



BROMELETTER

***THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.***

bromeliad.org.au



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Neoregelia 'Fonteyne'

Photo Kerry McNicol

STOP PRESS:

Our bus tour to the Central Coast is now full. Please meet before 8.00a.m. at the Federation Pavilion on 31st March for an 8.00 a.m. departure. Return will be by 5.00p.m.

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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

*Photo Front Cover
Neoregelia 'Fonteyne'
(unreg cv of N.'Sheldance')*

Life Members:

Grace Goode O.A.M
Ruby Ryde
Bill Morris
Ron Farrugia
Graham McFarlane
Ian Hook

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

OFFICE BEARERS

Book Sales & Librarian	Ian Hook
Member Secretary & Purchasing Officer	Kerry McNicol
Catering	Helga Nitschke; Lydia Hope
Raffle Sales	Peter Fitzgerald
Pots, Labels etc Sales	Ron Farrugia
Plant of the Month / Show Registrar	Terence Davis
Show Co-ordinator/s	Ian Hook / Terence Davis
Show Display	Joy Clark
Publicity Officer	Di Tulloch

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details

Operating Account to December 1, 2018:

Opening cash at bank	\$ 12096.83
Income:	2 354.60
Expenses	<u>2 586.72</u>

Bank Statement as at December 31, 2018: **\$ 11 864.71**

Operating Account to January 1 2019

Opening cash at bank	\$ 11 864.71
Income:	2 623.35
Expenses	<u>1 184.63</u>

Closing cash at bank January 31, 2019 **\$ 13 303.43**

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.



REMINDER



*Don't forget
a mug*

*Annual subscriptions fell due 1.1.19 a renewal form is available on the website.

2nd March - meeting * 1st Saturday of the month in Federation Pavilion

30th March — Bus Tour

13th April - Meeting - Federation Pavilion

Plant of the Month Competition January 2019

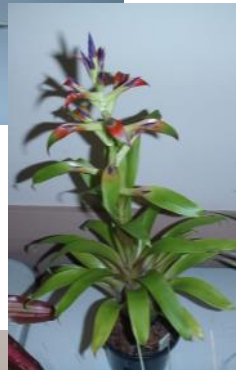
Open

1st	<i>Tillandsia jalisco-montecola</i> x <i>capitata</i> (pos. 'Nellie Rose')	Kerry McNicol
2nd	<i>Tillandsia werneriana</i>	Carolyn Bunnell
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bullis' Margaret'	Kerry McNicol

Judge's Choice.

& Members' Choice

1st	<i>Tillandsia Jalisco-montecola</i> x <i>capitata</i>	Kerry McNicol
2nd	<i>Tillandsia lieboldiana</i>	Kerry McNicol
3rd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Bullis' Margaret'	Kerry McNicol



Clockwise from top left:

Tillandsia 'Nellie Rose';
Tillandsia werneriana;
Tillandsia lieboldiana;
Neoregelia 'Bullis' Margaret'



Margaret Draddy

Artistic Competition.

1st 'Nearly Australia Day'
 Carolyn Bunnell
 2nd 'Hanging Wonder'
 Anna Kilpinen



Novice

1st

2nd

3rd

Judge's Choice*Neoregelia* 'Lucifer'*Neoregelia guttata**Tillandsia* 'Cotton Candy'

Siri Kilpinen-Hughes

Siri Kilpinen-Hughes

Harold Kuan

& Members' Choice

1st

2nd

3rd

=3rd

Neoregelia 'Lucifer'*Tillandsia* 'Cotton Candy'*Neoregelia* 'Fanfare'*Nidularium innocentii* v. *lineatum*

Siri Kilpinen-Hughes

Harold Kuan

Pamela Munro

Annamari Kilpinen

**Discussion :**

A question was asked about fertilising bromeliads. It was suggested that tillandsias could be foliar fertilized, but the rule is 'Weakly, weekly'! No more than 25% strength. Using strong fertilizer (with nitrogen) could turn the plant green as Nitrogen promotes vegetative growth..

A quick discussion was had regarding the identification of a Tillandsia labelled streptocarpa / palaeacea.



It had finally flowered, but was not perfumed, so was NOT streptocarpa. There are many, many palaeacea forms available, this is one of them.

Kerry McNicol: brought in a *Neoregelia* 'Shelldance' and a vegetative 'sport' obtained from John Catlan in Queensland. He calls it 'Fonteyne' (not registered). It has no variegation but as it matures the leaves twist and curl in one direction exposing the underside of the leaf to the sun, this in turn takes on a reddish brown colour. The grower finds this plant very slow to grow and colour and over summer has a saucer under the plant to prevent drying of tips and potting medium. Growers in Queensland have separated out differing sports of *Neoregelia* 'Shelldance' with leaves that recurve downward, or curving upwards almost creating a ball. As yet, we in NSW have not seen any of these in circulation, maybe they were not stable, but someone may be building up a stock to release onto the market some time in the future!!!

Neoregelia



Spots in Neoregelia

by Alan Herndon

Reprinted in most part from the Journal of the BSI 66(3) 2017

As is the case with *Billbergia*, some species (& hybrids) of the genus *Neoregelia* have spotted leaves. *Neoregelia chlorosticta* (right) actually has two kinds of spots. The most obvious are the relatively large green spots formed by the loss of pigment in a thin anthocyanic (more-or-less red) layer within the leaf. You might also see the much smaller, dark spots scattered over the leaf surface. These spots, although reddish are independent of the anthocyanic layer involved with the larger green spots.



Photo by Stephanie LaRusso

These spotted species have been used to create spotted hybrids by the thousands. Especially impressive are hybrids combining spots with variegations as in *Neoregelia*



'Bullis' Margaret' (right). The anthocyanic layer provides intense colour in the parts of the leaf without chlorophyll (white variegations). Close up (below), you can see that the spots caused by the loss of pigment in the anthocyanic layer produces a green spot when it occurs over an area of the leaf that lacks chlorophyll. If you look at a spot that overlaps an edge between the green leaf margins and the pink stripe, the colour changes from green to white within the spot.

In several spotted hybrids the spots are large and bold. They also frequently overlap, leading to splotches of colour with irregular borders - and often, with no hint of their circular origins. With *Neo*. 'Domino' (below) the spots are generally scattered and separate, but on the leaf near the top (below) some can be seen to form a longitudinal 'line'. You can still see the circular spots overlapping at the lower edge of the 'line'.



Also, in heavily spotted hybrids the 'lines' on the leaves can stretch horizontally across the leaf rather than along, as in *Neo*. high Voltage (below).



In



some spotted hybrids the spots themselves are not the main attraction, but provide texture to the leaf as in *Neo*. 'Charm'. (left)

FEBRUARY - AGM /TREASURER'S REPORT

Results of voting for Committee Members can be seen on p2 of this publication. Many thanks to our outgoing treasurer, Alan Mathew (who has taken up the Assistant Treasurer mantle) and welcome to Charlie Moraza, out new Treasurer.

The following is 'abbreviated' from the outgoing Treasurer's report:

'As a result of the 2013 changes to the Constitution the 2018 accounts have been inspected by Mr Bill Ngof Partlett, Chave and Rowland (certificate sited).

The current Financial Report has been prepared . . . As at 31st December, there was an amount outstanding of \$614 for purchase of pots. There were no debtors as at that date.

The Profit and Loss account for the year has resulted in a Surplus of **\$6 676**. Major items impacting accounts were the purchase of a new supply of 2000 copies of 'Growing Bromeliads' and the decision by the committee to have the Christmas Party catered.

Income

General income has increased by **\$3008 to \$30307**, with the main changes being : a large increase in Plant Sales Donations (\$2 670); Pot Sales (\$810.60); Raffle Proceeds (\$368.15).

Expenses

Operating expenses have increased slightly, from **\$15 010 to \$17 525**. The major change was Catering, up by \$2 042.15. Donations and Gifts up by \$571, with all other expenses static.

Assets

The Society at 31st December 2018 held \$105 993 in cash and Bank Deposits. Other assets are various items of equipment, items in the Library and other inventory (books, pots etc) and Prepayments (e.g. venue hire).

Liabilities

The Society owed \$614 for Pot Purchases as at 31st December 2018.

Alan Mathew, Treasurer 2018

Tillandsia 'Walter'

by Derek Butcher Nov 2018

In 1994 Walter Till sent me a large collection of *Diaphoranthema* plants because he knew I was keen on this subgenus of *Tillandsia*. They grew well and when I had queries about identity I sought Walter's opinion except for one – WT10234. This had *T virescens* on the label but had a large yellow flower like *T. crocata*. Was it a natural hybrid? It grew well and I handed out several offsets to interested parties.

. . cont p10



Photo: Ray Clark

The Watch Spring Billbergias in Cultivation

By Lyman B. Smith, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Reprinted in part from: The Journal of the Bromeliad Society, January/February 1983, Vol. XXXIII(1)

This article appeared in the FNCBSG bulletin in response to an identification request for the plant seen below.

'One of the easiest groups of bromeliads to distinguish is that of the watch spring or helicoid billbergias, because their tightly recoiled petals are unique in the family. In fact some botanists have favoured separating them as a genus, *Helicodea*, but intermediates with true *Billbergia*, like *Billbergia brasiliensis*, make this separation appear undesirable.



Billbergia porteana

Besides their curious petals, the helicoid billbergias have a number of other characteristics in common. Their few leaves form a long, tubular rosette, their scape bracts are very large and a beautiful shade of rose, and their inflorescence is always simple and usually pendent. In fact there are so many similarities that we have little left to distinguish the species from each other except the shape of the sepals and the ovary. However, as a sort of compensation, these vary more than in most other bromeliad genera. In *Billbergia porteana* the lower part of the flower has an hourglass figure because of the large epigynous tube: (epi, upon, and gynous, ovary) between the ovary and the unusually short broad sepals. This is another species described by Beer in 1857. It is a native to eastern Brazil and is well known both in the wild and in cultivation.

Key

If:

1 Ovary verrucose (warty)

1 Ovary NOT verrucose

2 Sepals rounded tips

2 Sepals pointed

Go to:

2

porteana

zebrina

rosea

Note the warty 'verrucose' bits on *Billbergia zebrina* on the left and 'NOT verrucose' warty on our plant on the right which makes it a better fit to the description for *Billbergia porteana*.



***Tillandsia* 'Walter' (continued)**

In November I got an excited Email from Ray Clark that he had flowered his plant. After 20 odd years of indecision the time seemed to have arrived for decisive action. So I wrote to Walter Till and he advised he collected WT10234 and details on his records are as follows:

FLORA OF ARGENTINA

Tillandsia virescens Ruiz Lopez & Pavón y Jiménez,
Prov. Tucuman, Dept. Tafi del Valle, 19 km E
of Amaicha del Valle along the road to Tafi del Valle,
near Los Corpitos, 2900 m s.m. 13 February 1993 leg.
W. Till 10234 on perpendicular conglomerate rock.

He then said that vegetatively this is the same as the photo I had sent of 'My Plant' but the flower is really surprising. He had found a slide of this collection which flowered in their greenhouse on 4 March 1994 (= one year after collecting) and it has brown petals not much larger than usual, the floral bract is distinctly surpassing the calyx. This confirmed that the piece/s held in Vienna were *T. virescens*!

He then said he would not exclude that my collection is one parent of an artificial (or accidental) hybrid. If I wanted to give my plant a Cultivar name, then go ahead. There are yet more possibilities where the label could have been misplaced on importation, or the clump that Walter collected was a seedling grex rather than offsets from the same clone.



Photo: Ray Clark



From an Australian point of view it is safer to link WT10234 to 'Walter' than *T. virescens*

Plant offsets freely, each individual plant is up to 125mm long, that includes the old dried base / stem, leaf blades are 45mm to 55mm long and about 2mm to 3mm wide, flower spikes are between 65mm to 110mm in length and yellow petal blades measure 8mm to 12mm wide.



Photos: Derek Butcher

A Little Bromeliad History - Part 1

sourced by Helen Clewett From FNCBSG Aug 2018

Some of the earliest illustrations of bromeliads can be found in: **A Voyage to the Islands Madera, Barbados, Nieves, St. Christophers and Jamaica**. The author was physician, traveller and collector Sir Hans Sloane. His collected curiosities became after his death in 1753 the nucleus for the then established British Museum and his herbarium is now in the Natural History Museum. The two volumes of this book were published in London in 1707 and 1725 and are illustrated with 274 drawings of plants, trees and animal.



There are two bromeliads in the first volume; the drawings were made after herbarium specimens by Everard Kick and engraved by Michael van der Gucht. On the plates their pre-Linnean names are given, the current names are:



Guzmania lingulata (pl.120) and *Tillandsia setacea* with *Till. usneoides* (pl.122).

A book written and illustrated (both drawings and copper engravings) by English traveller and naturalist **Mark Catesby** was published in London from 1730-1743, with a second edition revised by George Edwards from 1748-1754.



Catopsis berteroniana

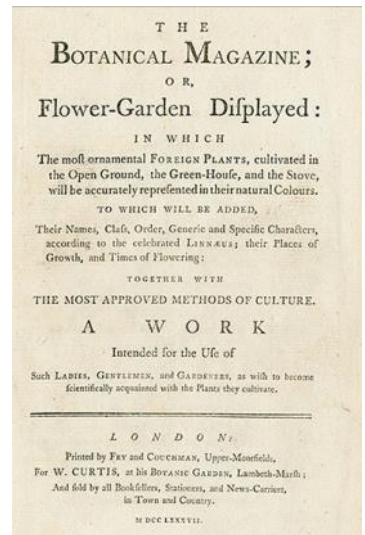
It was titled:
The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands.

The original water colours were purchased by King George III in 1768. The two volumes contained 220 plates of animals and plants, including the bromeliad drawings by Mark Catesby pictured here:



Tillandsia balbisiana

The first magazine on horticulture that would give ample attention to bromeliads was started in England. In the year 1787 it was founded by botanist **William Curtis** and for the first 14 volumes was entitled **The Botanical Magazine**. The text on the titlepage tells us what it is all about: "The Botanical Magazine; or, flower-garden displayed: in which the most ornamental foreign plants, cultivated in the open ground, the greenhouse, and the stove, are accurately represented in their natural colours. To which will be added, their names, class, order, generic and specific characters, according to the celebrated Linnaeus; their places of growth, and times of flowering: together with the most approved methods of culture. A work intended for the use of such ladies, gentlemen, and gardeners, as wish to become scientifically acquainted with the plants they cultivate". Curtis died in 1799 after which John Sims took over as editor, later to be followed by William Jackson Hooker, John Dalton Hooker and William Turner Thistleton-Dyer, all directors of Kew Gardens. The name was changed in **Curtis's Botanical Magazine** and today that magazine is still published (from 1984-1994 it was labeled **Kew Magazine**). It is a publication of the Royal Horticultural Society. Over all the years some 11500 plates were produced, including 122 of bromeliads. About the artists working in the early years for the magazine one can read in an article in the BSI Journal (Read 1986).



Pitcairnia bromeliifolia

To make a choice from the illustrations I focused on some bromeliads that were newly described. The first bromeliad illustrated in Curtis's Botanical Magazine was *Pitcairnia bromeliifolia* (plate 824 in vol. 21, 1805). There were three more *Pitcairnia*s to follow before in 1813 a plate was published depicting a member of some other bromeliad genus: *Tillandsia stricta* Solander ex Ker-Gawler, a "frosted stiff-leaved *Tillandsia*", together with the description of this new species. The drawing for the engraving was made by Sydenham Teast Edwards who a few years later was to start his own magazine. The plant was found by Solander near Rio de Janeiro and first introduced into the European gardens by Lady Neale at Walhampton.

Plant of the Month Competition February 2019

Open

1st
2nd
3rd

Judge's Choice.

Vriesea 'White Cloud'
Neoregelia carolinae var 'Prinsler'
Tillandsia albertiana x *crocata*

Kerry McNicol
Kerry McNicol
Helga Nitschke

Open

1st
2nd
3rd
=3rd

Members' Choice

Tillandsia albertiana x *crocata*
Neoregelia carolinae var 'Prinsler'
Vriesea 'White Cloud'
Tillandsia correalei

Helga Nitschke
Kerry McNicol
Kerry McNicol
Kerry McNicol

MDAC

1st: 'Stars'

Larissa Victoria



Clockwise from top left:

Vriesea 'White Cloud'; *Tillandsia albertiana*

x *crocata*

Tillandsia correalei;

'Stars'

Neoregelia carolinae var 'Prinsler'

Plant of the Month Competition February 2019 cont.**Judge's Choice****Novice**

1st	<i>Billbergia 'Domingos Martins'</i>
2nd	<i>Billbergia 'Hallelujah'</i>
3rd	<i>Tillandsia 'Poona'</i>

Julie Evans
Harold Kuan
Harold Kuan

Members' Choice**Novice**

1st	<i>Billbergia 'Hallelujah'</i>
2nd	<i>Tillandsia 'Poona'</i>
3rd	<i>Tillandsia bergeri</i>

Harold Kuan
Harold Kuan
Pamela Munro



*Billbergia
'Domingos
Martins'*



Billbergia 'Hallelujah'



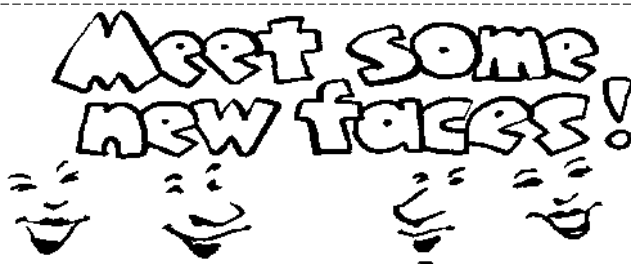
Tillandsia 'Poona'

Discussion:

Di Tulloch asked about an *Aechmea fulgens*. She had been told that it was a shade plant, but her understanding was that if a plant has sharp spines it would withstand more sun. This is only a general guide and gives a starting point for an unfamiliar plant. This plant had darker green spots and looked healthy, but with more light the spots would fade. It will depend on position and your preference for spots. This was the orange form, there is also a pink/red form. **George Hardy** informed us that it grew naturally around Rio De Janeiro but can be no longer found in the wild. Generally if you place a plant in a position and it begins to lose colour, it needs higher light conditions. If it tends to yellow or gets scorch marks it needs lower or less direct light.



Tillandsia bergeri



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

Scott Johnson

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:	Australia	A\$25
Overseas Membership:	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**.
- **TYPE** of card (Visa, Mastercard)
- **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.

The Swedish botanist Daniel Solander had already died in 1782, but the lengthy description of *T. stricta* in Latin is from his hand and published by botanist John Gawler, who after a change of name was also known as John Bellenden Ker (in some publications the name of Sims, editor at the time, is mentioned as the publishing author). Solander was an apprentice of Linnaeus and the librarian of Sir Joseph Banks, co-founder of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1804. Together with James Cook, Solander and Banks had made a world trip collecting plants in the years 1768-1771. This was the first Pacific voyage by Cook. Many zoological and botanical collections were made and several artists made watercolours of these discoveries, often during the voyage of the ship Endeavour. They are now at the National History Museum in London. Some bromeliads were illustrated by Sydney Parkinson in 1768 -1769 and are presented here below (courtesy National History Museum). The plants were collected in 1768 during a short stay in Rio de Janeiro.



Tillandsia stricta



Aechmea nudicaulis
published as
Bromelia bracteata



Aechmea sphaerocephala
published as
Bromelia Pseudo-Ananas



Tillandsia geminiflora
published as
Tillandsia argentea

drawings by Sydney Parkinson

Terry Davis showed us a plant he put on the raffle table called *N. Zoe*. The plant should be variegated but this one isn't, normally it would be discarded, however this one has a pup which is growing with variegations. There is also a *Bill. Bellissima* which is a NOVAR (no variegation) but the pup is showing signs of having variegations. So, unless you have many and can bear to discard a novar pup, grow it on and see if the secondary leaves show variegation (which can often happen) or indeed, it throws a variegated pup

Pamela Munro has a billbergia which is un-named from a raffle, which has now flowered, it was still very difficult to identify but it was originally obtained as a species from a now deceased grower.

Her second plant was purchased and had the name *Neo. Exotica*, but she couldn't find any reference on any websites. Ian scoured his memory and came up with *N. Exotica Velvet*. The reference on our website shows a dark red leafed plant but



when in flower seems to show Nidularium traits. (discussion is on our website in Photo Index). It will be interesting to see what the flower on Pamela's plant is like, when it occurs, she hopefully will bring it back in for us to compare.



Photos by Richard Harper

Billbergia 'Kyoto'

From : **THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY Vol 26, No. 1 2019**

Billbergia 'Kyoto' is a colorful member of the Billbergia genus. The flower structure has the fan shape reflecting its *B. pyramidalis* parentage and is pink to red with tiny blue to purple flowers. This shape is why you will see this plant sold as *B.*

'Koyto' Flaming Torch or Summer Torch.

Like most members of the Billbergia genus, these flowers enjoy a relatively short life.

But the leaves which are an emerald green with white variegated margins offer an attractive year round addition to any landscape. The plant can reach a foot in height and up to an 18 inch spread.

B. pyramidalis is a native of a wide area from Brazil to Cuba, and is found from mountain rain forests to coastal areas. The 'Koyto' cultivar is thought to have been developed in Japan, and first imported to the US in 1975.

(Photo by Don Beadle)



photo by Don Beadle

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

<i>Puya mirabilis</i>	24.07.18	Ross Hutton
<i>T. myosura</i>	23.08.18	Terry Davis
<i>T. tricolor</i>	19.11.18	Terry Davis
<i>T. polystachia</i> (white petals)	20.11.18	Greg Aizlewood
<i>T. pruinosa</i>	26.11.18	Chris Larson/Bob Hudson
<i>T. fasciculata</i> type (less than 30cm)	02.12.18	Kerry McNicol
<i>T. fasciculata</i> (pink multi-spike)	04.12.18	Jan Townsend
<i>T. scheideana</i> (major) limited	05.02.19	Michael Drury
<i>Racinae fraseri</i>	18.02.19	Eileen Killingly

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

March 2nd *Note 1st Saturday - **BSA Meeting** - Federation Pavilion

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

6th & 7th April - BSQ autumn Show & Sales

13th April - BSA meeting Federation Pavilion

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.

We also specialize in orchids, cacti, succulents, hoyas, bonsai and carnivorous plants, PLUS gems, fossils, natural history, books and much MORE!



810 Springvale Rd., Braeside
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