

# S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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## The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Editor- Derek Butcher. Assist Editor – Bev Masters



**Born 1977 and still offsetting!'**

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Cultivar Register <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/index.php>

List for species names <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>

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Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'

**MEETING & SALES 2016 DATES.** [2/04/2016 & 3/04/2016 Sales](#), 10/4/2016 (Neutrog presentation) 1/5/2016 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (Len's Tillandsia presentation), 5/6/2016 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (Workshop), 10/07/2016 (Christmas in July & uncommon genera in SA), 7/08/2016 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (winter brag) 18/09/2016 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Mini's) 9/10/2016 (Billbergia) [22/10/2016 & 23/10/2016 Sales](#) 13/11/2016 130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

**Applications for membership always welcome – Subs now due: \$15 single \$25 Dual**

**Meetings Venue:**

Maltese Cultural Centre,

6 Jeanes Street,

Beverley

**Time:** 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month

Exceptions – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in March

May, & August & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

September- no meeting in December

or unless advised otherwise

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS**

**WELCOME.**

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**PATIENCE**



*Tillandsia ionantha*  
(Photo G. Edwards)

Patience is a requirement when growing Tillandsia’s. These two plants were obtained in early 2012, attached to their mounts and since then have been slowly growing. They both flowered for the first time in December 2015. During that time they have hung on the side of pots of Australian Native Orchids, open to all the elements and have never been fertilised. They have broadly faced a north easterly direction with sunshine varying from full and direct to dapple shade. The end results are delightful and well worth waiting for.

*Geoff Edwards*



*Tillandsia albertiana*  
(Photo G. Edwards)



***Roving Reporter January 2016***

The forecast was not the best but the cloudy conditions must have confused most including the Butchers because there was a great roll-up. Mind you, the clouds disappeared about 1500 hrs which shows that the Met Office is not always wrong. The numbers must have impressed our resident statistician, Bev who gave us attendance figures for the past few years. I saw 4 chariots there - all women drivers- and no crashes reported. Perhaps it shows that members are getting older and frailer but it does show that Bromeliads have the pulling power to get people OUT and looking HAPPY. While on the subject of statistics you may be interested in what was published in the American Journal in 1980

‘Farther away from home, we have an interesting communication from Joyce Carr, who resides in South Australia. She writes: The Bromeliad Society of South Australia has a membership of just over one hundred and is very active. We have just begun our fourth year and feel that we have promoted bromeliads in this state to a high degree. This month we are having our second annual exhibition. I have been growing broms for about 15 years. Is there anyone you know who could sell me seeds of cryptanthus?’

**Roving Reporter January 2016 cont:**

The popular plant was Adam's *Aechmea* 'Roberto- Menescal' which must have originally cost him an arm and a leg but he took up the challenge to grow on such a great specimen under ADELAIDE conditions. This is what is recorded in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register "Named and registered by C. Skotak for original grower in Rio de Janeiro State. Tissue culture sport of *Ae. chantinii* (dark form) from the lab of Rolf Zornig, Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2000. Central variegated stripes--- cream/pink on leaf obverse, red on reverse." More on the problems with *A. chantinii* later in this bulletin.



*Aechmea* 'Roberto- Menescal' (Photo J. Batty)

Adam was so impressed with Peter Hall's painstakingly created "Creeping creature" that he made an Executive decision and transferred the award. To think that if Peter had given his creature more legs it could have been called 'Milly'



"Creeping creature" (Photo J. Batty)

Our Treasurer Jeff had brought in some plants for naming. One was a huge *Billbergia* that grows under the harshest of conditions and is a plant widespread in Adelaide and can be found in the Adelaide Bot Gardens in their Weetunga section. I remember 20 years ago when I used to be on the Jon Lamb Gardening hour and having to answer Bromeliad questions. Inevitably, after careful questioning, they were *Billbergia*. If big they were what we called 'Chas Webb' or if small *B. nutans*. It does look like the species *B. vittata* but has some traits of *B. amoena* in its history. Another was one that also looked like it had some *B. vittata* genes was one that Bill Treloar suggested could well be 'Fred Gerber'. Trudy got out her 'telephone' and we were able to access the Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar and the small screen did indicate this could be the right name. But alas when I look at it on the big screen it seems we will have to look elsewhere for a name.

I have been recently reading old US Brom Journals from about the time our Society was founded and look at them with a different eye. This one written by Bernard Stonor from Western Australia in 1979 reads as follows; "I would not care to say how many plants in my comparatively small collection are unidentified. It is most interesting watching these plants develop and seeing what kind of flowers they produce. It would also be nice to know what they are. Many can be identified in time; others never will be. Two problems crop up regularly with these plants: are they species or hybrids? And where do they come from?"

"One case of variety or species which sometimes causes the more serious minded growers to tear out their hair, at least here in Australia, concerns the *Aechmea miniata* - *Aechmea fulgens* group. Are the plants all one species with several varieties or are they, as botanists maintain, two species each with its variety discolor. I have grown many plants during the last twelve years or so, labeled either *A. miniata discolor* or *A. fulgens discolor* and I can see little difference between any of them. Some are probably the hybrid 'Polyantha'; some perhaps are 'Maginali'. I don't believe any of these are the true species. According to some descriptions *A. fulgens* has an inflorescence which is compound near the base only and is sometimes described as having red petals. None of the plants which I have acquired as *A. fulgens* has these details in the inflorescence. Certainly many of the plants labelled *fulgens* var. *discolor* are in fact either *miniata* var. *discolor* or one of its hybrids."

This leads us to another query of Jeff's *Aechmea miniata albomarginata* which is a variegated plant in this group but has not been recorded. The plant was small with a small flower head which makes identification difficult but makes you wonder why it has not been registered and is treated as an NN (nursery name). If we look at Bernard's problem we know that Nally hybridised these two species to get hybrid vigour so he could sell his acres of the plants to the cut flower market. How many of the true species survived in gardens when there were plants with hybrid vigour in abundance? The keen growers would still try to seek true identity but the majority – say 95%, would not bother.

The most impressive section of the display was undoubtedly Adams collection of varied *Aechmea chantinii* and I should tell you now that normal conditions are not conducive to growing these in Adelaide. Perhaps global warming may help but when the Society was formed in 1977 even that guru Ede Schaefer had problems. Two or three of us KNEW we could break this hoodoo by growing from seed because we knew that seedlings acclimatized better. Yes, we grew them to about 4 years old but then a cold snap foiled us so they do need extra winter warmth.

The following makes interesting reading if only because I get a mention:

*Aechmea chantinii* by Nat DeLeon in J Brom Soc 62(2)64-69. 2012

I've never had any schooling in either botany or taxonomy, but I have grown tropical plants for more than 60 years in the Miami, Florida area. I also have a curious mind regarding the plants I grow. I went from my first love, palms, to bromeliads, and we have had a long association.

For some time now my favorite bromeliad group is *Aechmea chantinii*, and, if anything, it has intensified.

Does anyone have all the cultivars of *Ae. chantinii*? I doubt it. Don Beadle's book, "The Bromeliad Cultivar Registry" June 1998, a classic, lists some 34 cultivars. I'm sure that some of the names are duplicate with most of the cultivars being made from Florida west to California, and from many other areas in the United States, Europe, Asia and South America. *Ae. chantinii* has also been extensively hybridized. No other bromeliad that I know of has as many cultivars. And now I will stick my neck out and let the splitters and lumpers be damned, and say that *Ae. chantinii* is a species that acts like a hybrid. I have read everything I could read including the BSI Journal (an excellent source of information) going back to almost the very beginning. Since I'm retired now, every so often I read old issues of the Journal and the tip off came when I was reading an article in one of those issues (Vol. 1, No. 3, 1951) by Charles Chevalier, a curator of the great botanical gardens of the University of Liege, Belgium in which he wrote, "One curious discovery was that the *Ae. chantinii*, from which no results had been obtainable by auto-fecundation [self-pollination], gave when fecundated by *Ae. fulgens discolor*, a whole series of really remarkable plants. These had leaves of every shade from olive green to reddish brown, and thickly flowering cupitula [heads] well separated above the foliage, presenting a whole gamut of warm bright colors, from canary yellow, through orange and salmon pink to coral red." Primary crosses between species of each other just don't do that or there is very little difference between the progeny. Yet *Ae. chantinii* continues to be cross pollinated with each other, and as long as this happens there will continue to be new cultivars.

The first *Ae. chantinii* was introduced by M. Baraguin from Brazil in 1877 into France. It was first described by Baker in 1889. All attempts to self-pollinate it failed and so it could only be propagated by division of the suckers. As a result, it continued to be very rare and grown mostly by European botanical gardens. Many years ago, through a series of seed and plant trades, I finally obtained an off-set which still grows in my large oak tree in my front yard. The plant is of medium size and continues to grow smaller in size than most forms.

In JBS Vol. XXV 1975, No. 3, Victoria Padilla wrote, "So far as it can be determined, no more specimens of this plant were collected because the location of its habitat was forgotten. Collectors who went to Peru tried to collect at higher elevations rather than along the hot, humid Amazon." Padilla continued, "For years the only plants that were available to collectors were the suckers produced from these first few imports. For some strange reason, the first plants were evidently sterile and not capable of producing seed."

Then in 1960, some 83 years after its first introduction, a collector named Lee Moore of Miami, Florida, found it growing along parts of the upper Amazon in Peru. In 1963, Lee wrote in the Bromeliad Society Bulletin 13(1), "*Ae. chantinii* is one that caused quite a lot of controversy among the experts because of the wide variation of its clones. Each small tributary had a different clone of this plant. Before I found these plants in the jungle, there had been only one clone that was known to the world. But now I have found at least eight definite clones of this species."

Padilla further said, "Moore sent a number of plants to the nurseryman, Mr. Jack Holmes of Tampa, Florida, who grew mostly orchids. Victoria Padilla wrote, "He would not be satisfied until he himself went to Iquitos, Peru, and with the assistance of Lee Moore collected hundreds of this *Aechmea* for his establishment. The plants he brought back came in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Most of them were much larger than those grown in Europe but unfortunately lacking the graceful form and clear-cut banding of the early imports [from Brazil].

Whereas the cultivated European types measured 10 - 12 inches both ways, these new plants grew as tall as 2 ½ feet and almost as wide. There was a very wide variation in the banding and shape within these new jungle species. Some had grey foliage and silver banding with a pink inflorescence; others were definitely tubular in shape, some had dark red to almost black leaves with silver banding. Some had no banding at all."

Aechmea chantinii by Nat DeLeon cont:

Padilla continued, "Jack Holmes finally had enough plants to experiment with them to see if he could get them to set seed. After a round-the-clock vigil he discovered that by pollinating the plants in the early hours before dawn, he was better able to secure seed and so provide enough plants of *Ae. chantinii* to meet the great demand for this plant."

"What has bothered this writer [Victoria Padilla] for many years is why it took so long for plantsmen to rediscover this bromeliad. In 1964 she went to Iquitos herself (see Vol. XV, No. 2, 1964) to see these plants growing in their homeland. In and around Iquitos she saw them growing everywhere, even growing on fences in the town itself. They were so common as to be considered weeds. "It would be interesting for someone to try their hand at pollinating modern *Ae. chantinii* clones in the hours before dawn and see if it works. I would myself but I am handicapped in having my left arm rendered useless with a bout of Shingles.

Then in 1977, Shirley and Jack Grubb of River Ridge, Louisiana, went to Iquitos to collect *Ae. chantinii* and couldn't find a single plant, although they collected other bromeliads. Apparently local vendors and others had stripped them clean. Iquitos is by the head waters of the Amazon River. That area feeds a big business of fish, snakes and animals and connects with the city of Leticia, located on the upper Amazon River itself. From there seaplanes pick up the works and fly them to many parts of the world. I remember one pilot in particular who used to fly in plants, etc. into Miami. He knew about *Ae. chantinii*, but brought in other plants as well. I got to know him and would identify and buy plants. I knew his flight schedule and would meet him near the airport. In the meantime, Jack Holmes also cross-pollinated many of the plants Lee Moore sold him, and eventually most of the plants he was selling were hybrid crossings and they sold just as well.

It was remarkable how varied the plants were, whether they were field collected or not. So far the floral bract colors range from orange to shades of red and pink. Bob Spivey collected a plant in Ecuador whose bracts were pure yellow and of course the plant itself took the color and form of its own.

Out of curiosity, I took out my World Atlas to see for myself where *Ae. chantinii* had been collected. Try it sometime and see how little collecting has been done over such a great area. Maybe Victoria Padilla was right when she wrote that collectors prefer the cooler, higher elevations over the very hot sea level locations. So far it has been found in all of the countries that extend into the Amazon. The largest area, Brazil, only has one collection that I know of. Oddly it was the first site known.

*Ae. chantinii* belongs in the subfamily *Platyaechmea* and probably the best treatment of the group is to be found in Volume I 'The Flora of Ecuador' by Prof. Jose Manzanares who braved the hot lowland Amazonian area of his country. He describes species and several varieties, including what are natural hybrids. Considering that the *Platyaechmea* are so varied in every way, both in plant size and character, inflorescence size and color, etc., it becomes difficult to know where one species starts and the other ends. As a result, scholars are not always in agreement. Given the variation of the family in all of its parts, some scholars lump some of the species together, arguing that they should be treated as forms of said species. The odds are that as more collections are made from the Amazon, then perhaps there will be a better understanding of the group.

Uncle Derek says, "An impossible task for bromeliad growers is to TRY and identify all of the cultivars of *Ae. chantinii*." That will never happen. As long as people continue to cross two chantiniis acting as a hybrid, it will continue to make new cultivars. The other problem

is that each grower who hybridizes, myself included, thinks that the results of his or her pollinating efforts bear unique results. Most, including myself, never register their results, and so we have a situation that will only get worse. The problem, as I see it, is that the plant is too ornamental and we think that by hybridizing it we can improve it or come up with something special, but special is only in the eye of the beholder. Several years ago, I visited a grower who grew a lot of chantiniis.

Before I left, she brought over one of these plants and asked what I thought of it. I didn't want to embarrass her even though I thought the plant was very plain. She then asked me to take a closer look at the plant. It was then that I saw that the leaf edges had no spines, they were as smooth as a baby's skin.

This spineless plant may have been the most important sight I had ever seen in bromeliads. She was way ahead of me and knew what I was thinking. While the plant itself was unattractive, it had to be hybridized with other chantiniis to see if she could get a spineless plant with attractive foliage. She knew that the work ahead had no guarantees. I asked her to let me know when the plant was beginning to flower and if I had any cultivars coming or in bloom, she was welcome to use them. Less than a year later, I got the call. She hybridized as many plants as she could which produced a lot of seed. About nine months later, I visited her again. In one area she had some 50 plants, all spineless. All had good foliage of different patterns and colors. What a remarkable sight!

*Aechmea chantinii* by Nat DeLeon cont: ***Roving Reporter January 2016 cont:***

During 60 years of growing bromeliads, the sight of those spineless plants will always be remembered. She knew that there was a lot of work ahead. I suggested she choose four or five of what she thought the best and propagate them, probably by putting them into tissue culture. She had one shot at making a killing, money-wise. Once she began selling them, other people would put them into tissue culture and the plant's value would be reduced. Believe me, the plants will be priceless. And think, no more digging spines out of your arms or going for a blood transfusion! How long will it take for the plants to be released? Who knows? But the event will be well worth the wait!

To those who read labels, *Aechmea* 'Deleon' is a form of *Aechmea fasciata* whereas the plant on display should have been called 'Deleon's Chantinii'. Thanks Julie, for pointing this out.



*Aechmea* 'Deleon's Chantinii' (Photo J. Batty)

Talking of our intrepid photographer it was Julie's plant of *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman' that earned a few paragraphs in the New York newsletter

When talking about Bromelioideae which were supposed to have spiny leaves Adam wondered about the non-spiny leaves of the *Aechmea fasciata* hybrids. Such are the quirks of nomenclature! Mutations abound in nature but only where humans are concerned are they nurtured in cultivation. Non spiny leaves are but one. Variegations are another. This lead Bill to comment about the non-spiny leaves of *Ananas comosus*. This could have started me off on my pet subject but I left it for the Gazette. You see, when Linnaeus thought up his wonderful naming system of surname and given name he treated all plants equal whether found in the wild or man made. In fact *Ananas comosus* was based on a plant found in Amboina, the Moluccas, Indonesia. In 1862 DeCandolle suggested that there should be separate systems for wild and cultivated plants but it was not until 1952 did we see separate rules. Only Eric Gouda and myself have gone into print that most pineapples should be treated under the cultivar rules but seem to be having a battle with others preferring the Linnaeus system. To show the inconsistency of Botanists as to which system to follow we have variegated plants being dropped from the Linnaeus system which to my mind is correct because it is only cultivation asexually that keeps these alive. It does mean I have to check where these are happening and get them from the ICN (wild) into the ICNCP (Cultivar) system if they are still alive. This reminds me of a plant that used to be called *Neoregelia carolinae* forma *tricolor* which I have never seen in Adelaide for years having been swamped by supposed improved forms. If you do have it please note its name is now *Neoregelia* 'Caroline Tricolor'. There is regrettably a third system which I call NN ( i.e. Nurseryman's Names ) for all those given to plants without recording under either the ICN or ICNCP rules. So we don't really know what they are supposed to look like.

Finally, we come to the unknown *Aechmea* that Ron is growing so well and he keeps bringing it to meetings and I keep saying show me when it is flowering, Well, it had flowered and we saw it at the meeting. I am not much good at identifying plants with dead petals and can only suggest that Bev buys him a camera for his birthday so we can see a photo of the plant actually in flower. Although Bernard Stonor reports earlier in the epistle he has lots of unnamed plants in his collection and in days past he was one of my gurus, we think we have narrowed it down to two. These are 'Belizia' or 'Nigre Nudicaulis'. Both these hybrids have a hazy history because neither have detail coming from the original hybridist and have what we call, have 'been grandfathered' into the system. I have reason to believe that 'Nigre Nudicaulis' is the front runner if only because I used to grow this so know it could be still around in Adelaide. A. 'Belizia' came to Adelaide from Melbourne but I have never flowered it so cannot really discuss its credentials. Bill Treloar has it but he rarely takes photos, but it is in KADINA so I wait with baited breath. I also hear that new plants are in Kadina due to a visit to Rob Smythe in Townsville.



*Aechmea* 'Nigre Nudicaulis' (Photo J. Batty)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

Firstly, I wish to thank members of my Committee for their hard work, sound advice and sense of humour in helping me to deal with a number of difficult and important issues on behalf of the Society during the year. I am grateful for their individual and collective support.

Your Committee continues to endeavour to manage the many aspects of the work of the Society within budget. The 2015 calendar year saw a decline in the available funds, against 2014, of about \$3,000. The main items of expenditure were repairs to our projector and replacement to our sound system together with increases in rent and the purchase of new plant stands and hangers for our Shows and Sales events. Fortunately, the Society is still in a very good financial situation with funds of about \$8,500 available for our activities. Like all responsible organisations we continue to manage our funds in a prudent manner but always have an eye to providing benefits to ensure that our members are happy and satisfied with being part of the Society. I sense that most, if not all of you, feel that way and thoroughly enjoy attending our monthly meetings and other events. In addition to our two major Shows and Sales the Society has been involved in the following:

- Festival of Flowers
- Sunday Mail Garden Expo
- Presentations to other Garden Groups

I would also like to thank Jon Lamb and the ABC for their support in marketing our activities as well as providing a forum for the expanding of knowledge about bromeliads to the general public.

I, personally, continue in my two other roles associated with the world of bromeliads. They are:

- International Director (Australia) to Bromeliad Society International
- Inaugural Chair, Australasian Bromeliad Council

The past year has been a sad one in terms of the passing of some of our dear members. They have been and continue to be missed and close to our hearts.

I mention Trevor Seekamp who was a hard-working committee man but who was also well respected by all for his sense of humour and fun.

Also passing during the year was long-time member Colin Anderson who could not attend much in the past 2 years because of illness. He will be remembered for his friendliness and ability to create wooden gifts for other members.

On a more positive note, we have been able to attract new members, who have joined the Society in the past year, and a feature of their feedback to me is how much they feel welcome in attending the Society meetings. Well done to all of you in making them feel so welcome.

I am confident that the Society will continue to flourish and provide a forum for the enjoyment of bromeliads well in to the future. Thank you for having confidence in me as your President.

*Adam Bodzioch*

### **2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

PRESIDENT: Adam Bodzioch VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Hall

SECRETARY: Bev Masters ASSISTANT SECRETARY: To be nominated by Committee

TREASURER: Trudy Hollinshead (New) ASSISTANT TREASURER: To be nominated by Committee

AUDITOR:

COMMITTEE: Penny Seekamp, Julie Batty, Dave Batty, Glenda Lee, Sue Sckrabei, Jeffrey Hollinshead

POSTAL CLERK: Bev Masters

LIBRARIAN: Penny Seekamp,

AFTERNOON TEA ORGANISER: Bev Masters

AFTERNOON TEA HELPERS: Bev Masters, Sue Sckrabei, Penny Seekamp & others on the day.

RAFFLE TABLES COORDINATOR: Bill Treloar

DOOR TICKETS: Margaret Goodwin, helpers on the day

RAFFLE TICKETS: Margaret Goodwin, helpers on the day

HOST/ESS: Sue Sckrabei, Bill Treloar

POTS & LABELS: Ron Masters

NAME TAG MAKER: Ron and Bev Masters

GAZETTE: Roving reporter: Derek Butcher.

EDITORS: Derek & Margaret Butcher. ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bev Masters

FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR'S: Adam Bodzioch & Glenda Lee



## **Roving Reporter Feb 2016**

The AGM has come and gone for another year with the minimum of fuss – must have been the calming effect of Bill Treloar as Returning Officer. All officers were returned except for Trudy replacing her husband as Treasurer. The Secretary will publish the lucky winners later in this Gazette. I say lucky, because the more you are involved the more self-satisfaction you get.

When I was Secretary I used to be apprehensive about low member attendance at AGM's but here we had a very good roll-up and especially from younger ones. Perhaps as I get older others seem to look younger!

The copies that we get of the magazine produced by Garden Clubs of Australia were in great demand. Usually these are biased towards general gardening as to be expected so it was a surprise to see a small photo of *Vriesea* 'White Rapids' which was a 'New Release'. This is a phrase to catch the eye of the reader and you may ponder how new is new. In this case it is new because it is not even known to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar. The more choosy Brom grower generally asks how different is it from all the other 'Glyph' hybrids that have flooded the markets in the last few years. What are the parents?

And so to the plants on display where we were entertained by Peter Hall and Bill Treloar. I did ask Bill how much was he being paid to do all this volunteering but he said it was for love.

The popular plant was won by Sue Skrabei with *Neoregelia* 'Sweet Dreams'. Some of you may think that the wide green bands are normal but then what is normal! Is it a change in weather conditions that causes such growth? Was it the wrong time of the year for the plant to produce this colour change? As with most 'odd happenings' it has happened before as I well remember growing in the 1970's 'Green Bands' which was changed to the better sounding 'Happy Thoughts' and has links to Dr Oeser's hybridising in Germany. Meanwhile in America they had 'Big Bands' again with links to Oeser. AND, guess what? 'Sweet Dreams' also links back to 'Happy Thoughts' and thus Oeser. So the answer may be genetic after all. I leave you to ponder. As a reminder to those who "I want one of those!" I say that you should beware Mother Nature.



*Neoregelia* 'Sweet Dreams'  
(Photo J. Batty)

There was discussion between our two speakers about bringing in plants for the show. Consensus seemed to be that not everyone is perfect and the same applies to our plants. If the plants and their pots are given a quick clean and brush up they are eligible to bring along and others to be envious of! You never know but you could get lucky. As Bill says, even Judges can be wrong which is why we try to get more than one judge operating at the same time. I well remember 30 years ago when the Society was so keen to do the right thing that they bought a copy of the Rules of Judging by the Bromeliad Society of America. I am always reminded of a little anecdote which goes something like this. If 2 or 3 Americans meet they say let's have a competition – what are the rules? If 2 or 3 Aussies meet someone will say "I bet you ----". So we spent hours reading said rules and trying to put them into practice. At that time we had Alf and Joy Carr as members (and judges) and both were judges at the Adelaide Royal Show for plants and chickens so we never got round to fully following the Yank rules. When at World Conferences in the USA Margaret and I tried to see how it should be done. When we saw one plant getting 2 firsts in the same section and I saw lots of wrongly identified plants we got somewhat disillusioned. In fact, we even tried to hide the Trophies we hold! Alas, other committee members quickly saw what we were up to because they felt that having prize-winners was what visitors wanted to see.

We had a short discussion on an alleged sport from a Neo. 'Royal Burgundy' of Bob McGregor's. The offset was different to 'mother' but sporting is an odd phenomenon because as with all mutations most are not good and on most occasions the plant 'realises' things are not right and correct the change.

I will always remember Len Cork having odd offsets on his Billbergias and me asking that he bring them along next year and we will see if the change was permanent.

***Roving Reporter Feb 2016 cont:***

We never did see them returned for discussion. In other words, permanent sporting is very rare. The only permanent sporting that we had in Adelaide was the variegated *Billbergia* 'Perriam's Pride'. The next problem was what is a 'Royal Burgundy'? The following may interest some readers

Email 11/Jan/2004, To Rob Smythe, Townsville from Butcher

Rob

Neoregelia 'Royal Burgundy' has never been variegated BUT In 1997 I came across a 'Royal Robe' at Margaret Paterson's which was variegated and could be traced to Skotak BUT not his naming. I captured this as 'Skotak's Royal Robe'.

Smythe's comments - I have had this for yonks--virtually identical to Hot Gossip or Predator --tends to be a little more consistently purely albo marg without extra stripes-- No the gold edged one is nothing like this--no mottling--more or less pure burgundy with or without this gold margin appearing as the mood appears. I first saw this gold edged plant as a single plant in Olive's collection. Next time I saw her she was very disappointed as most pups had lost the auro marginata. I never ever procured the plant. My plants are plain Burgundy I think. My friend ordered 4 plants of Royal Burgundy from Olive, two now aurea marginated. The internet photos could not clarify in my mind whether or not I had both Burgundy and Royal Burgundy' My records say I have all three including the Skotak, Royal Robe, but only two survive in my garden. I remember seeing Olive's normal Royal Burgundy and though darker they had poor shape. Not a patch on my Neo Burgundy?? Pat ordered 4 Royal Burgundy and they arrived as expected, darker and thinner leaved but two of the four have changed to the golden edged form. I assume Olive bought this as a new form of Royal Burgundy and on reversion put them back with normal Royal Burgundy. Now they are changing back again. I will be down there this month and will try to get details. Will photograph something for you.

There was also mention of a similar situation with a 'Royal Burgundy' but no photo and only a hearsay comment. See photo of 'Skotak's Royal Robe' on fcbs and compare with your 'Royal Burgundy'. If different we may have to have a 'Skotak's Royal Burgundy' because the plant was named as 'Royal Burgundy' by some unknown Queenslander without telling anybody OR checking the facts!

Aren't you glad you noticed the difference in the photos on fcbs??!!!

Derek

**Variegated plant finally called 'Royal Burgundy Supreme'**

It was nice to see Ron's well grown *Aechmea* 'Felicia' that I have written about before but here Ron had staked the inflorescence during development. The problem with most of these *A. fasciata* hybrids is that the inflorescence is too heavy for the peduncle/scape. It is yet another example of non- selection by hybridists before sale. No doubt they were produced with the European market in mind which is a hard market to break into. Competing with the cut flower market plants must follow certain criteria to be sellable. I remember Ede Schaefer who was our first President going on a Brom crawl in Europe and was flabbergasted to see truckloads of Bromeliads being destroyed because they were not up to scratch and sales depended on perfection. It would seem that a small market such as Australia might be the place to go to. I suppose it is similar to what the media is telling us that low class steel is being imported to Australia while our steel industry is going broke. But there is a bright side to the story because the weak stalked plants will die out and the stronger stalked will survive. A sort of selection by the buyer rather than the seller. A sorry situation but a reality.

Another crusade of mine is to reduce the number of plants identified by formula. If a plant is worth growing it is worth a proper name. A formula only tells you about the seed batch so is a grex. The use of grex disappeared some 25 years ago under the ICNCP rules but still persists. Plants should be selected so that they can be given a cultivar name and the hybridist's name recorded. We did have a (johannis x 'Vulkan') on display but what do we know about such a plant? Where did it originate? Who was the hybridist? How good was such hybridist in knowing the identity of such parents. If we are inquisitive about a plant with a Latin name we can find out who named it and what part of the world it comes from.

The plant in question was a purplish colour of medium size but with a parent like the species *N. johannis* you would expect a large hybrid like 'Gee Whiz' that was also on display. Now, 'Gee Whiz' is huge and if it should die you could replace it with at least 4 different looking plants! I digress. To me it is very likely that the johannis refers to a plant called 'johannis rubra'.

### **Roving Reporter Feb 2016 cont:**

The following makes interesting reading

#### **Neoregelia 'Johannas Purple'**

Email to Helga Tarver, Florida, 2007.

As you say, what did the hybridists mean when they talked about *N. johannis rubra* or *N. johannis Broadleaf Rubra* when we now know it was a hybrid they were talking about, where the true *johannis* had been confused with *cruenta*. A plant that we bought in California in 1982 as the true 'johannis' had a purplish centre and after writing about it we called it 'Johannas Purple'. Then in the 1990's a plant came into Australia from Florida as *johannis broadleaf rubra* which we registered as *Neoregelia 'Broadleaf Rubra'*. To my mind there is very little difference but how did it get linked to the species *johannis*? I don't know if you know that there is a Auntie Margaret queries section on the fcbs.org website. Margaret got so fed up with unintentional hybrid seed coming from the BSI seed bank she felt they should be reported. You see, Australians were very keen growers of seed, and in years gone by there were lots of seed being sent around the world by the BSI. All of the queries that Margaret got were from Kiwis or Aussies where the seedlings did not flower according to the name on the packet. NO AMERICANS have advised any queries so I can understand how an American trusted the name on the seed packet from the BSI called *Neo. johannis* and perpetuated the error.

Derek

Normally I would ignore formulas because they mean nothing and I treat such formulas as NN (Nurserymans Name or Not known)

Just a quick word about names on labels. I think it is fun to check up on my other adage – Never trust the name on the label. I saw *xCryptbergia Rubra*. Now 40 years ago it had its latin name of *Rubra* changed to 'Red Burst' by the great Lyman Smith himself and normally he did not get involved with hybrids. Mind you it was only 3 years ago that it was found that we should be calling the nothogenus *xBiltanthus* instead of *xCryptbergia*. So *xBiltanthus* 'Red Burst' is the current name.

It was interesting to see *Billbergia* 'Blue Wren' at the meeting having come in all the way from Bob from Nairne. This has an interesting history. Bill Treloar is known for picking up waifs and strays from off the raffle table and elsewhere and trying to identify them. He wins some and loses some. 15 years he was up to his tricks and we discussed this flowering *Billbergia* hybrid he had with no label. We kept coming up with links to *Billbergia* 'Kahibah' that was the rage 50 years ago. Read on



*Billbergia* 'Blue Wren' (Photo J. Batty)

#### **AUSTRALIAN REGISTRATION**

##### **Registration of *Billbergia* KAHIBAH**

by Dr R.D. Johnston. Society Registrar of Cultivars (*Reprinted from Bromeleter, Vol.1 No.4, Nov/Dec 1963.*) At recent meetings we have seen specimen plants resulting from the pollination of *Billbergia saundersii* x *amoena* with pollen from the commonly grown "*B. nutans*". The originator of this hybrid combination is Mrs Win Reid of Kahibah (near Newcastle, NSW) who is to be congratulated on the production of a very attractive group of plants.

As would be expected from the parentage there is considerable diversity amongst the new plants. Leaf shape varies from very narrow triangular (up to 20 inches x 0.5 inch) to strap-shaped and shorter (12 inches x 1 inch), the broader leaves tending to form a short tube. The margins of the leaves are finely and distantly toothed. Leaf colour varies from uniformly dark green to pale green with random yellow-green spots. and some plants show the ability to turn red under conditions of high light and low nitrogen supply.

The inflorescence may be erect or nodding and has scape bracts which vary in colour from pink through salmon to bright red, on different plants. All flowers seen so far have green petals with dark blue borders, the blue border is regarded as a noticeable trait of *B. nutans* and its hybrids. This hybrid group has been named *Billbergia* KAHIBAH.

## ***Roving Reporter Feb 2016 cont:***

### NOTES

1. There were approximately 48 plants in this grex but apparently only three were released. We do not know if the other 45 were destroyed.
2. The seed parent has been traced back to a hybrid now called GEM where one parent was probably *B. saundersii* and the other parent possibly vaguely *B. amoena*. Diagnosis given by L. B. Smith in May 1963.
3. The pollen parent was given in 'quotes' because in 1963 it was doubted if the true species *B. nutans* was in Australia. That doubt continues to this day. July 1990.

In those days you named the seed batch rather than a selected cultivar and we felt that Bill's plant was linked here. Anyway, it got its name of 'Blue Wren' because of its predominantly blue petals.

What makes a plant flower? It is because it is growing in such good conditions that it explodes with happiness? Is it because it is on its way out and tells itself it must flower and set seed for the genome to survive? This was discussed when looking at Ron Master's flowering *Tillandsia latifolia* 'Dotterer'. The 'Dotterer' part is important because I rescued it from Dotterer's nursery in Germany in 1996. It looked different. *T. latifolia* comes in many shapes and sizes and this was one of the larger forms with vigorous offsetting ability. There is one variety called var. *divaricata* where all side branches of the inflorescence are at right angles to the main axis but the way Ron is growing his plant tends to disagree with this AND the floral bracts are very pale, making me think that Ron was not telling the full story!



*Tillandsia latifolia* 'Dotterer' (Photo J. Batty)

Finally, there were two plants on the same bit of wood, flowering with single spikes but called *Tillandsia fasciculata*. To me the 'normal' *T. fasciculata* has a branched spike so I felt the plants concerned were *T. compressa*. On returning home to the den I still feel I am right but then it is easy to recognise the *T. fasciculata* complex but in many cases hard to pick out which species or variety you want to link your plant to.



*T. compressa* (Photo J. Batty)



## ***Roving Reporter March 2016***

Attendance was low and we can blame the Queenslanders. We are used to getting plants from there and some of us have problems acclimatising the plants to our conditions. But when they send us their weather – hot and humid – it is the Bromeliad growers who wilt. Such was the situation at the meeting with members threatening to fall asleep. Luckily I had left my hearing aids at home so did not hear any snoring.

March 2016 is also the ninetieth birthday of long serving member Maureen Hick. We do have the OBE for 80 year olds so perhaps we should have a plebiscite for an OBN. Her success in longevity must be in the genes or hybrid breeding. CONGRATULATIONS

## ***Roving Reporter March 2016 cont:***

There were many more plants on the Raffle table than attendees and regrettably many were unlabelled. I know that Bill Treloar loves a challenge, taking home a waif and stray, and even finds an exciting new plant to add to his collection. But most of us prefer a plant with a name. So if you intend to bring plants in for the raffle please only bring in ones that you yourself would like to bring home. One of my mottos has always been. If you don't like it PUT IT IN A BIN.

On a more happy note about the raffle it was good to see Peter Hall walk off with *Tillandsia xiphioides* but will he use the plant as one to admire or use it to alleviate chest pains. Read on

### **Ethnobotanical Use of Bromeliaceae Revisited** by Derek Butcher in Journ Brom Soc 48(4): 172. 1998

In the March/April 1998 issue of the Journal of the Bromeliad Society we read about the link between indigenous cultures and bromeliads. Regrettably, there were at least two references omitted.

First we read about *Tillandsia xiphioides* which is used in Bolivia and neighboring areas to alleviate pains in the chest. Nothing was mentioned of the Butolgan tribe of the Adelaide Plains, which has a fetish with *Tillandsia xiphioides* var. *tafiensis*. So much so, that other Australian tribes consider it to be a pain in the bum.

Then there is *Aechmea coelestis*, which is used by the Morikeletan tribe from the hills just north of Melbourne. Taking psilium grains (silent 'p' as in swimming), these are pounded between a rock and a hard place and mixed with Yarra water to produce a soggy cup. This is filled with the blue berries of *Aechmea coelestis* and cooked in a bed of Eucalyptus leaves. The resultant pie is fed to the Morikeletans who call them pina-pina-qa-qa (translated as "lovely rock buns").

Fulham, South Australia

### Explanatory notes

Butolgan tribe is a merging of two clans – Butcher and Colgan

Morikeletan tribe was founded by Maurice Kellett

In other words the article was based on fact. This was the time when Len and I were trying to convince Rainforest Flora in California that 'tafiensis' should have blue petals. It was also the time when Maurice Kellett kept telling us that the ripe berries on *Aechmea coelestis* tasted marvellous.

Plants on display were the subject of Summer Brag and sufficient were brought in for Adam to talk about and give me inspiration to write about.

Popular plant went to a Glyph *Vriesea* that Joy Stinson brought in. She must have opened the sun-roof of her car to get it to the show bench because it was in bud and over a metre tall. Apparently, it had travelled in the passenger seat thanks to suggestions from Ron Masters. We do know that she bought it at the Adelaide Bromeliad Convention in 2009 from The Olive Branch. Joy admits to neglecting the plant for several years and only 6 months ago did she think it needed repotting. You could almost hear the plant sigh with relief and its reaction was to start the process to flower. Not only did she neglect the plant but also the label and was seeking a name. Looking at the leaf pattern some of us thought that *V. fosteriana* may be involved. We know there are 449 registered Glyph hybrids. We know there are 73 with *V. fosteriana* as father and 50 with *V. fosteriana* as mother but alas I have no suggestions. Perhaps there is a moral here!



Glyph *Vriesea* (Photo J. Batty)

Yet another motto of mine is 'Never Trust the Label' and there were a couple of plants on display that had my brain ticking over for further research when I got home.

I have recently been looking at old American Journals and it is surprising what you have previously read but forgotten. In the 1980's there was much gnashing of teeth with seed batches of hybrids being given one name and yet the plants were so variable. These were what we call a grex. If you cross a species with a species your seed batch will look very similar and one name for a grex is reasonable.

***Roving Reporter March 2016 cont:***

As soon as you introduce a hybrid in the equation all hell breaks loose. It is all because of the dance of the chromosomes! 25 years ago we saw the change in naming rules concentrating on the **selected** seedling as a Cultivar. It would seem that 25 years is not enough for all to accept the change.

Now to problems closer to home. First was Neoregelia 'Bobby Dazzler' which seemed to have lost its spots. This is what I wrote 24 years ago

A NEOREGELIA HYBRID WORTH QUESTIONING by Derek Butcher of Fulham, S.A. in Bromeleter 30(3): 6. 1992

At least 5 years ago a plant arrived in Adelaide under the name of *Neoregelia acanthocrater x proserpine*. It didn't offset too freely, so perhaps it hasn't circulated as much as deserved. It is like an extra large Neoregelia 'Beefsteak' and when given good light is a vibrant colour. I was aware that both 'acanthocrater' and 'proserpine' (or proserpine!) were worn-out names of Neoregelia concentrica, and when you looked at the supposed off-spring there were many questions to ask. So I left it just as another hybrid which was nice to have, but with very doubtful parentage. After all, where did the red colouring and spots come from? AND whoever did the hybrid would undoubtedly not show up!

It was with great delight that I received a letter from Olwen Ferris telling me about this lovely plant she had recently acquired from Grace Goode. Has it really taken this amount of time to escape into Queensland? Has it been hiding in Grace's collection all this time without anyone noticing?

We now know that George Anderson in the U.S.A. was the hybridist. George is well known as a hybridist who scatters pollen like dust in a dust-storm and yet on the odd occasion he can come up with some Bobby Dazzlers. Certainly not planned parenthood and certainly the bane of persons like myself who believe humans should try to be scientific, but George gets away with it.

It is a very good *Neoregelia* hybrid and a name that comes to mind 'Bobby Dazzler' (which I believe has Yankee origins and thus very apt) should be the one used. So if you do have this plant, then change the name on the label because Bobby Dazzler is a bit closer to its description than the supposed parentage.

I enclose a photo to show what 'Bobby Dazzler' looks like. We do not know how many plants Grace got from George but the assumption could well have been that all called *acanthocrater x proserpine* should be called 'Bobby Dazzler' even if they were clearly different. If they are different they should be called Neoregelia hybrid or just nothing in line with so many unnamed orphans being grown.



Neoregelia 'Bobby Dazzler' (Photo D.Butcher)



Neoregelia 'Charm' photo from J. Brom. Soc. 29(6): 257. 1979

Now to Neo. 'Charm' which goes back even further, in 1975. Grace picked out 6 other plants that she named but we don't have photos for some or know where they might still be growing. The name 'Charm' persists and again I show a photo of what it looked like when Grace registered it in the USA. Needless to say everybody wanted it and we do know that it was grown from self set seed and plants sold as 'Charm' instead of 'Daughters of Charm'. I would suggest that a true 'Charm' which would be offsets from the original would be very rare indeed.

## ***Roving Reporter March 2016 cont:***

While on the subject of names we can't go past the large flowering *Neoregelia johannis* that Jeff Hollinshead had brought in all the way from Nairne. I was surprised to see the plant if only because I had just been reading an article in the American Journal in 1998 where Harry Luther was trying to convince the Americans the problems they had over a correctly identified *N. johannis*. He had been prompted into action by Elton Leme. So it was a real surprise when it was said the label indicated *N. correia-araujoi* which is yet another bag of worms which occurred later. Read on

Is *Neoregelia correia-araujoi* Pereira & Penna, a natural hybrid? in Uncle Derek says 2007

First I must point out there is no stigma attached to a plant being called a natural hybrid. Most plants were at one time a natural hybrid – it was just that some settled down to become treated by taxonomists as a species.

There are many plants currently described as species which are most likely recent hybrids! But this should not stop us discussing odd happenings. Elton Leme is strongly of the opinion that this taxon is not a hybrid. This is what he had to say while showing photographic slides in the Report of proceedings at the Brom. Conference New Zealand 2003

“On the contrary *Neo johannis* grows in an area covered by forest close to the ocean. You can see it here in the south part of Rio de Janeiro, some rock formation and you can see when *johannis* grows on the rocks very close to the salt water. You can see here the level of the high tide and it is very adapted to the salt conditions. You can select all kinds of shapes and colours and I saw here and in many other places, different plants supposed to be hybrids or supposed to be cultivars but they are just selections of the typical populations. Here are some examples of different populations just two kilometres apart. You can also find variegated ones sometimes but these are a different category in terms of taxonomy and you can use a cultivar name. (This is where ‘DeRolf’ comes from.)

Another problem is *Neo correia-araujoi*, you can see that it has spotted leaves that never occur in the typical *johannis*. People used to say that *correia-araujoi* may be a natural hybrid between *cruenta* and *marmorata* but the populations of *cruenta* and *marmorata* are never in contact in the environment, *Neo cruenta* grows up north of Rio de Janeiro and *johannis* grows to the south. *Neo marmorata* grows in Sao Paulo state far away. Here is *correia-araujoi* in shade conditions, and you can see it is keeping the spots on the leaves.

This is the typical *Neo marmorata* from Sao Paulo, a smaller plant compared to *correia-araujoi* and *johannis*, with narrow leaves and a very peculiar kind of ornamentation. In the *cruenta* the petals are blue and in *johannis*, white. Here we have some white petals with tips of lilac, and also some shades of green in the lower part of the petals.”

As far as I am aware *N. cruenta* has never been part of the discussion although there was much confusion up to the 1990's as to what constituted a *N. cruenta* and what was *N. johannis*. Elton does know where these species are found whereas we have to rely on reportings from publications such as Smith & Downs. As such we are unaware of the exact localities for *N. johannis* although we do know that *N. marmorata* has been reported from Parati in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

In 1983 Pereira and Penna described *N. correia-araujoi* and compared it with *N. marmorata*.

In the late 1980's Lisa Vinzant of Honolulu obtained two verified clones of *N. correia-araujoi* which she crossed in both directions. She got 1/4 to 1/3 plain green ‘johannis’ type plants and the rest with some degree of marmoration.

In 1992 I obtained seed from Brazil called *N. correia-araujoi* and the resultant progeny included green ‘johannis’ type plants which when flowered linked to the *N. johannis* description. Others seemed closer to *N. marmorata* but could not be linked directly to the *N. marmorata* description. This variable bunch retained the ‘correia-araujoi’ name and were not given special cultivar names.

In private correspondence with Harry Luther I also found out that he too believed there was a link with these two species but I do not know what he based his opinion on.

Clearly, something odd was happening from two different sources. The problem is that hybridisation occurs more easily from plants held in Brazilian collections rather than in the wild but to have similar results from two different sources suggest that there is a close relationship with all three species. Whether you write *N. correia-araujoi* or *N. Xcorreia-araujoi* on your label is your decision.

### ***Roving Reporter March 2016 cont:***

So, I feel sure that Jeff's plant has links to that seed batch I got in 1992 which I did share around Australia for others to germinate. They may or may not have experienced the same as I did but shows you should never trust the name on the label. I know that I did change the label on my *N. johannis* look-alikes to *N. johannis* but clearly not everybody followed my lead.

Adam had brought in an especially brightly coloured red leaved Neo 'Medusa' by Deroose. We often see this plant in Adelaide because it comes at regular intervals from GardenWorld. Adam calls it his stupid plant. It originally hit the market some 20 years ago as a spineless 'Meyendorffii' but seems to have degenerated since then. It seems to be a case of Phyllody. Look it up on Google. It is a fascinating subject. I am on the quest to get a photo of N. 'Deroose Medusa' in flower. All I have seen is that it rots before this happens.

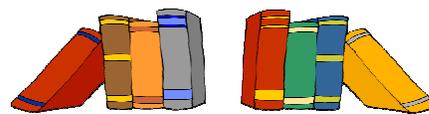
It was good to see Julie Batty had brought in *Pitcairnia heterophylla* and spares that she had grown from seed. Heterophylla means two sorts of leaves and we could clearly see the green non prickly leaves on the plant on display. It also produces short brown spiny leaves which remain when the plant goes dormant in Adelaide winter. This is when I keep it with the minimum of water. Anecdotal evidence suggests that in a seed batch you can get plants with different coloured petals. So those of you lucky enough to get a plant have a challenge. When yours flowers please advise the colour. Remember here, that I will not believe you unless I get a photo!!!!

The Tillandsia 'Samantha' was stunning wasn't it? It is a hybrid between *T. mooreana* and *T. kalmbacheri* and anyone who has grown either of these will know how it is hard to tell these species apart. The only reason I can see for such a crossing is hybrid vigour. In 2012 an English gardener wanted to have these plants in the Royal Chelsea Flower Show but there was no official record of such a plant. Enquiries revealed that the plant had originated at Bird Rock Tropicals and a flurry of Emails meant this hybrid was recorded in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. As an aside, it is interesting that a Pom should enquire about a Bromeliad hybrid because it is a first in my memory. The online Bromeliad Cultivar Register does have a strong Australian flavour because I was there at inception in 1998 and followed by Geoff Lawn from Perth. The Europeans tend to ignore its existence and many of the US hybridists are lukewarm but SE Asians are getting involved and we are optimistic. Our only problem is that Bromeliads are promiscuous and thus very easy to hybridise.



Tillandsia 'Samantha' (Photo J. Batty)

## BOOK REVIEW



A club member recently suggested to me that a library update in the newsletter would spread the word! This month I have chosen to review a new book to the library and also for sale, it is:- "Air Plants – The Curious world of Tillandsias" by Zenaida Sengo. She is an artist and Horticulturist living in San Francisco. In this book she not only gives the usual how to grow and care for information Zenaida also shows how to use Tillandsias in many art forms. There are wall hangings, screens, table decorations, and terrariums, grown inside, as well as many more, how to care for them and not just treat them as a throw away item in these situations. She uses varieties that are readily available here. There is also a chart with companion planting tips and some lovely ideas. Our Daughter is getting married later this year and she wants to use Tillandsias in her wedding theme, I've just found some great ideas! Hope you can as well. An interesting and different read. Don't forget we get Journals, newsletters and Periodicals from all over Australia and from overseas as well, all make interesting reading! I will leave the library list out on the bench and you can see at a glance what we have. It has come to a point where we can't keep all the journals at the club, so, anything prior to 2000 I keep at home. If you want any of these journals you can private message me through the facebook page and I will bring to the next meeting. Please, make full use of your library, no cost, a simple loan system and a great variety of books. Your friendly and approachable (I hope) librarian Penny

# Festival of Flowers

Featuring: African Violets, Begonias, Bromeliads, Bonsai, Cactus & Succulent, Carnivorous, Cottage garden, ferns, Orchids & Pelargoniums

**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016. 10.00AM- 4.00PM**

**ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE, 792 GRAND JUNCTION RD, GILLES PLAINS**

**Come and see the beautiful plants on display, Purchase plants that you will NOT be able to buy at the nursery**

**Devonshire Tea –Raffle. Drinks, Sausage sizzle**

***Entry fee only \$3.00***

This event will be opened by The Governors wife Mrs Lee at 11AM.

Members are encouraged to support this gardening festival & if you have several spare hours to help it will be greatly appreciated and “workers” badges are available - please contact me.

*Bev*

## Dates for your diary

- ✓ Bromeliad Society of S.A. 2/4/2016 & 3/4/2016 sales @ Beverley
- ✓ ABC Gardeners Market 9/4/2016. 8AM -1PM
- ✓ National Rose Trial garden” Peoples choice” Adelaide Botanic Gardens 9/4/2016 & 10/4/2016
- ✓ Festival of Flowers 16/4/2016 & 17/4/2016 St Paul’s college. Gilles Plains
- ✓ Enfield Horticultural Society Autumn Show 16/4/2016 & 17/4/2016 Klemzig
- ✓ Home living Expo Adelaide show grounds (Wayville) 23/4/2016, 24/4/2016 & 25/4/2016
- ✓ Fern Society of SA sale 30/4/2016 10.00AM – 3.00PM
- ✓ Royal Show 2/9/2016- 11/9/2016
- ✓ Adelaide Gardening & outdoor living 7/10/2016-9/10/2016



## *A lesson well learnt*

When transporting plants into meetings or other events Ron takes considerable care & time in protecting them from the heat & sun. The Car windows are tinted to legal level, ‘sox’ on side windows & a loose cover draped over the plants.

These precautions were to no avail when a week after our March meeting he found his “well grown” *Aechmea* ‘Felicia’ had suffered from the apparent build up of heat in the car that had been in the sun from around 1130AM to 5PM.

Our daughter always during the warmer months when the vehicle is not under cover starts her car & puts on the air conditioner to cool the interior at least several minutes before she & the children/passengers enter the car to start their trip perhaps this is a something to remember for our plants well being as well! *Bev*



*Aechmea* ‘Felicia’

Do you have any tips, successes or challenges to share with your fellow bromaholics??? Please let us know.