



# ***BROMELETTER***

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

***bromeliad.org.au***

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**Vol 56 No 5 - September / October 2018.**



Edmundoa 'Alvim Seidel' photo by Kerry Booth Tate

**Upcoming Speakers: September: *Shade Plants / Begonias* - Ross Bolwell**

**October : *Planter's Patch—Galston* - Sonia Cameron**



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## CONTENTS

Management Details	2,3,15,18,19
Plant Of The Month, Margaret Draddy Artistic Comp - July	4,5
July Discussion	6
Edmundoa by Derek Butcher	7,8,13
Frost - compiled by the Editor	9,10
CIPUROPSIS, A NEW GENUS by Chris Larson	11
Bromeliad Fair	12
Aechmea manzanaresiana	
Plant Of The Month, Margaret Draddy Artistic Comp; Q&A - August	14,15
Workshop & photos	17

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Cover:

Edmundoa 'Alvim Seidel  
By Kerry Booth-Tate

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### OFFICE BEARERS

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Plant of the Month / Show Registrar	Terence Davis
Show Co-ordinator/s	Ian Hook / Terence Davis
Show Display	Joy Clark
Publicity Officer	Di Tulloch

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details

#### **Operating Account to June 30 2018**

Opening cash at bank	\$ 33 738.41
Income:	648.87
Expenses	784.32

#### **Bank Statement as at June 30 2018**

**\$ 33 602.96**

#### **Operating Account to July 31 2018:**

Opening cash at bank	\$ 33 602.96
Income:	787.90
Expenses	1 787.32

#### **Closing cash at bank July 31 2018**

**\$ 32 603.54**

### WEBSITES

Bromeliads in Australia (BSA Website) <http://bromeliad.org.au>

Encyc of Bromeliads <http://encyclopedia.florapix.nl/>

BSI Cultivar Register <http://registry.bsi.org/>

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies <http://fcbs.org/>

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

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



**REMINDER**  
*Don't forget a mug*



September Meeting: Sept 8th

Federation Pavilion Castle Hill Showground

**BSA SPRING SHOW - 22/23 September 2018**

**Federation Pavilion Saturday 9am to 4.00pm**

**Sunday 10am to 3.00pm**

**Bromeliad Fair - 27/28 October See flyer P12 for details**

**Plant of the Month July 2018**

**Open**

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd

**Judge's Choice.**

- T.Rutschmann's Orange*
- Bill. 'Golden Joy'*
- T. ixiodes*

- Carolyn Bunnell
- Carolyn Bunnell
- Ron Farrugia

**Open**

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- = 3rd

**Members' Choice**

- T.Rutschmann's Orange*
- Crypt. 'Volcano'*
- Bill. 'Golden Joy'*
- Alc. vinicolor*

- Carolyn Bunnell
- Ron Farrugia
- Carolyn Bunnell
- Helga Nitschke

*T.Rutschmann's Orange*



*T. ixiodes*



*Crypt. 'Volcano'*



**Plant of the Month July 2018 cont.**

**Novice**

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd

**Judge's Choice**

- Vriesea lubbersii*
- Till disticha*
- Canistrum triangulare*

- Gordon Blanch
- Elizabeth Mudriczki
- Elizabeth Mudriczki

**Novice**

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd

**Members' Choice**

- Canistrum triangulare*
- Vriesea lubbersii*
- Till ionantha*

- Elizabeth Mudriczki
- Gordon Blanch
- Harold Kuan

**Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.**

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- =3rd

- 'Trilogy'
- 'Looks Like?'
- 'Winter Solitude'
- 'Bad Hair Day'

- Pauline Blanch
- Carolyn Bunnell
- Christine Johnson
- Charlie Moraza



*Vriesea lubbersii*



*Tillandsia disticha*



*Canistrum triangulare*

*Tillandsia ionantha*



MDAC: clockwise from left -  
 'Trilogy' Pauline Blanch; 'Bad  
 Hair Day' Charlie Moraza;  
 'Looks Like?' Carolyn Bun-  
 nnell; 'Winter Solitude' Christ-  
 tine Johnson



## July Meeting Q&A

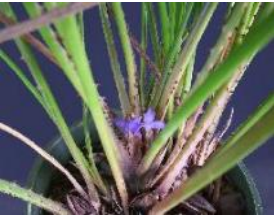


**Julie Evans** brought in her 'mini' pineapple (*Ananas nanus*) and will donate for a prize. The advice from Ian Hook was

1. Cut off the top and let it dry out then try your luck and plant...
2. Sit it on top of the soil in a sunny spot.

Then. . . Perhaps whoever gets them in the raffle can let the meeting know what happens.

**Warrell Evans** brought in a generous pot of *Acanthostychochys strobilacea* which she has had since 1984. Ian explained that this genera of bromeliads has only two species - *strobilacea* and *pitcairnioides*. It is found in Argentina. The long fronds/ leaves divide with small pineapple like flowers at the division. It is slow growing in Sydney. Ian also explained that *pitcairnioides* flowers from underground with a froth of white marbles which are seed pods.



**Ian** spoke of a discussion he had with Harold Kuan about how to register an unknown plant. He gave the example of *Aechmea* 'Miraculous Find'. The full

story can be found at [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au). The short version follows. Ian's bought this plant as an unknown in 2002 (his plant was given the temporary name of *Aechmea* 'Weedy Hook'). The plant has spread widely in Australia, and some thought it could be *Ae. Podantha*, but this was obviously wrong, and some thought it could be a *nudicaulis* / *fasciata* cross, as evidenced by the dimple at the bottom of leaves. 'Miraculous Find' is an anagram of *nudicaulis* 'Form' to which it does have some resemblance.



**Ian** also brought in an unknown nidularium. No-one could identify it, however, the editor (absent on the day) believes it could be a *Vriesea guttata* 'hybrid' which she also has in plentiful supply (acquired as *Vriesea* 'sanderiana', about which no information can be found). **Input gratefully accepted.**

***Edmundoa*** by Derek Butcher May 2018

It has taken us some time to accept that *Edmundoa* is a special sort of the old *Canistrum*. I try to think of them as having hairy flowers! I had always thought that *Edmundoa ambigua* had red primary bracts even though this is not mentioned in the description but recent photos on Florapix has shown these can be green. This started me pondering why we had *Edmundoa lindenii* var *rosea*.

In the 1980's we had

Key to Varieties and Forms of ***Canistrum lindenii***

1. Primary and outer **bracts yellowish white to nearly white**, sometimes faintly green at apex; inflorescence 100-500-flowered. var ***lindenii***.

Inflorescence sunk in the centre of the rosette or raised only slightly  
var ***lindenii*** forma ***lindenii***.

Inflorescence raised 20 cm or more above the centre of the rosette.  
var ***lindenii*** forma ***elatum***.

2. Primary and outer **bracts coloured green or rose**; inflorescence 50-90-flowered.

Primary outer bracts green var ***viride***.

Inflorescence sunk in the centre of the rosette or raised only slightly  
var ***viride*** forma ***parvum***.

Inflorescence raised 20 cm or more above the center of the rosette.  
var ***viride*** forma ***magnum***.

3. Primary and outer **bracts rose to bright red**. var ***roseum***.

Inflorescence sunk in the center of the rosette or raised only slightly.  
var ***roseum*** forma ***humile***.

Inflorescence raised 15 cm or more above the center of the rosette.  
var ***roseum*** forma ***procerum***.

Then in 1997 we had ***Edmundoa lindenii*** [(Regel) Leme, var. ***lindenii*** Canistrum – Brom Atl. Forest 46-51. 1997] where all the varieties disappeared except for var. ***rosea*** This is what Leme had to say at the time.

After examining numerous *E. lindenii* plants in the wild, Reitz (1950, 1952) arranged this material in varieties and forms, separating the type variety with its yellowish, whitish or greenish tipped bracts from the variety ***viride*** with its entirely green bracts. He subdivided these varieties into forms based on the length of the floral scape (inflorescence sunken or raised). He used the same criterion to establish forms for the variety ***rosea***, and also mentioned the smaller number of flowers in this variety when compared to the type variety.

Reitz's criteria were discarded here because, though very logical from an horticultural point of view, they are decidedly artificial. The color gradation of the involucral and primary bracts, from yellowish to whitish to green, falls within a very narrow

range of chromatic variation, so much so that some specimens even have a combination of these colors (yellowish or whitish with a greenish apex). Furthermore, in the post-flowering stage, the yellowish-whitish bracts may become greenish toward the apex (pers. obs.). The continued use of this criterion would encourage the establishment of numerous, biologically inconsistent varieties. For this reason, the variety *viride* with its entirely green bracts was considered to be a mere



color variation of the type variety, and was therefore placed in synonymy.



The creation of forms based on scape length was also seen as artificial. I observed that specimens with a well-developed scape, that raised the inflorescence well above the rosette, became more compact and produced much shorter scapes when grown in cultivation, under a uniform, more intense light regime. The inflorescence was no longer perched above the rosette in these plants. Obviously, the variability that so strongly influenced Reitz is seen in the wild. But given the overall variation pattern of the species, this criterion becomes inconsistent and artificial, and

segregates plants nomenclaturally that are practically identical. The taxonomic forms based on this criterion are placed in synonymy. The number of flowers also varies according to the stoutness of the plant and is discarded here.

Despite his reasoning Elton Leme still accepted var. *rosea* for its red primary bracts. We now see *Edmundoa lindenii* var. *rosea* (E. Morren) Leme: Considered a synonym of the type variety - Reflora (cont.upd.) *Lista de Espécies da Flora do Brasil*. Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro. <http://floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br/> (Retrieved 28.3. 2018). In 1997 Leme also reported, "In Rio Grande do Sul, var. *lindenii* and var. *rosea* are sympatric and may be found in the same area (J. C. da Silva, pers. Comm). The reason I am saying this is that Peter Tristram of New South Wales, Australia received seed called *Edmundoa lindenii* from Rio de Janeiro Bot. Garden which had red primary bracts on flowering. Has this instability in colour of primary bracts been noted by other seed raisers? Or has the Rio de Janeiro Bot. Gardens dropped the use of 'var. *rosea*'?"



# FROST and BROMELIADS DON'T MIX!

*Recounted by the Editor*

My sister-in law and I set off on our annual trip to the Nambour Garden Festival as usual at the beginning of July. The *frost cloth* was in places as were the plastic 'walls' for the shade houses. Plants moved away from exposure to frost, so that our dutiful husbands would not have to tippy-toe out in the cold to cover any plants if frost was threatening. We didn't count on a  $-4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and a couple of mornings nearly as cold. No frost cloth or covering made much difference. It went *where no frost has gone before!* The pictures tell the story.



Alc. Silver plum . . . it might be ok! (left)



2 weeks later - No such luck (right)



*Alcantarea are very sensitive*



Aechmeas seemed harder than Neos!



Even 'inside' didn't escape!

## What is frost?

Frost is normally formed on still, clear and cold nights. The cool air causes water vapour in the air to condense and form droplets on the ground. When the temperature of the ground or surface is below  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  the moisture freezes into ice crystals - known as the frost point.

Frost causes damage when water inside cells freezes, expands and bursts plant cells. The damage is rarely obvious until the plant thaws, because the ice holds the plant rigid. Frost can damage cell walls and cell contents of actively growing plants. Frost is more likely in low lying area on a clear night with little or no wind.

## **Frost Protection Tips.**

(Partly from: Gardening Australia Website)

- Ensure you water plants well (plump water-filled cells take longer to freeze) maybe with a seaweed-based solution, which may help them develop an internal resistance to frost. Seaweed solution takes about a week to take effect if you spray it on the leaves, and two to three weeks if applied to the roots.
- Biodegradable frost protection sprays work by creating a protective polymer film over the leaves and stems. These sprays are called 'anti-transpirants' and also help protect plants from drought, excess heat and sunburn.
- Commercial 'frost-cloth' can be used to wrap/cover the plant from top to ground, to trap heat and stop a few degrees of cold, which is often all that is needed. It can be left on for long periods, day and night, because it allows rain and about 70% of light through.

**FINALLY**, some seemingly radical thinking:

### **FREEZE YOUR PLANTS TO KEEP THEM WARM!**

Thanks to [Downe's Wholesale Nursery](#), for permission to use information & photos.

'I thought I would do a little science lesson, as we often get asked about frost protection using overhead irrigation. People are amazed when they see images of icicles

hanging from our plants and can't understand why they are not burnt to a crisp. Some species that have been frozen by the frost will show no damage even though they look frozen solid.



Although I'm sure there are some science-minded people out there that can explain it better than I can, the basic principal is that when water freezes it releases latent heat – about 1 gram of water releases 80 calories of heat as it freezes. The mixture of ice and water exposed to below freezing point remains at zero degrees until all the water is frozen.

Most plants do not suffer frost damage until the temperature drops slightly below zero degrees because the freezing point of the plant tissue liquid is below that of water. The irrigation continues to layer water over the plants making ice until the air temperature rises above zero degrees Celsius.

The biggest danger is applying water faster than any evaporating or stopping before the temperature rises above zero degrees. Evaporating water absorbs about 600 calories of heat per 1 gram of water which is why we sweat to keep cool.

Our irrigation system has temperature sensors that will start the irrigation cycle running as the temperature hits just about zero degrees Celsius. Each area runs the irrigation system for about 3 minutes – roughly every 30 minutes, laying water over any ice forming which leaves beautiful icicles hanging from the plants. At the heart of the system is our massive pump station which can deliver water at 40 litres per second at 750kpa of pressure (a car tyre has about 100-140kpa of pressure in it).'



# CIPUROPSIS, A NEW GENUS by Chris Larson

Reprinted from the Journal of BSV June/July 2018

## *Cipuropsis subandina*

Based on *Cipuropsis subandina*.

No-one knows *C.subandina* and it appears to not be in cultivation. Known only from the Type collection and “a few additional collections”

No details of the petal structure are known. Thought to be closest to *Vriesea dubia*



Vriesea dubia photo courtesy Maria Selby Bot Garden



## *Cipuropsis amicorum*

Was *Tillandsia amicorum*, from Venezuela, found at altitude 1000m



## *Cipurosis asmussii*

New species – only just described, from Venezuela , altitude 1200 m

There will be more to come as the taxonomists re-evaluate current species as well as new species and will possibly include *Vriesea dubia*.



Figure 9. Cipurosis asmussii inflorescence detail showing the flowers and bracts. Photo by Matt



Figure 7. Cipurosis asmussii flowering plant growing terrestrially on the tree trunk. Photo by Matt



# BROMELIAD FAIR



**Hundreds of exotic bromeliads from beautiful to bizarre**  
Rare and unusual Tillandsias, colourful Neos and Guzmanias,  
spectacular Vrieseas, dazzling Aechmeas...

**Broms for all tastes!**

**Saturday/Sunday, October 27/28, 2018**

**Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Sunday 9 a.m. - 12 midday**

**You will find us at:**

**Concord Senior Citizens Centre:**

9-11 Wellbank Street,  
Concord, NSW 2137

**Free entry – and bring a box**

- EFTPOS - Visa, Mastercard, debit cards
- Books and fertilizer for bromeliads also available



***For more information please contact:***  
*Garry Flemming – 0265539868 / 0413178884*  
*Peter Tristram – [ptristra@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ptristra@bigpond.net.au)*

**Edmundoa** continued from p8

What has happened to all those varieties/forms mentioned by Reitz. Are they still being grown? What names are on the labels? There seems to be no record in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register other than the variegated E. 'Alvim Seidel' and 'Brazil'.

If var. *rosea* is treated with *Edmundoa lindenii* what will growers call the one with the red primary bracts. The ICNCP rules frowns on the use of colour as a single word and we could go back to the Lectotype where Comte de Germiny is involved and call it *Edmundoa* 'Germiny' but somehow I cannot see this being noted by horticulturists. I can see *Edmundoa* 'Rosea' being accepted and acted upon, and that will be my course of action.

We have Flora do Brasil 2020 ignoring the existence of sub-species of *Edmundoa lindenii* and The World Checklist of selected Plant Families by Kew Gardens preferring the genus name *Canistrum* to *Edmundoa* which makes you wonder where we go next. While the botanists dither, at least having 'Rosea' in the BCR will give you a reference point

***Aechmea manzanaresiana*** (From FNCBSG - April 2018)

H. Luther, Selbyana 19(2): 218-226. 1998 Type: ECUADOR. Napo: new road Hollin--Loreto-Coca, 1,300 m elev., 27 Feb. 1988, *Luther, Kress and Roesel* 1276 (Holotype: SEL; Isotype: QCA, QCNE). In 2015 an opportunity arose to travel throughout Ecuador, our first thought was to research the available books for what Bromeliads we were likely to see. Of course *Jewels of the Jungle Bromeliaceae of Ecuador* by José M. Manzares pages were studied at length. With so many amazing Bromeliads gracing the pages of those books one could only hope to see just a few of them. One plant crossed off the list was *Aechmea manzanaresiana* seen in its full blooming glory growing as an epiphyte in large clumps. The vibrant red to orange primary bracts make this plant easy to spot high in the trees at a distance when walking through the rainforest. When driving around the countryside we couldn't help stopping at each sighting to take photographs. Ecuador - an unbelievable visual feast for Bromeliad enthusiasts.



Photos by Ross Little & Lesley Bayliss

## Plant of the Month Competition August 2018

### Open

1st  
2nd  
3rd

### Judge's Choice.

*Tillandsia funkiana* 'orange'  
*Aechmea recurvata* Hybrid  
*Tillandsia neglecta*

Carolyn Bunnell  
Carolyn Bunnell  
Ron Farrugia

### Open

1st  
2nd  
3rd

### Members' Choice

*Tillandsia funkiana* 'orange'  
*Aechmea recurvata* Hybrid  
*Neoregelia pauciflora*

Carolyn Bunnell  
Carolyn Bunnell  
Lydia Hope



From top left, clockwise:

*Tillandsia funkiana* 'orange';

*Aechmea recurvata* Hybrid;

*Tillandsia neglecta*;

*Neoregelia pauciflora*.



### August Meeting Q&A

A box of queries from **Pamela** had us scratching our heads, as these plants were non flowering and far from mature. Genus was guessed at, but species or hybrid name will have to be left till they are more mature. One plant x*Sincoregelia* 'Galactic Warrior' no longer had the red tinges. These need to have high light exposure to fulfill their potential and will lose colour if not in enough bright light.

Cont. . p17



## ***Plant of the Month Competition August 2018 cont.***

### **Judge's & Members' Choice**

#### **Novice**

1st	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Wild Rabbit'	Elizabeth Mudriczki
2nd	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Jack Smack'	Annamari Kilpinen
3rd	<i>Billbergia sanderiana</i>	Gordon Blanch

### **Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition.**

1st	'Roche Blanche'	Peter Blackburn
2nd	'Comata etc.'	Carolyn Bunnell
3rd	'Crescendo'	Pauline Blanch



*From top left, clockwise: Neoregelia 'Wild Rabbit'; Neoregelia 'Jack Smack'; "Crescendo"; 'Comata etc'; Billbergia sanderiana; 'Roche Blanche'*





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

Rosalie Verrel, Cliff Wiltshire, Vasa Selva, Robyn Laurenson and Beverley Ford.

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

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:** Renewal is due **1st January** for membership year January to December.

<b>Annual Membership:</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>A\$25</b>
<b>Overseas Membership:</b>	<b>Asia/Pacific Zone</b>	<b>A\$40.</b>
	<b>Rest of the World</b>	<b>A\$45.</b>

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

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

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

### MAIL ORDER PAYMENTS BY MASTERCARD/VISA.

(Subject to A\$10.00 minimum.)

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

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



It was time to begin our demonstration & workshop. Several of our more experienced growers spoke about mounting small bromeliads and the methods they use, from hanging from fishing line, drilling and wiring them to the mount, to gluing and or tying with hemp string.

'Mounts' of ALL shapes and sizes were donated as were many small plants. Once these were chosen, the membership broke into five groups each led by an experienced grower. It was an industrious couple of hours interrupted only by afternoon tea and a cuppa, then it was back to it? The consensus was that it was a lot of fun and very enjoyable.



A couple of our results are shown below.



## What is *Phytophthora Cinnamomi*?

**FNCBSG February 2018**

*Phytophthora cinnamomi* (*phytophthora* root rot) is an introduced plant pathogen (disease causing organism) that can cause disease and plant death in native vegetation. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* belongs to a group of micro-organisms known as water moulds. Water moulds were once included in the fungi kingdom and, as a result, *Phytophthora* root rot has been called a fungus in earlier interpretation literature. Water moulds have a motile or animal-like stage which fungi do not. As the name water mould suggests, it requires moist conditions to thrive. Its food source is the root and basal stem tissue of living plants. *Phytophthora* root rot grows as microscopic sized filaments (mycelium) within susceptible host plants. It consumes the host plant causing lesions (areas that appear rotten). This weakens or kills the plants by reducing or stopping the movement of water and nutrients within the plant. **Caution:** remove all rotted areas of the plant back to clean tissue, treat with a fungicide or food grade *cinnamon powder* and allow to dry. Sterilise any implements used to trim infected plants with boiling water to avoid contaminating other plants.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/node/13929>

It is ,perhaps a bit ironic that this disease, which decimated cinnamon crops, can be treated with cinnamon powder !

### LITERATURE for Sale

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

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>PRICE</b>
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden	Andrew Steens	\$20.00
Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual (Rev. ed. 2007)	BSI	\$ 6.00
Bromeliad Hybrids 1: Neoregelias	Margaret Paterson	\$25.00
Bromeliads Under the Mango Tree	John Catlan	\$10.00
Bromeliad Cultivation Notes	Lyn Hudson	\$10.00

#### **Growing Bromeliads— 3rd Ed. by BSA**

IT'S BACK! Reprints should be available towards the end of September.



## **SEED BANK**

**Thanks go to all those who have donated seed.**

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

Enquiries for seeds should be directed to

***Terry Davis***

**(02) 9636 6114 or 0439 343 809**

Below is the list of **some** of the **most recently** added seed to our Seed Bank. For a full list please go to [bromeliad.org.au](http://bromeliad.org.au)

<i>Neo kautskyi</i>	Jan 2018	Terry Davis
<i>Ques 'Farro'</i>	11.02.18	Kerry McNicol
<i>Puya mirabilis</i>	27.7.18	Ross Hutton
<i>Till. Gardneri</i>	8. 8. 18	Terry Davis

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

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

### What's ON

#### **BSA SPRING SHOW - 22/23 September 2018**

*Federation Pavilion Saturday 9am to 4.00pm Sunday 10am to 3.00pm*

**Bromeliad Fair - 27/28 October**

**Seior Citizens Club 9/11 Wellbank St CONCORD**

**BSA September Meeting: *Shade Plants / Begonias* - Ross Bolwell**

**October Meeting : *Planter's Patch—Galston* - Sonia Cameron**

**November Meeting: *Pressed flowers* - Susan Lewis. Talk on the historical hall in Melbourne where the flower show is held.**

## ***COLLECTORS' CORNER***

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