018

The loss of Don Beadle is felt throughout all the Bromeliad community, perhaps best stated by lyn Wegner of the ELBS.

'It is with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of Don Beadle, aka Mr Billbergia. Don passed away at home on the 30th October at the age of 89. I was excited to meet Don and his partner, Joann, in 2010 at the WBC in Orlando. I was honoured to hear Don speak at this conference too. He was awarded the Wally Berg Award of Excellence at the WBC held in San Diego earlier this year. He was so excited to be nominated for this award. What a worthy recipient! Don was one of the truly amazing people of the bromeliad



Photo from article by Karen Andreas

world. A legend. He chose to specialise in Billbergia which no one else was, and I am sure many of you have his spectacular Billbergia hybrids in your garden.

There is a wonderful article on Don which you will enjoy, written by Karen Andreas. You can read this informative and enjoyable article at fcbs.org, click on Bromeliad Information, and then, on Bromeliad People.

Some of Don's better known hybrids include: *Billergia:* 'Afterglow'; Caramba"; 'Carioca'; 'Deliciosa'; 'Groovy' & 'Hallelujah', as well as the occasional Neoregelia hybrid.

Billbergia 'Hallelujah'

(Bill.'Domingos Martins' x Bill.'Ed McWilliams)

From the journal of the Bromeliad Society of NZ ,
Diane Timmins

'Don Beadle of Florida always had a fascination with bromeliads. He narrowed his focus to billbergias when he realized it was not practical or possible to collect every bromeliad species. Don collected the twenty or so billbergia species at the time and then enjoyed and developed the process of hybridizing. The initial results were mostly green, as the material he had to work with was relatively plain. However this all changed when Bob Whitman collected





Bill. 'Domingos Martins' in the wilds of brazil. Don said he 'lusted after the plant with a passion', and after much coercion and a year's wait he managed to acquire a pup. Don then revolutionized hybridizing when he crossed Bill.'Domingos Martins' with Bill. 'Ed McWilliams', resulting in Billbergia 'Hallelujah' which was registered in 1988.

Having foliage of rich purple with large white spots, this plant is still popular in many collections today. Don's description of *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' includes the phrase '... with the mother retaining her good looks in old age', demonstrating his love for this particular plant, another legacy of the man known in the bromeliad world as 'Mr Billbergia'.

Spotting in Billbergia Leaves

Reprinted from BSI Journal vol66(1):1-64.

Text by **Alan Herndon**.

One of the features that collectors find most attractive in *Billbergia* is the presence of white spots on the leaves of some species. These spots tend to be irregularly scattered over the leaf surface as in *Bill. Saundersii* (right). They are of different sizes and roughly circular, but often overlap, producing irregular shaped areas of white. Furthermore, they are often most prevalent on the final (inner) leaves produced on the rosette. In this photo you can see the less spotted outer (older) leaf.



Overlapping of spots can be carried to such an extreme that large portions of the leaf blade and sheath appear to be white (left).

In *Billbergia*, the white spots are caused by loss of chlorophyll throughout the thickness of the leaf tissue. You can also see pink margins around the spots (in some *Billbergia*) indicating the presence of a thin layer of *anthocyanic** pig-



ment. * Anthocyanins are water-soluble vacuolar pigments that, depending on their pH, may appear red, purple, or blue in leaf colouring.

You can also see small brown spots in the middle of some larger white spots. These brown spots are apparently due to the death of leaf tissue at that point. As the leaf ages, these brown spots increase in size. Under my (Alan Herndon) growing conditions, such brown spots are inevitably found as the leaves, and their white spots age.





In *Billbergia* 'Curly Tops there is no anthocyanic layer and no pink margins. Brown spots are evident in the older leaves.

Many other species also have spots of the same nature, but these spots may not be found on all clones of the species. *Billbergia amoena* var.*maculata* is well spotted but has widely grown clones that have no spotting.

In other cases, the species may have less predominant spotting. *Billbergia amoema* var *robertianum* is an examples of this. Of course most clones of *Billbergia amoena* in cultivation have no spotting . . . or is relatively inconspicuous. Also, the light transverse bands seen in the photo (right) of *Billbergia amoena* minor, charac-



teristic of all amoena clones, tend to compete with the white spots for attention.

Elaboration of spots is a frequent goal for hybridists. Many modern hybrids have a higher spot density throughout the lifespan, with sharper edges and a stronger resistance to the development of dead areas within the spots Spectacular results can be produced by the interaction of white spots and a strong layer of anthocyanic pigment. The production of chlorophyll and anthocyanins are independent, so loss of chlorophyll does not affect the layer.

Gum-leaf Katydid - Torbia viridissima

Ref: Brisbane insects.com; Lloyd Goodman (photo)

A query made by Lloyd Goodman as to what this insect might be sunning itself on his tillandsia flower spike, and was answered as a 'Gum-leaf Katydid'.



Adult Gum-leaf Katydids resemble gum leaf, both in shape and colour. Some adults may have brown markings on their legs. Their front wings look exactly like a gum leaf, with the thick white vein at the middle. Both adults and nymphs feed on gum leaves. Although they feed on eucalypt leaves, they will decimate some bromeliad leaves (in the editors garden).

The young nymphs look quite different from their adults, instead they look like large brown ants. Their brown colour gradually disappear when grow up. It is believed that they mimic ants to gain some protection.

They will go through five stages before reaching adulthood, graduating from the tiny striped brown ant shape to a green and brown grasshopper type, to the late instar stage looking more like the adult with developing wings, and finally, to the adult (shown above).









The female lay eggs dark brown in colour, in oval disk shape with 4mm in length along the edges of leaves, something with which we are probably familiar, but perhaps didn't know quite what they were. Gum-leaf Katydids feed at night and have very good eyesight. It will see you and stealthily avoid capture by sliding behind a stem or leaf and will fly as a last resort. Systemic insecticides can be used however a bit of 'Treadon-em' is a quicker and permanent solution.

Two new registrations of Tillandsia latifolia

Tillandsia latifolia two KK forms get proper names – at last. **by Derek Butcher**, Adelaide Oct 2018

Tillandsia 'Angustifolia'

'This plant was imported by me from Karel Knize in Peru in 1978. It was in my first importation. It had *Tillandsia latifolia var angustifolia* on the label but I was never able to verify the species because it did not flower for me! Over the years I have had Tillandsias from Karel which seem to have been wild collected



but with fanciful names which I thought was great for my enquiring mind. Anyway, this plant was forever offsetting and many times an offset was given away with the plea to tell me when it flowered. So it was a great surprise when Bruce Dunstan reported his plant was in bud. Alas, it did not actually flower but it was sufficient to identify links with *Tillandsia latifolia*. George Nieuwenhoven reports getting his from Chris Larson so it would seem this plant is struggling on, throughout Australia. Some may even have flowered it and not considered it an important occurrence! Surely it is worth a brag!

'Angustifolia' is a caulescent plant with the basal leaves drying, it offsets freely and seems to produce a single spike. Diameter of plant is 170 mm. Its length with live leaves is about 350 mm. Actual leaves are some 105 mm long and 18 mm wide at base .

Tillandsia 'Skineri'

A plant with this name was imported in 1984 from Karel Knize (Peru) as stated in his plant list. No further detail was given and it was not until later issues was it linked to T. latifolia. Later issues spelt it as 'Skinneri' but there was no indication as to whom this might be. It grew well under my conditions and produced normal offsets but never flowered. Over time I must have disposed of some of the offsets while getting the recipient to promise to tell me when it flowered. Nothing was reported! In my current downsizing I gave one such offset to Ray Clark in 2017. Because of the change in conditions or Ray's great husbandry it



decided to flower in 2018 together with a pseudo-viviparous offset.

Ray reports: Plant diameter 350mm,

Height 300mm, Leaf blade 165 mm long. Length of flower spike 190 mm be fore offset.

Latifolia means wide leaves but here the leaves a more narrow than usual and a more apt cultivar name could be 'Skinny'! There is also the thought as to whether it is linked to T. latifolia or the recently promoted from varietal status T. divaricata.

It is of interest here that Andrew Flower in NZ reports a similar looking plant that he grew from seed in 1991 under KK144 Tillandsia latifolia Cieneguilla. In the same seed list we see KK43 for Tillandsia latifolia 'Skineri' so we can assume that Karel saw differences.



To qualify for a cultivar name it must be under cultivation and not just sitting in one person's collection. Despite the efforts of Ray Clark no other tillandsia grower has admitted ownership of this plant so I was rather loth to register the name. The good news is that Justin Lee is now an owner of said plant so I am going ahead in putting 'Skineri' in the BCR. '

'Blue Cone', Cylindrata or . . . ?

From September meeting of the Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group Ross displayed a globular inflorescence of an Aechmea and asked members to identify it. Guesses were 'Blue Cone', however the correct name is 'Pom Pom'. Members who own plants tagged as Aechmea 'Blue Cone' are advised to look at the inflorescence shape, if it's globular - a little round ball of blue petals on a stick - it is most likely to be Ae. 'Pom Pom'. If the inflorescence is cone shaped or - longer than it is round and tapered, look toward Ae. 'Blue Cone'. One must also consider Aechmea cylindrata for the later which has as the name suggests a cylindrical inflorescence more so than being conical (cone shaped).



Aechmea 'Pom Pom'



Aechmea Blue Cone



Aechmea cylindrata



Plant of the Month Competition December 2018

Open Judge's Choice.

1st Neoregelia 'Alaea Kerry McNicol 2nd Neoregelia 'Heat Wave' Kerry McNicol 3rd Tillandsia capitate rubra Carolyn Bunnell

Open Members' Choice

1st Neoregelia 'Alaea Kerry McNicol 2nd Tillandsia capitate rubra Carolyn Bunnell 3rd Neoregelia 'Heat Wave' Kerry McNicol





Tillandsia capitata rubra

1st: 'Noel'
Pauline Blanch
2nd: 'Merry Go
Round', Gen Hook
(below left)
=2nd: Till. schiedeana, Ian Hook

(below)



3rd: 'Happy Christmas', Pamela Munro

Plant of the Month Competition October 2018 cont.

Judge's Choice

Novice

1st Neoregelia 'Blushing Tiger' 2nd Billbergia 'Hallelujah' 3rd Tillandsia 'Leon'

Harold Kuan Elaine Fletcher Harold Kuan

Members' Choice

Novice

1st Billbergia 'Hallelujah' 2nd Vriesea 'Barbara' 3rd Tillandsia 'Leon'

Elaine Fletcher Len Smith Harold Kuan











We continue to attract new members into the Society and would like to welcome our most recent enthusiasts:

Len Smith & Margaret Burridge

If you would like to become a Member, please see details below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Renewal is due 1st January for membership

year January to December.

Annual Membership:

Overseas Membership:

Australia

A\$25

Asia/Pacific Zone

A\$40.

Rest of the World

A\$45.

New Membership requires a \$5 joining fee, plus Annual Subscription. (Those joining after our spring Show are covered for the following year.)

Note: Un-financial members must add \$5 rejoining fee when re-applying for membership.

Members will become 'un-financial' if renewals have not been received by the end of our Autumn Show

MAIL ORDER PAYMENTS BY MASTERCARD/VISA. (Subject to A\$10.00 minimum.)

Members using Mastercard or Visa mail order facility should provide the following details, printed clearly in block letters, on a separate sheet of paper:

- Name and address of MEMBER.
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- CARDHOLDER name details, as shown on card.
- Mastercard/Visa number and expiry date.
- CARDHOLDER signature (essential).
- Payment details (membership renewal, book purchase, postage, etc.)
 with \$A amounts for each item.
- A 3% surcharge for this service will be made.

A SURPRISE DYCKIA BLOOM

by Herb Plever

From **BROMELIANA** October 2018 **PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK BROMELIAD SOCIETY**There are 172 recognized species in the genus *Dyckia* that can be found in Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina. There are 183 Dyckia cultivar hybrids registered in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR). In habitat most Dyckias grow in rock crevices in open sun in semi-dry to dry areas at moderately high altitudes; yet they tolerate a wide range of temperatures from very hot to cold and from dry to high relative humidity.

Dyckias typically start to bloom from October to January, likely triggered by the onset of cold temperatures. They have thick, succulent leaves and utilize CAM metabolism to produce and absorb nutrients through photosynthesis. Many years ago I bought some *Dyckias* from Bill Baker, the great Dyckia hybridizer. I was attracted to them and thought I could grow them in my south-facing window, though I was uncertain that they would do well in my apartment which had high humidity provided by four humidifiers.

For 2 or 3 months the Dyckias looked like they had adapted to my apartment. But, a few plants had large amounts of incipient scale, and I was too inexperienced to recognize the telltale shiny smut on the leaves as scale eggs. When the scale infestation broke out, especially on the beautiful *D*. 'Toothy' it spread and affected adjacent plants; my topical insecticide sprays were unable to put down the infestation.

(At that time I did not know about systemic insecticides such as Cygon 2E that was totally effective in killing all sucking insects. Later on I used it for many years before its distribution in the U.S. was banned because it was suspended in a carcinogenic medium.) I dumped the infected plants and I didn't get any new *Dyckias* until I

bought *Dyckia* 'Cherry Coke' (*D. platyphylla x D.* 'Carlsbad) from one of our Spring

plant sales. The photo on the BCR shows bright maroon leaves which I was not able to achieve in my south window. My plant has dark, smokey leaves, more like the soda Cherry Coke. Later, I bought *D*. 'Icicle' (it's unregistered); had I checked I might not have purchased it.

At one of the World Conferences 4 or 6 years ago, my friend, Doris Kiernan of Queensland, Au., generously gave me a small *Dyckia* 'California' (unregistered).





It had bright red leaves with white spines, but even when I grew it in my south-facing window, the red turned to maroon - the color you see in the photo on this page. In typical Dyckia fashion it produced a companion plant which quickly equalled its mature size of 7.5 inches across.

From early May 2017, (when my wife's ill ness was diagnosed as Stage 4 cancer), to early April when all of the boxes filled with the possessions that I moved with were finally unpacked and I was settled in my new digs in Long Island, my broms suffered from total neglect. They were watered every 3 to 4 weeks (when I remembered).

Nonetheless bromeliads are really tough; they survived and grew without much damage - (even the tissue cultures I had been growing 4 in a pot since April 30, 2017). I have 3 window boxes in the two windows in my bedroom which also serves as a plant room and computer station, and I bought a two tier plant stand with LED lights. Although I had sharply reduced my brom collection, still there was not enough room for all the plants I moved with me. So I had to put some plants out on my glassed in (with screens) terrace, including *Dyckia* 'Cherry

Coke' that had lumped to 3 large plants with a spread of 2 feet. It has wicked spines which make it difficult to grow in any of my three crowded window boxes. It was very cold in February, 2018 with consequent low humidity when I moved to Long Island, so I bought a humidifier that raised relative humidity to 40-50% and all the broms did well despite the cold, especially *Dyckia* 'California' which I first grew on the LED light stand until early May when I put it out on my terrace. From April up until now the terrace, which faces west-southwest and gets strong afternoon sun, has been very hot with 60-75% relative humidity. We had a four or five



week spell of temperature in the 90°s followed by temperature in the high 80°s, but the terrace plants (even the newly potted tissue cultures) fared well because I watered them every 5 or 6 days.

In early July I noticed that an inflorescence was coming up from a lateral (side) axil on Dyckia 'California'. It grew to a height of 11" and put out 9 bright orange flowers, starting from the bottom. At this writing in late September the flowers have dried, but I can now look forward to seeing other lateral inflorescences as the plant is still growing from the center. This plant has adapted well despite the fact that its new environment does not at all conform to what is deemed its "typical" horticulture.

I don't intend to bring the *Dycki*a 'Cherry Coke' indoors for the winter. I takes up too much space and the spines are dangerous when put in a crowded window box. I'd like to see how the plant fares in the cold when winter comes. When the temperature gets down below freezing, I plan to throw a few heavy towels over the plant, especially at night. In any event, it will have to survive or die and be disposed of. I'm hoping that when it gets cold, this will trigger blooms. I think Dyckias make excellent houseplants, as they tolerate a wide range of temperatures and humidity - and there are lots of small cultivars to choose from such as the 4" *D.* 'Angelita', 'Brittle Star', *choristaminea*, *fosteriana*, 'Lad Cutak', 'La Rioja', *platyphylla*, and *remotiflora*.

LITERATURE for Sale

http://www.bromeliad.org.au/Contacts/BSALibrarian.htm

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRICE
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden	Andrew Steens	\$20.00
Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007)	BSI	\$ 6.00
Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias	Margaret Paterson	\$25.00
Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree	John Catlan	\$10.00
Bromeliad Cultivation Notes	Lyn Hudson	\$10.00
Growing Bromeliads - 3rd Ed. by	BSA IS BACK!.	
	(member price)	¢20.00



SEED BANK

Thanks go to all those who have donated seed.

Seeds cost 50¢ per packet for Members and Seed Bank supporters (plus postage) or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other enquiries: Enquiries for seeds should be directed to

Terry Davis (02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809

Below is the list of **some** of the **most recently** added seed to our Seed Bank. For a full list please go to bromeliad.org.au

Vriesea carinata	27/10/18	Michael D	rury			
Tillandsia schiedeana	11/11/18	Terry Dav	is			
Tillandsia cf beloensis	11/11/18	Terry Davis				
Tillandsia juncea white	14/11/18	Terry Davis				
Tillandsia tricolor	19/11/18	Terry Davis				
Tillandsia pruinosa	30/08/18	Greg Azlewood				
Tillandsia polystachia white petal		2/11/18	Greg Azlewood			
Tillandsia capillaris (was incana)		02/12/18	Kerry McNicol			
Tillandsia fasciculata type <30cm		02/12/18	Kerry McNicol			
Tillandsia fasciculata - pink multi spike		04/12/18	Jan Townsend			
Seed has been moving quickly, especially the more recent additions						

Seed has been moving quickly, especially the more recent additions.

SO if you have seed to donate please send it in or bring it to our next meeting.

What's ON

January 12th - BSA Meeting - George Bell Pavillion Sales 11; Meeting 12noon February 9th - BSA Meeting - George Bell Pavillion Sales 11; Meeting 12noon March 2nd *Note 1st Saturday - BSA Meeting - Federation Pavillion

March 30th - Bus Trip - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

11th & 12th May - BSA Autumn Show - No meeting this month

COLLECTORS' CORNER

BROMELIADS – a large colourful range of Bromeliads, both species and hybrids of many genera. Includes a very large range of Tillandsias. A mail order list of Tillandsias is available upon request.

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Book 2. Crypt., Til., Vr., etc. Books available on-line at www.bromeliad-hybrids.com

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