

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Born 1977 and still offsetting!



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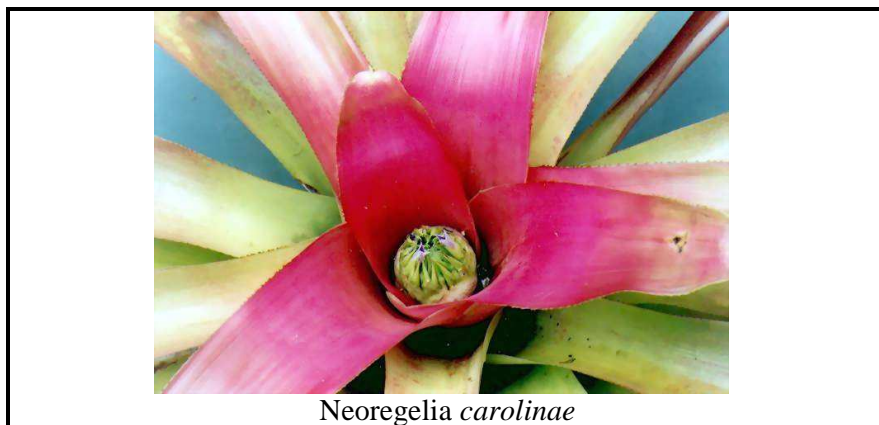
Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

Time: 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month
Exceptions – 1st Sunday in May,
August & no meeting in December
or unless advised otherwise

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME**



Neoregelia carolinae

Pots, Labels & Hangers - Small quantities available all meetings.

For special orders/ larger quantities or call Ron Masters on 83514876

Dates for 2009

Meeting dates:-

July 12th, - Tillandsias of Bolivia by Len, Aug 2nd (**1st Sunday**), Winter brag, Sept 13th- Trip to northern NSW by Derek, Oct 11th, Nov 8th.

Special Events:- Nov 7th Sales day

Applications for membership always welcome.

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb. to Feb.

Several reference photos courtesy of "fcb.org"



May meeting from the Secretary's desk

When the cat is away the mice will play! Thanks to the substitute Secretary Lainie Stainer who sent me a list of plants on display I can make a few pithy comments. Apparently there were several plants brought in and some with odd names so Len could expand about them. What he said and what I write could well be different but you will know the plants he talked about!

First, I can only recommend to new members when they acquire plants from ancient sources or even new plants from fairly new sources, that they check the names against the records on the website <http://fcb.org>. You should get an insight as to the identity of your plant or otherwise, but if you follow through with the information given, you can have a warm fuzzy feeling of satisfaction.

I understand that Luke Price brought in a few plants that got brains ticking over but as a budding frog expert he is fully aware that man's interpretation of nature never stays still. The same applies to labels written for Bromeliads where some stubbornly refuse to change a label even if it has been proved to be in error with the written record or "I'll leave it for Ron!" But 'later on' never comes along. Many of us are guilty of the second comment. So Luke had these old plants with old labels. One such had *Neoregelia* 'Voodoo' on the label and yet was one of the darkest black leaved plants we had seen for some time. It just had to be 'Midnight' This misnaming was caused by the nursery trade in Florida confusing plants from Elmore and Wurthmann with the same name of 'Voodoo'. Elmore's plant was like a *carolinae* with spots whereas Wurthmann's was very dark and it was renamed 'Midnight' The other problem was that Grace Goode had also produced a 'Midnight'. So strictly speaking you should be writing the label as Neo 'Midnight' Wurthmann on the label.



Neoregelia Midnight Wurthmann's

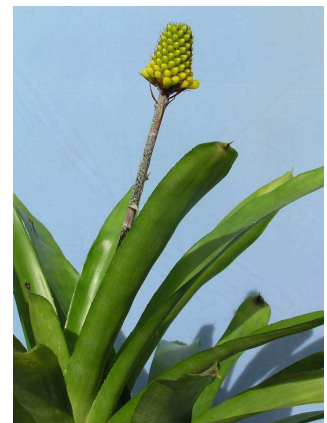
Talking of *Neoregelia carolinae* Luke had a plant that had a very long lineage and could well be closer to the true species than a hybrid. I understand that Luke was asked to bring in this plant when it was in flower for us to have a closer look at it.

Seems we should whisper in Len's ear too regarding 'ron' plants. *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola x capitata (rubra)* should be checked against T. 'Nellie Rose' a John Arden hybrid and *Tillandsia* 'Not insignis' against T. 'Midhurst'

Finally, a name on the list, which really did confuse me, was an *xAechopsis* 'Loeseneri' which I thought had died in 1907. The only record I have is a copy of a herbarium specimen. How did this plant get reincarnated? This plant started off as *Aechmea loesenera* in 1907. In 1935 Mez considered it was *Nidularium loesneri* and in 1968 Lyman Smith regretted he did not have a living specimen but guessed the parentage to be *Nidularium billbergioides* (Now *Canistropsis*) and *Aechmea calyculata*. Those versed in rules of Cultivars will know that the name follows asexual reproduction – offsets, so something funny was going on here. Preliminary investigations are leading us to northern New South Wales.



Canistropsis billbergioides



Aechmea calyculata

Down with formulas by Derek Butcher

Towards the very end of April 2009, I was visiting Ross Little at PineGrove Nursery in northern NSW and we discussed problems caused by hybridists releasing hybrids under formula and the BSI accepting formulas as identifying plants in competition. Ross is sitting on a veritable time bomb with records that go back 20 odd years. You see, the previous owners of PineGrove nursery kept great records of what plants had been acquired and from whom, in what is now lovingly called the Ledger. AND they had kept a separate record of the thousands of hybrids they had done but never formally registered. No deliberate culling had been done but the more resilient ones have survived.

Many of the imported plants were identified by formula and were sold as formula suggesting that the hybrid had originated at Pine Grove whereas in fact it had come from overseas. Many of these have been grandfathered into the Registration system as being of Australian origin!! Reference to the hybrid list shows that remakes of hybrids had also been made which is not too bad at F1 level but chaotic at other levels. This assumes that the hybridist knew the true identity of both parents and that foreign pollen was not involved. In my non-hybridising career of some 30 years I know that I am one of the few that never trusts the name on a label!

So now whenever, I come across an identity crisis and there seems to be links to importation in the 1980's I get Ross to check his lists and this is why so many of my recent articles refer to the famous Ledger.

I am an archivist at heart and know that many of the prolific hybridists around the world, keep records for their own benefit but that is all. The family just treat these as the whim of an ancient one. In the last 30 years I have contacted so many heirs around the world to get access to these records but to no avail. Now you know why I believe the Ledger is great and hope that Ross continues to do the reference work! So please name your hybrids because, if registered the name gets linked to the hybridist and its origin. As Sir Thomas Crapper would no doubt have written "The job is not finished until the paperwork is done."



June meeting from the Secretary's desk

Joan Williams may not have an inaugural member of our Society but she is certainly one of the early ones so it was no surprise at the ovation she got at her presentation. You see, Joan has just turned ninety and she was presented with a large 'Blackforest' cake with only 4 sparklers on it. There was even an illustration of a *Neoregelia* as part of the icing. She also received a framed accolade as to her being an OBN who is higher than an OBE because it stands for Over Bloomin' Ninety instead of Eighty.

AND that was not the only surprise because Len kept fussing with a cardboard box. I say 'surprise' because only two members were surprised with all the other members being good poker players. You see, Len had a Marble & Glass stand to present to Margaret and myself for long and distinguished service rendered to the Society. We took over the Secretary/Minute Secretary roles in 1982 and still keep going! The last time I had seen Margaret look so stunned was when I proposed to her 53 years ago! All because her father said he was migrating to Canada - what was I going to do?! Mind you, we have slowed up somewhat since 1982 and if there is anyone waiting in the wings they can be assured of help



Len presenting Joan with her "OBN"



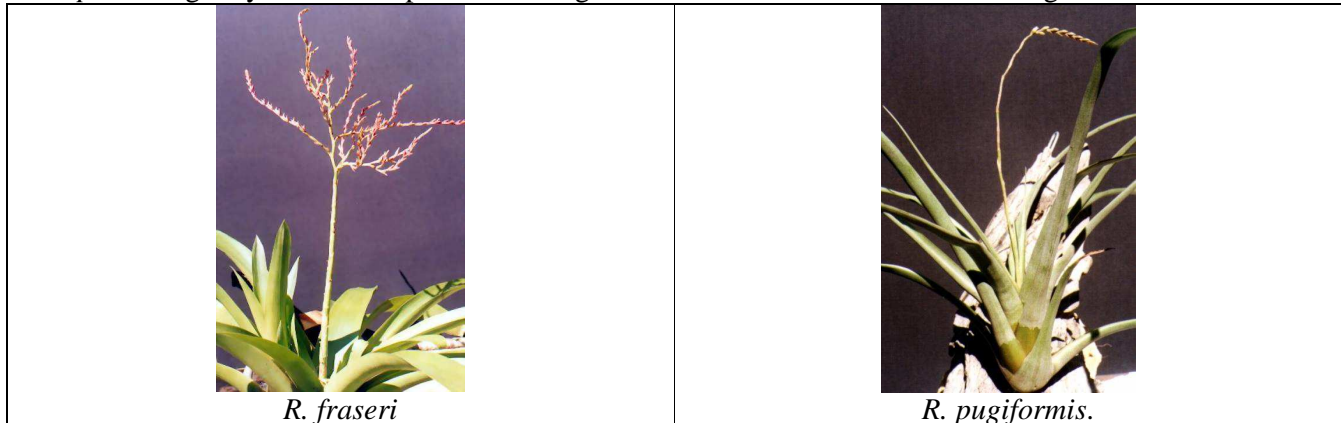
Derek & Margaret receiving appreciation stand



June meeting cont:

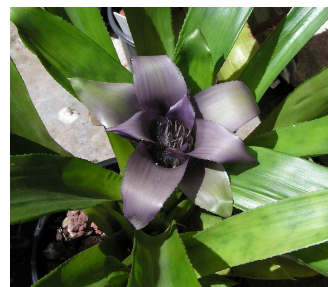
Afternoon tea was a special affair where Sue Sckrabei showed how to cut a large cake into equal portions so there were no complaints. Mind you, she had Bev hovering and the Secretary making rude comments. There was enough over for Joan to run off with a sizeable piece on her trolley – after all she was the birthday girl!

AND so to the plants on display. I know that Margaret & I were not at the May Committee meeting but were skeptical as to the topic, “What flowers in June?” Did this mean daffodils or plastic Broms? What a surprise for a dull day! So much so I felt I had to volunteer Bill to help me chat about what was brought in. First we had a *Racinaea* and a *Catopsis* and the only reason I compared them was that *Racinaea* was at one time the *Tillandsia* subgenus *Pseudocatopsis*. The only real similarity being the very small flowers, with *Catopsis* being very difficult to place when it gets down to evolution and DNA linkages.



The only *Racinaea* that seem to like it in Adelaide are *R. fraseri* and *R. pugiformis*. The last named is probably still being grown in Queensland as *R. tenuispica*. They don't seem to mind our winters but not the dry summers that mean they are more suited to pot culture. The same applies to *Catopsis*. Chris Larson and I have great fun with *Catopsis* because he gets the odd unnamed one from Guatemala and Victoria seems to be good for this Genus – not so hot summers and better quality water! Anyway, Chris will send me a plant in flower so I can butcher it and we can identify it. So far we have done well in the identification stakes but not in the survival stakes! The plant in flower had been brought into the meeting by Lainie because it had been bought as *C. hahnii*. Now, *Catopsis* are not easy to identify without butchering but here we had a species that I had not come across in Australia or even who had brought one in from overseas. Our gut feeling is that the plant is *C. morreniana* a much more common species. Talking about these sorts of plants prompted Len to ask about how you go about giving these sorts of conditions to such plants. You see he is contemplating another overseas holiday – this time in southern Ecuador. The general feeling was one of CAUTION.

There were several *Nidularium* in flower just to show how long flowers can last in this genus. One plant did have us stumped because it was clearly a *Nidularium* but had ‘black flowers’ on the label. Our guess that it was N. ‘Litmus’ where the primary bracts – not the flowers – turn very dark blue as the inflorescence ages. Adam has promised to keep us informed



One plant that did astound me was a *Quesnelia edmundoi* with its yellow green floral bracts and cream petals. This plant has always been on my want list since 1982 where I saw it in California as *Aechmea phytogamma*, a fictitious nurseryman's name that took me years to work out. It had been brought in by Colin Waterman who had been spending some of his savings at Bromadelaide 2009. The inflorescence was compound whereas it is usually known for a simple spike. We wait for Colin to get offsets going. Generally speaking, many will find their purchases at the Conference difficult to acclimatize. Colin does have an advantage in that his new annex has clear plastic drop-down sides to hold warmth in winter



Quesnelia edmundoi

June meeting plants on display cont:

Several billbergias were in flower as would be expected. One looked like it had links to *Billbergia iridifolia* but we were uncertain



Billbergia iridifolia

This leads me to a suggestion.

Sometimes members do bring in plants for identification. Identification is not easy to do on the spot. If the plant is in flower we could get a better idea if we had a photo of the plant and I can look at it at my leisure. Can we get a volunteer cameraman to bring in their camera each meeting – just in case? They could email the photo to me with the name of the owner and we could mention any positive conclusion in this Gazette. This suggestion would also cover the *Aechmea* with its branches of reddish berries that we thought could be *A. 'Polyantha'* with clear links to *A. miniata* and *A. fulgens*. These were so popular 20 years ago. Other aechmeas were also present including a flowering *A. chantinii*. This is very rare for Adelaide and was another product of the Conference. Colin must enjoy it while he can because these are generally treated as annuals here. Bob McGregor continues to astound me with his flowering *Aechmea spectabilis* where the offsets he brings in at regular intervals seem to have a bigger inflorescence each time. This time he brought it in a bucket so I would hate to see how big mother was! Few people can successfully grow this species so there must be some unknown factor for his success.



Aechmea. 'Polyantha'



Aechmea chantinii



Aechmea spectabilis

xCanmea were also represented (See article on pages 7 & 8)

We also saw *Orthophytum* and *xAnagelia*

Vriesea were the highlight as would be expected – both species and hybrids. Several were on display with one of especial interest because it had been grown since small by Colin Waterman. It had 3 adult plants in the same pot and flowering at the same time. I had to make a comment that this time it was Colin's own work and he looked somewhat embarrassed when given a round of applause!

Neoregelias do flower now and again in winter. One of interest, at least to me, was *N. 'Bill's Gift'*. This was the first time I had seen it in Adelaide and it looked different, yet again, to what I had seen in photographs around Australia. A small article will be elsewhere in this Gazette to show the problems I had with this plant. Another spotted Neo was called 'Kika' a mis-spelling for 'Kiko' a hybrid from Hawaii.

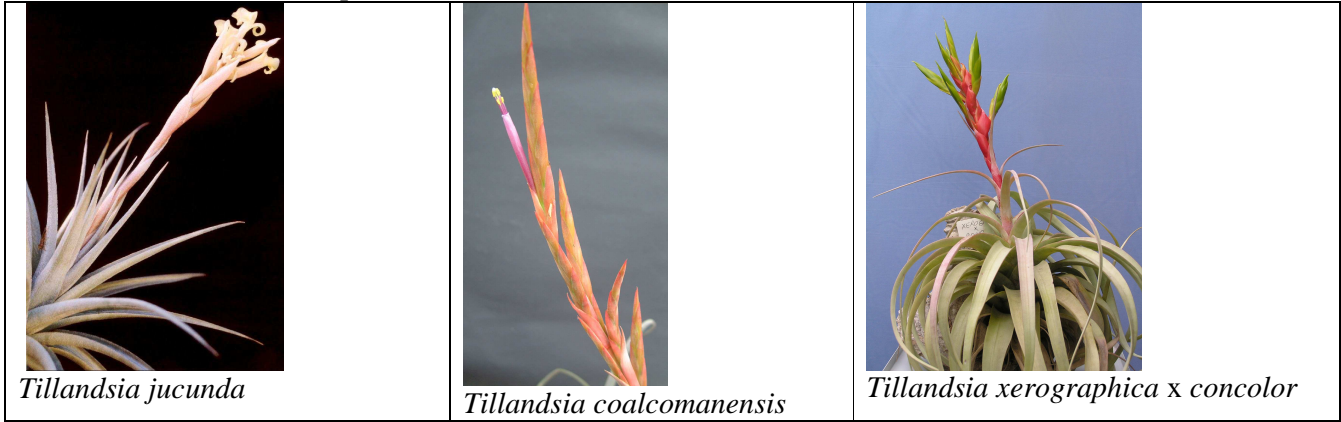
We even had a couple of *Guzmania* in flower.

Finally to the *Tillandsia* stand where *T. jucunda* was flowering either too early or too late. Len had brought in a flowering *T. coalcomanensis* which I don't have which meant I found it very hard to pronounce. Mind you I probably got it wrong anyway because I have a feeling the Mexicans would say Coalcoman somewhat differently. After all, they pronounce Oaxaca with an 'h'! Anyway this plant was published just last year and has links to *T. durangensis* which you may have.

Finally to a 'flowering' *Tillandsia* hybrid *xerographica x concolor* that I had got 18 years ago from Rolly Reilly in Queensland. No sign of petals but that sometimes happens to *Tillandsia* hybrids. What I find strange is that this hybrid must have been in Queensland AND flowered years ago but never recorded. We are slow but sure in Adelaide and this will be recorded as 'Silver and Rose'. (See photos next page)

June meeting cont:

Tillandsia stand reference photos



Neoregelia ‘Bill’s Gift’ by Derek Butcher May 2008.

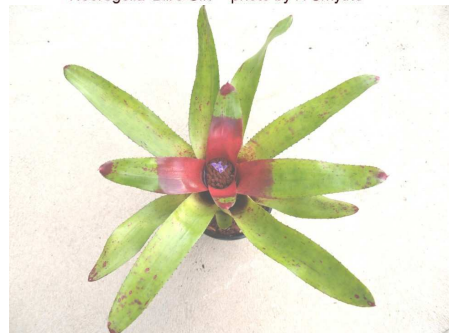
This plant is in many collections in Queensland and NSW but when Rob Smythe and I started asking around nobody could help us how this plant got its name. In March 2008, ‘Bill’s Gift’ was reported by Wendy Searles in Western Australia and the sleuthing increased in tempo. Olive Trevor advised us that she had got her plant from Bob Larnach who presumably had got it from Bill Morris. We do not know how the plant came into Bill Morris’s hands. Nothing was written down at the time so things are a bit hazy although such naming is strongly feasible.

Meanwhile a plant was being grown in Queensland under parental formula of ‘Bright Spot’ x ‘Vulkan’. Rob Smythe was so impressed with this plant that he gave it the name ‘Hagar’ in 2005.

Growing ‘Hagar’ and ‘Bill’s Gift’ side by side, Rob saw great similarities. The robustness of Bill’s Gift’ prompted him to think that possible parents could well be within the forms of *olens* but with extra vigour. This claim reminded Margaret Butcher that she had a plant from Bill Morris some 20 years ago which was called ‘696’ x ‘Marie’. This is the sort of experimentation that Bill did to try to prove relationships between various forms of a species. Investigations will continue in Townsville trying to solve a problem caused many years ago by relying on memory. In the meantime we will add ‘Bill’s Gift’ to the Cultivar register. If anyone has anything to add to this information please advise.

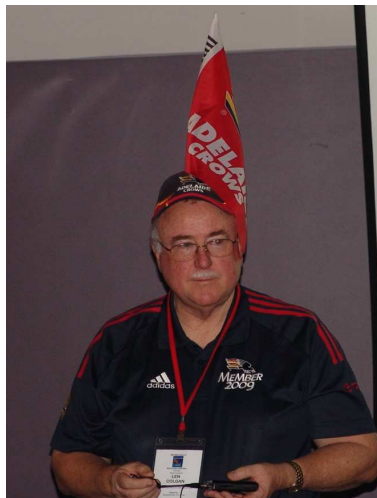


Neoregelia 'Bill's Gift' photo by R Smythe



Neoregelia 'Bill's Gift' photo by W Searles

Even a Bromeliad conference isn’t safe from a “Crow”!



xCanmea 'Galaxy' versus 'Smokey' by D Butcher Feb 2009

The naming rules for cultivars indicate that offsets or asexual reproduction (such as tissue culture) retain the name of the parent plant **unless** sporting has occurred. In this case 'Smokey' was the first to be produced but not registered until the same time as 'Galaxy' in 1998! Neither registration being actively done by the persons concerned!

Is there any difference between 'Smokey' and Galaxy'? Evidence from Herb Plever writing in 1990 suggests that Bullis did not select for a different Sport but gave his plants a different name to others in the market place. This practice is legal unless you have plant patents involved. Whether it is ethical is another thing.

So, as far as I am concerned all should be called 'Smokey' because it has date precedence as indicated in the Cultivar register. It is interesting that plants in current circulation are much more likely to be called 'Galaxy' than 'Smokey'.

The name 'Smokey' or 'Galaxy' only applies to the non-variegated form whereas variegation is a legitimate sporting and should have cultivar name of its own. Alas this will never happen showing the disdain with which the larger nurseries treat cultivar registration.

From Bromeliad Cultivar Register 1998

xCanmea 'Galaxy' Bullis, H. <1979 cv. of xCanmea 'Smokey' selected by Bullis from tissue culture - (See 'Smokey') - Midway between parents in matte bluishgreen with brown mottling, purple leaf tips and coral orange to red compound inflorescence w/white flowers - 12-14 leaves to 4" wide forming tubular flared rosette to 12"-14" tall - 6" stolons - variegated and marginated forms exist - maroon pencil thin lines on scurfed grey-green silvery foliage - this selection has a bit more of the fosterianum parent apparent in its coloration and markings.

Baensch 98,99ill, JBS 40:54; 42:65,67ill, CargoRpt#3-1; #6-5, MB1998

By Herb Plever in J Brom Soc 40(2): 54. 1990

x *Canmea* Galaxy is a nice cross by Harvey Bullis. It is a midway compromise in size and shape between its parents. Its inflorescence favours the shape of *C. fosterianum*, but it is compound instead of simple. Its bright red bracts stay in colour for 5-6 months. However, its characters may not have been cleaned up, or perhaps it reacts strongly to changes in light levels, as the plant is still highly variable. When I first saw a specimen a number of years ago its leaves were almost black with a little green showing. But when I bought a near mature specimen while visiting the Bullis Nursery, all of the Galaxies there had divergent green leaves with barely visible brown markings. (Bullis's lath house may have been over-shaded.) The plant now growing in my south window with presumably less light than in Florida is an offspring of the one I bought. Yet, the plant is more tubular-compact and the top half of each leaf is dark brown from irregular barring in brown blotches and only the bottom quarter is grey-green without markings.

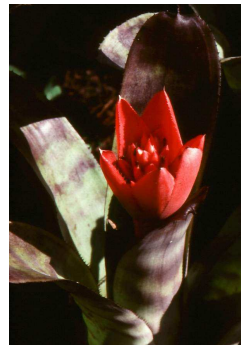
From Tom Lineham in J Brom Soc 42(2): 67. 1992

Figure 10

xCanmea 'Galaxy' (*C. fosterianum* x *A. chantinii*), a cultivar produced by H. R. Bullis, Jr., emphasizes the best characters of the parents.



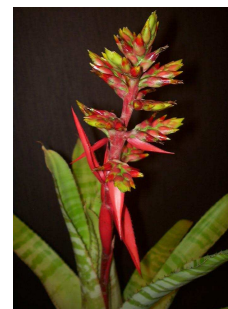
xCanmea 'Smokey'



xCanmea 'Galaxy'



C. fosterianum



A. chantinii hybrid

x*Canmea* 'Galaxy' versus 'Smokey' cont:

From Bromelad Cultivar register 1998

x*Canmea* 'Smokey' DeLeon <1963 cv. of *Canistrum fosterianum* X *Aechmea chantinii* - (See x*Canmea* 'Galaxy') - Upright tubular stoloniferous plant to 12" - 14" tall w/10-12 leaves in clear heavily scurfed silvery-grey - no prominent markings - upright inflorescence w/large reddish primary bracts and tight clusters of white flowers.

JBS 23:186; 33:72, Grande 1:2CFill, TF1980

By J Stephens on a Visit with Nat Deleon in J Brom Soc 23(5): 186. 1973

And finally: *Aechmea recurvata* X *A. calyculata*, a European hybrid; *Neoregelia* X 'Catherine Wilson,' with warm red tones attractively mottled; *Canistrum fosterianum* x *Aechmea chantinii*, with a showy red inflorescence; *Aechmea fendlerii*, with blue flowers and pink bracts - a rare combination; *Neoregelia concentrica*, maroon striped; and in a bed reserved for royalty, *Vriesea gigantea*, *V. fenestralis*, and *V. gigantea* var. *nova*, a clone of distinct merit. (now var *seideliana*)



V. gigantea var *seideliana*. was var *Nova*



Vriesea gigantea



V. fenestralis,

By Edgar Smith in J Brom Soc 33(2): 72. 1983

x *Canmea* (*Canistrum* x *Aechmea*)

*Jaspe: Ed Hummel

*Majo (*Canistrum fosterianum* x *Aechmea fosteriana*)

*Smokey (*Canistrum fosterianum* x *Aechmea chantinii*)

An asterisk (*) preceding the name of a plant indicates it is listed in a bromeliad catalog which was available to me.

No mention made of either hybrid in International Checklist of Bromeliad hybrids by the BSI 1979

Mention made in Smith's Manuscript of Bromeliad hybrids and Cultivars 1984 of *Canmea* 'Smokey' taken from Nurserymen's catalogues

FOR SALE

Available at meetings

Pots of various sizes, labels & hangers

Standard pots	100mm	125mm	140mm	150mm	175mm (out of stock)	200mm
Squat pots	125mm	140mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	
Labels	Small X 40	Large With hole				
Pot Hangers	Black X 4 clasp	Universal	Green X 3 clasp	Heavy duty		

Please note that special or larger orders can be delivered to meetings by prior arrangement or collected from Plympton.