

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

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

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Ortho maracasense (see page 5)

MEETING & SALES 2017 DATES

15/1/2017(3rd Sunday) What & where do you plant Bromeliads, types of pots, fertilizer etc, 12/2/2017 AGM -Bromeliad species – any genera & naming difficulties, 19/3/2017 (3rd Sunday), [25/3/2017& 26/3/2017 Sales](#), 09/4/2017 Pattern leaf Vrieseas 07/5/2017 (1st Sunday) M. Paterson plants, 04/6/2017, (1st Sunday). Guest speaker-Amgrov Fertilizers,09/7/2017 Christmas in July. 40 year celebration,13/8/2017 Winter brag, 17/9/2017, (3rd Sunday) guest speaker,- Dr Randall Robinson. Dykias 15/10/2017, (3rd Sunday) Getting ready for Spring, [21/10/2017 & 22/10/2017 Sales](#), 12/11/2017 130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

Applications for membership always welcome – Subs \$15 single \$25 Dual :Due Feb 2017

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

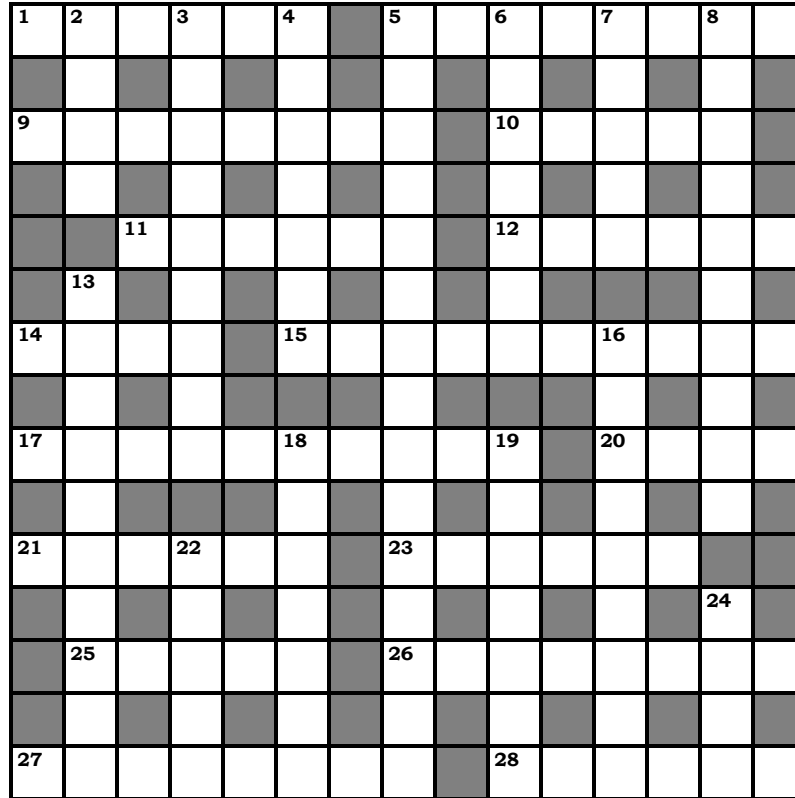
Time: 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month
Exceptions –1st Sunday in May, June
& 3rd Sunday January, March,
September-, October no meeting in
December or unless advised
otherwise

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME.**

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LEN’S CROSSWORD



Across

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Black dots indicating scale on bromeliads | 2 Genus from Andes Mountains |
| 5 Natural liking or attraction to someone or something | 3 Genus from Brasil |
| 9 Sleep-inducing | 4 Dinner table layout |
| 10 Flat | 5. Popular silver vase, urn plant (2 words, 7+8 letters) |
| 11 Element with atomic number 76 | 6 “Bent like a scythe”, as in leaves of <i>T. aeranthis</i> |
| 12 Genus containing edible plants | 7 Genus from northern South America countries |
| 14 Author of first monograph devoted to bromeliads, 1857 | 8 Widespread popular genus |
| 15 Eminent Australian bromeliad hybridizer (2 words, 5+5 letters) | 13 Genus mainly from Brasil |
| 17 What we collect! | 16 Genus endemic to Chile |
| 20 A trichome on bromeliads | 18 Genus endemic to Brasil |
| 21 Self-centredness | 19 Leaf-like structures protecting bromeliad flower stems |
| 23 Church ministers | 22 Person from Baghdad |
| 25 Discover by studying | 24 Colour of petals of <i>T. aeranthis</i> |
| 26 Eagerly, in an industrious and effective way | |
| 27 Genus mainly from Ecuador | |
| 28 Part of bromeliad flower | |



Roving Reporter Oct 2016

Just an update on what is happening in Florida and the scare about the Zika virus fanned by the Media. Things are really getting desperate when so called Botanic gardens destroys all their bromeliads! The problem is that mosquitoes breed in water and the theory is that if you destroy bromeliads you solve the problem. The problem is that wet grass breeds mosquitoes and also a lot of other plants such as Palms. These are natural but what about man made containers or even the swamps. Now I have that off my chest let us get to the meeting which was on billbergias.

Sarka Laznicki won the popular plant award with her B. 'Strawberry Cream' which is yet another Don Beadle hybrid which has been around since 2005. There was also a B. 'Strawberry' which is one of the oldies which came into being in California in 1977.

The following may be of interest



B. 'Strawberry Cream' (Photo J. Batty)

Billbergia 'Strawberry'

Email from A B Thom 5th June 1999

This was my first attempt at a hybrid and with the help of my partner then Bartley Schwarz my attempt was successful. My aim was to find a match for the vigor and power of Muriel Waterman and the fantastic spotting of Fantasia. I chose out of the grex the one plant which matched both and grew it on..

I was in the wholesale plant business then with Broms as a hobby...

I remember a small feud in the San Francisco Society when I entered and won prizes with several plants ... They then made a rule that "Commercial growers" could not enter the shows for prizes. I said then that you had better watch out for Pamela Leaver, as she had the most fantastic greenhouse and plants that I had ever seen and would knock the socks off any commercial grower... Well I later sold my greenhouses to Pam and the rest is history. She, although very ill with several strokes, still has the greenhouses and "Strawberry" is still there I hope..I am trying to help them catalogue what they have and try to assist in whatever way I can... The place is locked down and I have not had a chance to catch Jim (84yrs) when he is there watering. I really appreciate your comments on all the so-called new, unusual hybrids which abound. Most I am afraid are not really hybrids but plants grown under different conditions.. I used to trade plants with Dennis Cathcart and Hazel Quilhot and found that my plants raised in my greenhouses were completely different than theirs...

I also learned that stress, lack of fertilizer, heat and humidity play a role in how a plant looks...

It was interesting that few species were on display and yet 20 years ago species would have dominated. I was surprised to see *B. lymanii* on the raffle table so life is full of surprises. I grew this from seed that Elton Leme sent me a long time ago. When I flowered it I was pleased it agreed with the description! Talking about species we did have *B. amoena* var *carnea* on display and I was hoping for its look alike *B. elegans* so I could wax eloquent. You see the latest Journal from America has arrived and is currently being read by Penny before going into the library where *B. elegans* is now *B. speciosa*.

In the 1980's Margaret and I spent our winter holidays collecting Broms on the east coast of Australia. Even at that time I was querying names and I remember I was at Bill Morris's place looking at this great flowering plant called *B. elegans*. I said to Bill, "Why isn't it *B. sanderiana*?" And so the saga started. It appears that Olwen Ferris got seed from Adda Abendroth in Brazil in the 1960's. The plant had been referred by Adda to Lyman Smith who decided it was *B. sanderiana*. It seems this was in error but in Australia some changed their labels and some did not. This is a problem still with us! In the 1990's Harry Luther was brought into the discussion as to what was the difference between *B. amoena* in its many varieties and *B. elegans*. About a year ago my friend Mike Wisnev was looking at Billbergia species in California.

Roving Reporter Oct 2016 cont:

Yes, there are lots of unnamed *Billbergias* there too with many hybrids involved to cloud the issue. Anyway, I told him about the problem about *B. elegans* I thought I had solved in Australia. He went back to 1821 where it appeared that a certain Freyreiss had collected 2 different *Billbergias* which had been deposited in 2 different Swedish herbaria and where his name Freyreiss had been misspelt. It transpired that the wrong specimen had been selected by later botanists so the plant we had been growing as *B. elegans* should have been called *B. speciosa*. The full intriguing story is in the American Journal. So don't forget to change the name on your label. Mind you, the really lazy ones could easily have *B. sanderiana* there from the 1970's!

There is yet another twist to the story which goes back to the 1960's when a *Billbergia* called 'Windigig x *speciosa*' was being grown in Australia and nobody knew its origins. It still crops up in collections and the following may be of interest

Billbergia 'Windigig Special'

by Derek Butcher 2001

A delightful and cheerful *Billbergia* has been in Australia as 'Windigig x *speciosa*' since at least the formation of the BSA in 1960 and yet has never been properly identified. I have been waiting forever for some inkling of an idea to come from California now I am firmly entrenched in the wonders of the World Wide Web. But alas, all seems dead.

In 1977 in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society page 121, Victoria Padilla had a photograph which had this caption "A hybrid of the old European cross known as *B. 'Wendii'*" In my investigation of *Billbergia* 'Windii' and 'Theodore L Mead' (which I proved to my own satisfaction are identical) this photograph was brought into the equation! But it looks nothing like *Billbergia* 'Windii' and perhaps the caption should have said "An unnamed hybrid from the old European cross *B. 'Windii'*" In any event this too is misleading because in my experience all hybrids with *B. 'Windii'* in their makeup show the traits of the ubiquitous *B. nutans*! This trait is not apparent from the photograph.

Anyway, this plant is a 'dead ringer' for our little hybrid. It clearly has links with *Billbergia amoena* in its many forms and has even been misidentified with *Billbergia nana*. So if you do have a plant called *Billbergia nana* I would suggest you check its credentials..

Our plant can be described as having a tight tube of leaves to 20cm high where the leaves are only 3cm wide, green with a few white spots and barring, and sometimes with a pinkish hue. The erect scape exceeds the leaf tube and the 3-4 large, red scape bracts hold their colour for some time. The inflorescence has only 4-5 flowers which are green but tipped with bright blue on both the sepals and petals. If you want to see these in colour then try the BCR on the internet.

So, the plant we knew as 'Windigig x *speciosa*' is now named 'Windigig Special'.

As you know, Cultivars can only be listed by name and not by formula which is the reason for this slight change in name. If, by any chance, you do know any more history about this mystery please let me know.

Talking of species reminds me of my comments about Hans from Aldinga growing plants from seed. Well, in the special raffle we had two lucky winners of *B. mohammadii* plants which had been grown from seed from a plant that Len Colgan had acquired when in Bolivia. So it is one plant in Adelaide that has a recorded history and should be cherished. When these plants flower please send me photos or bring the plant into the meeting. While this considered a synonym by botanists this is one occasion I say do not change the label. If you think I am being stubborn, I have the following note near my computer and is something Dr Walter Till told me ages ago "Synonymising is not a true nomenclatoric matter but a taxonomic judgement"

As I said there were many hybrid *Billbergias* on display ranging from old to new. We were reminded that they need to be grown in good light with little fertilizer to get the full effect of the colouration of the leaves. Do not be disappointed with the colouration of offsets when they first appear because so many have to be mature to show their true colours. It has been said by others that they are one day wonders because the flowers are here today and gone tomorrow but most are prized for their leaf colour.

Roving Reporter Oct 2016 cont:

One that did catch my eye was B. 'Dorothy Berg variegated'. Just as 'Perriam's Pride' which was also on display does not have variegated as part of its name so too with 'Dorothy Berg' which is a variegated sport from 'Grande'. This is yet another plant with a chequered career. See the following

Billbergia 'Gerda' /'Grande' /'Royal Vase' by D Butcher 1998

Billbergia 'Gerda' should be correctly known because there is a photograph of this Mulford Foster hybrid in BS Bulletin 1962 page 71. Its parentage is *B. horrida* v. *tigrina* x *B. amoena* v. *viridis*.

In 1963 (just one year after the article) an Australian was the proud owner of a plant of this name having imported it from the USA. In 1975 Bill Morris (the first Australian Trustee of the BSI) must have acquired an offset because he pointed out it had the wrong name! It looked nothing like the photograph in 1962. By this time the true B. 'Gerda' was in Australia. 10 years later in 1985 I stumbled across this "not Gerda" plant and it was decided to call it B. 'Royal Vase'. B. 'Royal Vase' has links with *B. vittata* and thus B. 'Breautiana'!!

In 1995 I came across yet another "B. Gerda" imported from the USA from Don Beadle. Don must have ESP because I then found out that he was changing this name to B. 'Grande' (see BCR page 55). B. 'Grande' appears similar to a *B. amoena* and could easily be B. 'Gerda' F2 (That is seed raised from a B. 'Gerda' plant).

I must report on a plant that Kallam Sharman brought in. He thought it was a common old, vey hardy succulent but was advised it was really *Orthophytum maracasense*. He promises to give it more tender care but I think he should see how it can grow in the wild!

There was a lengthy discussion on the Tillandsia brought in with no definite conclusions other than whether you follow the American experts or the German experts in any dispute. One that did raise especial interest, if only for the name. Tillandsia 'Confusion' which had been in Australia as 'Nez Misso'. In March 2004 a group of Tillandsia buffs were having their biennial get together at Albury, NSW. Several plants called 'Nez Misso' had been brought along and we tried to find out how the plant had got its name and what were the parents. We did not get very far other than agreeing that one of the parents had to be *T. aeranthis* and the petals were shades of grey (not 50!). An exception stood out like sore thumb. It had blue petals. It was unanimously agreed that this was confusion!



Tillandsia 'Confusion' (Photo J. Batty)

Finally Mike from Kadina introduced us to a plastic thingie (see photo) that can be used to hold pots on a vertical mesh. This saves bench space and any vertical mesh was usually reserved for mounted Tillandsias. In the good old days we would make wire contraptions when you wanted to hang a pot vertically but I will admit it was a bit wobbly. I would only dare to use a new pot and a fairly small one at that but Mike assures us that he has succeeded with larger sizes. Prices for the thingie seems to vary but perhaps Ron the Pottyman may look into whether the Society should stock a few.



Vale Bob McGregor

He has been a member of our Society forever and I will always remember him as the quiet one who was rarely rattled. I well remember we had this meeting at the Girl Guide Hall in Kilkenny. It was session on how to do bromeliad husbandry. There was Eric Tonkin saying that you had to drill a hole right through the piece of wood if you were going to successfully attach a Tillandsia to it. He then showed us how you hold a piece of wood in the left hand and use an electric drill in the right. He was successful. Bob, as a foreman carpenter was appalled and he politely said something like this, "While it is easy to drill a hole I would recommend that all other Society members should put their piece of wood in a vice that is firmly attached to a work bench!" If there were one plant I would like Bob to, it would be *Aechmea spectabilis*. This species comes from Colombia and Venezuela so you would expect it to prefer warmer conditions but every 5 years or so Bob would drag in a flowering specimen. It was certainly spectacular and certainly not small. What was so special about his lemon tree but that was the only clue he gave to his success.

Talking of lemon trees, Bob was a great one in supplying offsets for the monthly raffle and it depended on how close they had been to the trunk as to their size and legginess. If you did ever win a leggy plant you knew that with judicious pruning you could bring it down to size.

If ever there is a time when we don't have many plants on the raffle table think of Bob

Home & Outdoor living show update



The dazzling colours of bromeliads were on display at the Gardening and Outdoor Living Show at the Wayville Showgrounds and there were several compliments on the display.

This event is a good marketing opportunity, a lot of flyers for our Oct sales were distributed with many indicating they would attend. Society members were available to provide advice on the growing bromeliads in South Australia., and there were plants for sale. Many thanks to the volunteers that helped throughout the 3 days, making this involvement possible.

Bev



Roving Reporter Show and Sales Oct 2016

On Oct 22 and 23 we held a Show and Sales. You may have noticed I just called in and called out on the Sunday morning, but then you might have been too busy to notice. Bev seemed extra happy. I did ask our photographer Julie Batty to write a bit so I understood the atmosphere. She replied but asking herself a question AND answering it. This follows

“Q. What makes our show and sales weekends successful?

A. An interesting display, a varied range of quality bromeliads for sale, enthusiastic customers, generous exchange of information, helpful ‘staff’, and plenty of good humour. Our October weekend ‘Extravaganza’ ticked all of those boxes.

We did have a few less show plants this time, possibly due to the long wet winter, but a bit of tweaking resulted in a good range across genera as well as plenty of colour to draw attention to the display area. There was a correspondingly good variety of sale broms to choose from including some quite different ones for our collections thanks to the extra efforts of Chris and Adam. A long and orderly line of eager customers were waiting for the door to open Saturday morning, coming prepared with boxes or picking one up on the way in – and exited some time later with somewhat heavier boxes.

Those who donated the excellent group of raffle plants provided a real incentive to buy tickets when any one of them would make a winner happy.

In a nutshell, a show and sale with a good ‘vibe’ (that’s the word, thanks Derek!) that not only boosted the club’s finances but was also seemingly enjoyed by the participants.”

We show you a shot of Neo ‘Wild Tiger’ taken at the show which indicates not so much the wild part but a growing together in harmony.



Neo ‘Wild Tiger’ (Photo J. Batty)

Tillandsia ‘Dilemma’ by Derek Butcher Nov 2016

In 1947 a plant from Marnier Lapostolle’s collection was given the name *T. dianthoides* var *grisea* with a vague description and which Lyman Smith considered a synonym of *T. bergeri*. What happened to the name on the label? Because the inflorescence looks more like a *T. aeranthis* it is reasonable, but not proven, that the plant was soon being grown in Europe as *T. aeranthis grisea* but with possible hybrid connections. As we know, most Germans interested in Tillandsias at that time ignored recording anything that had not been found with wild provenance. This was no different to the American Bromeliad Society which in 1950 extolled hybridisation but set up no system to record such happenings.

In Australia from the same vintage we had *T. ‘Nez Misso’* which can be loosely described as a *T. aeranthis* with grey petals. We guess that it was seed sent from Europe with a likely suspect being Dr Oeser.

Tillandsia 'Dilemma' cont:

In the 1970's or thereabouts Joan White imported *T. aeranthos grisea* and this flourished in NSW and in 2000 I started checking this up but did not get very far other than linking it to 'Nez Misso'. I even sent a piece to Eric Gouda who forced it to flower and it had blue flowers. We kept the name *T. 'Aeranthos grisea'* although why the 'grisea' (grey) we did not know.

In the 1980's Hiro Takizawa imported *T. aeranthos grisea* from Germany see *Tillandsia Handbook*: 30. 1998. This shows even more variability. Could this be because it is a grex?!

In 2004 in Australia we bumped into a plant called 'Nez Misso' but it had blue flowers so we registered it as 'Confusion'. Dare I suggest that you compare the plant in the BCR with the name 'Aeranthos Major' being used in the USA. The plot thickens.

In the 1990's Tillandsia International had a plant on offer as Tillandsia purple Peru. It did not take long for this to be identified as *T. purpurea*. In fact, in 1992 it got to Andrew Flower at Anwyl Bromeliads in New Zealand who treated it as *T. purpurea* 'Purple'.



T 'Dilemma' (Photo J. Batty)

In this early period David Sheumack of Sydney imported plants from Tillandsia International and one was called Tillandsia purple Peru. David was not impressed but still has it in his collection. His comments were 'very slow growing and has only flowered twice in the last couple of decades, inflorescence like a BIG aeranthos but petals are a rather uninteresting grey/blue And the bracts a pinky/grey as I remember. Size of the inflorescence was the catching part, colour was rather boring.' Clearly David was not impressed with the plant but it is still surviving. What is intriguing with Adelaide growers is that over the years the name on the label became a formula 'T. purpurea purple X unknown hybrid' with variations. Without it having a registered name this detail could not be checked but easily changed.

The problem here was that the plant has *T. aeranthos* attributes. This indicates that Tillandsia International had inadvertently got plants mixed up. The mysterious plant got to Adelaide but took years to flower and questions started to be asked. How did a plant called T. purpurea x 'Purple' look like a *T. aeranthos* with grey leaves? Is the actual plant still surviving in Tillandsia International after 25 years? Nobody has reported having imported a plant with such an odd name from Tillandsia International since David Sheumack did so. There is yet another twist in that Plant Oddities is offering this plant with such an odd name on their website, clearly not bothering to check its authenticity but is it the same as our 'Dilemma'? Even more intriguing is that Tillandsia International do not list 'purpurea' or 'purple' but do list aeranthos Purple Giant, aeranthos Purple Fan and aeranthos Mini Purple – all just nurseryman's names or NN and we do not know where they differ from the type.

Formulas should not be used either, to identify plants and the Bromeliad Cultivar Register is a way that such crosses can be given cultivar names and registered. This is why we will be registering 'Dilemma' with links to Adelaide and to *T. aeranthos* but parents unknown. If Tillandsia International and Plant Oddities can link their offerings to this registered name they are recommended to do so.

Just one final comment. A few years ago in my quest to find out what was *T. aeranthos grisea* like in Europe I got a photo from Leo Dijkgraaf showing a T aeranthos-like plant and flower. It went into my too hard basket. When I got Julie's photo of flowering 'Dilemma' I sent it to Uwe Scharf (a Lector for Die Bromelie). AND he said looks like 'aeranthos grisea' to me. As I said in my opening paragraph I believe this all started with a vague description in 1947. Too many variations on a theme!



Roving Reporter Nov 2016

Last meeting of the year. A sort of Christmas gathering with lots of jollity and a special afternoon tea. AND there was a good roll-up. Pup exchange went off without a hitch and it was Sue, Bill and Adam on stage to conduct the auction. Some got carried away with the bidding but that was to be expected. We saw lots of top quality plants go under the hammer. Thanks to Julie and Dave Batty we saw a box full of plants that had come from the estate of our dear departed George Rudolph. There were so many plants we went over time but such was the interest most stayed to the bitter end! The Treasurer was happy because we made nearly \$2000 on one afternoon's entertainment.

Of course, it had to be a meeting when proper names were discussed only this time we were a bit quieter about it. You see, Bill Treloar, the so called champion for finding unnamed plants with promise. In this case he had brought in a past-flowering *Aechmea* specimen that looked to have been spectacular when in flower. It appeared that Bill had been asked to a garden in the country around Bute where the owner was moving to Queensland. This was a Bromgrower who had got plants from Queensland which she planted in her garden. Needless to say most labels got lost. I got Julie Batty to take its photo and the guessing game began. I first thought *Aechmea* 'Aussie Ruby' but the petal colour advised by Bill as yellow was wrong. When at home I looked further and came across *Aechmea* 'Covata'. This reminds me of my collecting 'species' *Aechmea* when visiting California in 1983. I am sure they said here comes an Aussie greenhorn. Anyway one of the plants was called 'Covata'. I soon found out there were two plants with the same name and I had got the inferior one which eventually was called 'Covata Too'. I suggested this name to Julie and got her thinking. She suggested 'Flaming Star' whose details follow

***Aechmea* 'Flaming Star' by Butcher 1999**

This is an interesting cultivar in that I think it is close to Pamela's (Koide, Bird Rock Tropicals) 'Covata'. I would like all the comments I can get.

Our plant came to Australia as having been collected by Chester Skotak in Brazil with name unknown. Forever the Doubting Thomas I eventually found that this plant had been collected in Seidel's nursery!! Many wrongly named plants and unknown hybrids come from this source so I have doubts that it is a species.

We in Australia are treating it as a hybrid and a handsome one at that.

Chester Skotak advised on 25 August 1999 that this plant had been grown from seed from Brazil and he did not know which collection it came from or even the name of the seed parent. Pre-flowering plants had gone to Peter Tristram in Australia but most had gone to Dennis Cathcart at Tropiflora. We do not know when the plants were sent to Dennis or even whether he re-sold them. However we guess that these plants are in the USA under a different name. We also guess that there is a great chance of these seedlings being an F1 generation hybrid and thus all the members of the grex would be similar looking. Have a look around. We think this is a beaut hybrid.

We do not know if 'Covata' ever got to Australia but it was not reported by Eastern States Societies nor is it in Olive Trevor's plant lists, The same non-information applies to 'Flaming Star' but in this case we have a link to Peter Tristram. It is now up to the Bute Lot' to decide whether Julie has solved their problem. We do have photos of 'Flaming Star' but because we are talking seedlings there could well be slight variations.

Reflections- From your Secretary

2016 has been another successful yet busy "Bromaholic" year involving several presentations to Garden clubs, Festival of Flowers, sales extravaganzas, meetings, display of Bromeliads in Royal show & Home and Garden show yet there was still time to nurture & appreciate our Bromeliads.

This is an appropriate time to recall those friendships we have lost in the last few years, but memories remain dear (Jeanne, Bob, George-Gerd, Colin, Trevor & Bob Mc) & again acknowledge their contributions to our Society- sadly missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts are with members who have lost loved ones.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to all with special appreciation to individual members who assist with the many mundane but necessary chores. Also gratitude is given to those who continue to give me support & friendship. It is great to be part of a friendly, inclusive & informative group.

Seasons greetings, wishing everyone a safe & prosperous 2017

I look forward to January when we meet again to continue the mutually rewarding yet at times challenging pastime. Safe & rewarding gardening! *Bev*

