

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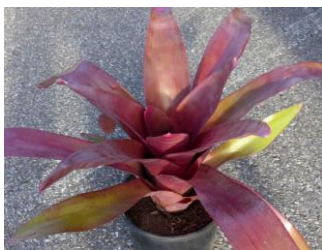
List for species names <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>

<http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/brom-1/> altern site <http://imperialis.com.br/>

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876



Neoregelia 'Knockout' (Photo: Julie)

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley S.A.

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday of each month. Exceptions –2019: 1st Sunday in May, 3rd Sunday March, June & September. - or unless advised otherwise (see dates below).

No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.



MEETING & SALES 2019 DATES

11/08/2019 (Winter Brag), 15/09/2019 (Workshop Genera Tillandsia single specimen), 13/10/2019 (Midi to Large Neoregelia), 01/11/2019 (Set up hall), 2/11/2019 (Extravaganza: 9AM – 3PM), 3/11/2019 (Extravaganza: 1000AM – 3PM) 10/11/2019 No Display or raffle (1200 start Committee, 130PM start main meeting, Pup/plant exchange, Special Afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, Auction)

Applications for membership always welcome – Subs \$15 single \$25 Dual NOW OVER DUE

Page	Details
1	Cover page – Photo: Committee: Meeting & sales dates, photo Neoregelia ‘Knockout’
2	July/August & September index: Safety in your garden, by Ray C.
3	Safety in your garden cont: Xmas in July
4	Roving Reporter August 2019: Neoregelia ‘Marble Throat’ cleared article from Brom Soc 1988
5	Neoregelia ‘Marble Throat’ article cont: Roving Reporter Aug cont:
6	Roving Reporter Aug cont: Vale Peter Hall:
7	Vale Peter Hall cont: 2019 Royal Show: Floral art Royal Show
8	Roving Reporter September 2019
9	Roving Reporter Sept cont: Garden visit: Gazette: Notice Board: Suggestion Box.
10	BSSA Show & sales guidelines 2019- 2020: Dates for Diary.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SAFETY IN YOUR GARDEN BY RAY CLARK

The purpose of this discussion today is to increase our awareness of the ways that we can get hurt or cause harm to the environment when pursuing our hobby.

When we are exposed to a hazard there is always a chance that we will become injured in some way or another!

A hazard is a thing or a situation that could cause harm or an injury the environment or us.

Hazards can present themselves whilst enjoying our hobbies in a myriad of ways.

- Cuts and lacerations using hand and power tools
- Infections from cuts and scratches
- Bites from insects, vermin, spiders and snakes
- Slips, trips and falls from spilt liquids or poor housekeeping like hoses not rolled up
- Chemical burns and breathing problems
- Biological hazards from breathing in dust and spores from potting mediums
- Sunburn and sunstroke
- Electrocutation

In some cases, these injuries will require medical intervention, hospitalisation or even worse!

How do we stop ourselves from becoming hurt in the garden?

- Wearing gloves, consider using the right kind of glove for the job, chemicals etc.!
- Wear face masks when using potting mixes, pine bark or chemicals
- Wear safety glasses and face shields when using chemicals and power tools
- Use eye, ear and hand protection, when using a grinder
- UV protection, long sleeves, wide brimmed hats and sunscreen
- Consider the use of suitable footwear
- Removing sharp edges on shelves
- Good housekeeping,
 - Roll up garden hoses
 - Put away tools and equipment when not being used
 - Try not to create a haven for vermin & snakes
- Read the safety data sheet before using chemicals
- Correct labelling and storage of chemicals
- Keeping hand tools in good working order
- Use of Safety Switches (RCDs) when power tools and electrical equipment is used

Environmental issues,

- Consider the use of an alternative to nasty chemicals
- Confidor and Spectrum are allegedly harmful to bees and the environment
- What can we use to eliminate pests?
 - To treat mealy bugs use methylated spirits diluted with water instead of Confidor
 - To treat mosquitoes use coffee grounds instead of oil sprays

- To treat fungal infections use Cinnamon instead of Fungicides (this one of Peter Hall's treatments).
- Water run off containing excess fertilisers and chemicals

All chemicals sold or distributed around Australia must have a safety data sheet. These are usually seen as an information panel on the packaging and this data provides the user with the knowledge of what PPE to use and what to do in an emergency. You should read the SDS before using the chemical so that you know how not to become a patient.

Electrical Appliances in your garden

- With the arrival of winter comes another spate of house fires and most of us will have all heard about them
 - In many cases these are attributed to faulty or inappropriate use of electrical appliances
 - In some circumstances this could also lead an electrocution.
- Some of us use artificial heating in winter and cooling in summer, (fans or portable evaporative units) so we must pay attention to what we are doing with these appliances.
- If you are using electrical equipment in the garden there are several things that you can do to minimise or eliminate the chances of coming to harm
 - The use of an RCD or safety switch is really a must, if you do not have any installed in your house then consider the purchase of a portable unit
 - Double insulated appliances also help to eliminate the risk of electrocution as does the actual placement or location
 - Check the condition of your appliance, look for damage like split insulation or cracks in cables and plug tops
 - Make sure that all switches work, how old is the equipment, is it still reliable?
 - Ask yourself the question, would you use this appliance inside your house? If the answer is no then cut the plug off and recycle the heater / fan, (Mind a recycling bins)
- The position of electrical equipment is very important
 - Appliances must be kept away from water or dampness
 - Heaters should placed on concrete or pavers and must not be near flammables
 - It is also wise when considering the use of a fan boosted heater to buy one that has an automatic cut-off switch in the base, when the heater is knocked or falls over it will turn itself off.
- Similarly, fans and evap units should not be exposed to water unless they are designed for the purpose
- Remember that the sun will eventually cause irreversible (UV) damage to electrical equipment so it will need to be checked each year before it is put into use.

If you are in doubt do not use the appliance, consult an electrician or an appliance repair store.



THERE WAS NO MEETING OR DISPLAY PLANTS IN JULY.

XMAS IN JULY



The fully catered lunch again provided by Texas Bull & funded by Society funds for current members was enjoyed by all.

After the tasty meal there was a garden related auction motivated by Peter & Pam with the majority of members participating in the hope of a bargain. It was fun and raised over \$800.

Thanks to all who contributed. *Bev*



Roving Reporter Aug 2019

Just the weather for a Winter Brag meeting. Julie Batty reports that the cold weather meant a lower than normal attendance which, in turn, meant that Margaret and I were absentees. Julie also reports that some people were disappointed with the colour of the plants which I could not agree with in the photos that Julie sent. Does colour equate with health? Or does it equate with light intensity. My past experiences with growing broms seemed more related to the month of October when a troubled brom finally gave up the ghost due to too much stress! Broms are subtropical and yet turned up at the meeting contrary to some humans.



Neoregelia 'Bottoms Up' (Photo: Julie)

The most popular plant went to *Neoregelia* 'Bottoms Up' owned by Keith Bradtberg. This is yet another Skotak hybrid. Chester's collection must be huge and he must have a huge number of hybrids on the go before thinking of registration. For example in this case we know he has a grex labelled (carolinae variegated x 'Hannibal Lector') which has been crossed with 'Norman Bates' which in turn has been crossed with ('Blushing Tiger' x 'Norman Bates') Out of these grexes was selected 'Bottoms Up'. Do you really need to know parentage? To me it indicates that this hybrid has more genes from 'Norman Bates' than the others but is a mixed-up kid!

How important is quoting parentage? In 1995 emphasis moved from parentage to the child for Bromeliad hybrids so parents are only a guide and not set in concrete. This is the same philosophy as with humans. In Victorian times your worth to Society was determined on the pedigree of your parents but these days you have your own name.

Talking of names and spelling we know that we first had 'Hannibal Lector' which I assumed was 'American' spelling but alas, it has been decided that the correct spelling is 'Hannibal Lector'

It was good to that Bill Treloar's species plants are still surviving and flowering, despite his so called neglect. I call it natural selection and if the plant likes Bill's conditions it will survive. The plant in question was *Aechmea phanaerophlebia* which is difficult for writing labels. Even when you realise this means conspicuously veined it does not help in spelling.



Aechmea phanaerophlebia (Photo: Julie)

I was intrigued that so many tried to get a scent from the *Tillandsia duratii*. I know the formal description says fragrance but would feel it would need a biological trigger such as light intensity or temperature. Whatever the reason the flowering plant made the day enjoyable.



Neoregelia 'Sweet Chilli' (Photo: Julie)

Then there was *Neoregelia* 'Sweet Chilli' to give warmth in name. This is a hybrid coming from NSW and a fairly recent one using 'Marble Throat' as mother. This name has lots of memories for me as the following shows.

***Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat' Cleared** in Journ. Brom Soc. 38(5):224, 213. 1988

The January-February 1988 issues of the Bulletin of the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand and the May-June 1988 Bromeletter of the Bromeliad Society of Australia include no less than five short articles expressing questions and opinions about the cultivar *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat'.

To begin, Len Trotman (NZ Jan.) wrote that he is uncertain if the plant is a species or a hybrid, but knows that it is delightful with its white flowers. He has observed its tendency toward being prolific. Harry Martin (NZ Mar.) says that he saw the plant in Hawaii in 1987 and regrets not having a photo. He notes, "one of our members has now produced some hybrids from this plant. One, the result of crossing with *N. 'Oh No'*, and another with 'Pink Polka Dot'. Results not yet known." To these communications, Bea Hanson, editor of the Bulletin, adds (NZ Mar.) "A friend and I bought one each in Honolulu some years ago. The plants were both the same size and really beautifully marbled. They produced offsets quite soon after we brought them home. One day she rang me and in a disgusted tone told me her plant had lost its marbles and how was mine? I said mine was fine and looking even better than when we brought them back here, The solution was to take the sickly plant out of the greenhouse and to put it in the open air. There it began to pup madly plus all the pups and the mother had its marbles back again. "

In the Bromeletter, Olwen Ferris, then editor (BSA May-June) adds some confusion stating that three years ago June Bennett gave her an offset of an unnamed plant received from Lotus Osiris. At about the same time she got a seedling that Ruby Ryde had raised from seed gathered in Brazil. Some time later, Ruby gave her an offset labeled *Neoregelia chiorosticta* 'Marble Throat'. All three plants are identical and when grown in nearly full sun the soft green and white is suffused with faint pink. All was fine, she says, until Vic Przetocki wrote in the .January 1988 Bromelink of the Bromeliad Society of Western Australia that *Neoregelia chlorosticta* cv. White Marble was his favourite bromeliad.

Enter Derek Butcher (same Bromeletter): "The name is 'Marble Throat'. It is listed in Brian Smith's Manuscript." Derek suggests that the plant grown from seed cannot be a hybrid.

Back to the United States. Kathy Dorr says in a recent letter that *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat' is a plant Bill Seaborn acquired with no name and, "he is the one who tacked the name *N. chlorosticta* var. Marble Throat on it. I don't believe it has any validity other than to sell plants. I question whether it is even a chlorosticta. "

Harry Luther says, " 'Marble Throat' is a minor variety of *Neoregelia chlorosticta*, a good cultivar. "

That should rest the case, but I shall ask Elton Leme if he would care to add a few words. Will some one please send me 35 mm color slides of habit (side view) and inflorescence (straight down) of a specimen? -Ed."

Finally I must mention Neo. 'Knockout' which is a blast from the past and nearly missed because Julie just caught Jeff Hollinshead on his way home. If we look at the BCR we will see things go back over 30 years. I am reminded of the time when George Anderson in Florida was flat out hybridising and working with Grace Goode. They were not in direct competition but each spurred the other on. The quoted parentage (*cruenta* (*rubra*) x 'Morris Henry Hobbs' brings back memories because I was having problems in identifying both parents as grown in Australia. Both parents are on the large size so you would expect their progeny to be similar. First an old comment on Mother

"CRUENTA...OR...JOHANNIS?? in Bromeliadvisory Sept. 1996 Miami, Florida

'We're all familiar with *Neoregelia cruenta*, right? We have it in our collections, out in the yard, soaking up the sun. Now I don't want anyone to get upset, but you may have to change the labels on some of those cruentas.

Note I said "may."

For some time, rumors have been circulating that the well-known *Neoregelia cruenta* (in its many forms) may actually be the lesser-known *Neoregelia johannis*. Brazilian growers have been hinting that we in Florida have got it all wrong. But how do you know which is which? Derek Butcher, a grower in Australia who has been "butchering" neo flowers for thirty years in an effort to straighten out the genus, made the identification seem simple at a seminar in Orlando: if the plant has floppy, spreading leaves and white flowers, it's probably *N. johannis*. If it is more upright and vase-shaped with blue flowers, it could be *N. cruenta*.

Note again the "probably" and "could." I refuse to be pinned down on this one more specifically.

And why should you care? Because you're going to hear references to both these plants, and before you jump to the conclusion that there's another species you don't have, consider that it may be in your collection after all, under another name. One day the taxonomists may straighten it all out scientifically, but in the meantime, you're ahead of the game because of this tip-off.

Regardless of the name, this neo is an essential part of the South Florida landscape. Confused? Contact Uncle Derek in Australia; he'd like to hear from you!"

The botanists have never used a term like *N. cruenta* var *rubra* so where did this name come from. We know that in 1829 it was referred to by Graham as the bloodstained *Billbergia* because of the red tips to the leaves. As far as 'Morris Henry Hobbs' goes, its true identity is even more vague except to say that Mulford Foster distributed seed around 1950

You may think me strange in that I say parentage is not that important and yet I use it in my research. I learn by asking questions!

VALE PETER HALL –By Bev



(Photo: Pam W)

There was a breath of fresh air bringing new ideas, enthusiasm & energy when Jeanne & Peter joined the Bromeliad Society of SA in April 2006. They also brought along the flavour of Orchids which we did not hold against them.

Peter's interest in plants was comprehensive and he was generous sharing time & knowledge, encouraging & guiding many of us, however it was nearly impossible to achieve the quality & colour of the plants as he was as successful growing Broms as orchids, attributed to the bright, colourful tranquil Brom garden built in memory of Jeanne. In fact it was Jeanne's interest in Bromeliads that stirred his curiosity in them, & as they say the rest is history. There were very few Orchid meetings or shows & Bromeliad meetings & shows that he didn't win certificates, ribbons or Trophies including many champion orchids.



(Photo: Julie)

Jeanne & Peter's drive to promote our Society was inspiring & tireless, their contacts in the horticultural field opened many opportunities such as joining Festival of Flowers, reinvolvement in the Royal show, Sunday mail home show & info sessions at Bunnings stores.

Every year in August Peter & Jeannie headed to Melbourne for the compulsory orchid show with a routine prior to leaving, ensuring that his orchids were watered etc, imagine the shock & despair on arriving home days later the area was water logged, he had turned on the watering system but forgot the timer.

There were many initiatives they were both involved in for our Society, including Introduction of Life membership along with relevant criteria, Bromeliads culture in SA book, setting up Facebook, photographing Bromeliads for display & posting on Facebook developing the Judging manual & various promotional items such as our black polar shirts, pull up blind, stand & increase in providing various growing information handouts to mention a few.

Jeanne's passing in 2013 was a huge loss to so many but especially Peter leaving a continual emptiness but gradually he picked up some of the pieces, so to speak, and again became very active endorsing our Society including many presentations to community groups, also the Mannum Garden club, South Coast Orchids, Murray bridge day garden group, Murray Bridge Orchid club, Lilium & Bulb Society, Fern Society, Begonia Society, Enfield Horticultural Society etc.

The purchase of the van facilitated taking significantly more plants to meetings, shows & presentations; he also offered assistance taking various members to these activities.

Penny found these times special & therapeutic as they had both lost loved ones and understood that difficult & lonely journey. However like others who travelled with Peter, she will not miss that woman's voice persistently saying, "You are over the speed limit."

Peter often mentioned that Jeannie couldn't stand back if there was work to be done, but he always seemed just as eager to help & be involved.

We had several lively discussions including one with his friend Randall, relating to Peter insisting that Jeannie was the clever one, this she certainly was, but his skills & knowledge on different subject matters were just as significant & valued.

Peter's imagination, artistic skills & talent welding provided some amazing creations for mounting Tillandsias (often known as air plants) usually winning our Artistic merit Trophy. It was evident these were his favourites with the impressive collection on display adjacent to 'Jeanne's Memorial garden'. The easy care & diversity in size & colour combinations available in the Bromeliad family appealed to him, however their names were unimportant.

He was instrumental in adding a new classification sponsoring the trophy for mini Neoregelia in memory of Jeanne as they were her favourite bromeliads, & on several occasions he was the worthy recipient of this trophy.

A quiet, modest outstanding achiever who was a well liked respected BSSA member, a conscientious & proactive Vice President for 8 years, Registrar of Judges & friend to so many.

Peter was an inspiration maintaining strength of purpose & courage particularly these past months, focusing on the day, not what has been, what is, or what might have been.

Chronic health issues did not define or confine Peter; in fact he defied them, battling each day to continue to be as actively involved as possible.

This private, proud independent person slowly accepted help apologetic for being a 'nuisance' and always very appreciative.

The immense sadness & loss we experience when someone we care deeply for passes may be eased if we think of his life as a precious book that we borrowed then had to return, the book has gone but Peter's story and its influence on each of us remains to be shared & treasured.

Thank you Peter for immeasurable support to our Society, your gifts of friendship, and enriching our lives – you will never be forgotten,
Rest in Peace.

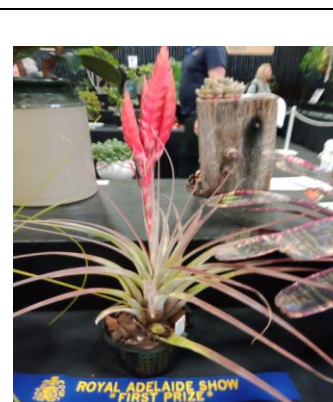
2019 Royal Show (Photos by Bev)



Adam's Champion bromeliad
(Photo: Bev)



Our display created by Adam
(Photo: Bev)



Adam's 1st Prize
Potted Tillandsia
(Photo: Bev)

Our larger more prominent display featuring a garden setting was again situated next to the Orchid display. There was an area in front of our display enabling those interested the opportunity to check out the colourful inspiring plants & chat with the volunteers.

There were many compliments given on the display, especially the range of shapes, sizes & colour variations on show. Over 400 of our Nov flyers were distributed and it will be interesting to see how many maintain their enthusiasm and come along to our sales weekend. There were numerous questions from those already growing 'hooked' on Bromeliads with some relieved to have details on where they can purchase more.

There were about 30 Bromeliads put in for judging & our President was awarded a number of 1st, 2nd & 3rd ribbons along with 3 champion plant prizes, also Ron & Bev received several 1st, 2nd & 3rd ribbons.

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers supporting this. *Bev*



Champion Novice (Photo: Bev)

Floral art- Royal show

Considerable imagination, artistic skills & patience resulted in several arrangements receiving ribbons for 1st & 2nd prizes in the floral art category along with winning Champion Novice, well done!
Congratulations to Pam N.



(Photo: Bev)



Someone brought in a tray of *Puya* offsets for the raffle table. Bill Treloar was more worried about the spelling of *Puya caerulea* (Currently ‘coerulea’ but still linked to the blue colour of the flowers) whereas I was more interested in it being *Puya laxa*. By the end of the meeting all had been taken so some members may be interested in this discussion. We know that some 80% of a plant’s description is in the flower and here we are giving opinions on a non-flowering offset! So the recipients of said offsets will need to wait. If grown in a pot it will eventually need a large pot. If grown in the rockery it will need space to spread. Both species were in the Adelaide Botanic gardens with *Puya caerulea* having the more spectacular flower of the two. I show photos of what to expect in 3-4 years’ time.



Puya caerulea



Puya laxa

The workshop on taking offsets and repotting was again a great success with great audience participation. Having green thumbs is really a matter of common sense as long as you take heed of what others do and amend them to your own conditions. Bromeliads have taken a few million years to adapt to an environment that is hostile to other plants. They seem to survive on the minimum of nutrients and water and yet many of the questions asked at the meeting were on fertilising. Perhaps this is linked to why Australians are generally considered to be overweight with an appetite (for extra food).

The most popular plant award went to Julie Batty with her *Tillandsia tectorum* which it seems came to Adelaide in the 1980’s. You see, that was the time when I was importing from Karel Knize in Peru.

Tectorum according to Google means “of house roofs” which suggests that this plant as cultivated by the Local people when European Botanists first saw this plant so many years ago. These days *T. tectorum* is collected from rocks as evidenced by the book ‘*Tillandsia tectorum* Complex’ by Lieselotte Hromadnik published in 2005. Lieselotte did most of her field-work in the 1990’s and it was in this period that Margaret and I helped with the English translation. We also took the opportunity to check on the plants we grew that had come from Knize but only succeeded in identifying about a half of them. The plant that Julie Batty got from us several years ago has since been identified as *T. tectorum* forma *gigantea* .



T tectorum (Photo: Julie)

Talking of *T tectorum* there was one called ‘filiform’ which I thought was an odd name. Later investigation has revealed it was not a name used by Lieselotte. ‘Filiform’ is not a cultiar name in the BCR. When this plant flowers I suggest it be properly registered so that its origins can be recorded. By the way, ‘filiform’ has been used in the past by botanists as an old name for *T. usneoides*

So there was a varied supply of tillandsias brought in for our benefit. One that attracted me was *T. variabilis* from Ron because of the plant. Most others seemed interested in the mount that looked like a miniature ukulele which Bev tells me was in a bamboo hanger with mesh front & planted in small bark. The things than Ron does in his spare time astounds me. I was more interested in the plant which is variable. In fact when this Society was formed we grew it as *T. valenzuelana*. *T. variabilis* was first named in 1884 and there has been 10 names given by various taxonomists now treated as synonyms



T. variabilis (Photo: Julie)

I did notice one plant identified by formula of parents' names which does not identify the plant and only applies to plants found in the wild when the collector is temporarily deciding what label to put on his collection. A decision as to correct naming would come later. The problem arises when manmade hybrids are also given a formula instead of a cultivar name. This was an area that Herb Plever from New York had strong views and I mention him because he died on Sept 9th. Our connection with Herb goes back to 1987 when we held our Australian Bromeliad Conference. Herb could not speak but sent a selection of slides. We would grumble about growing Broms in Adelaide compared to Queensland. We had to endure hot dry summers and 'hard' water in our taps all the way from the river Murray. Here we had a grower in an apartment in New York whose slides showed Bromeliads growing in every room including the toilet. If that was not enough he used the bath so his plants could be dunked regularly

Garden visit -29th September 2019



We are invited to Cathy & Bob's garden on Sunday 29th Sept @ 1PM

Address: 32 East parkway, Colonel light Gardens.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share.

Gazette

SA. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

Members are encouraged to contribute to this 3 monthly gazette as a method of learning about bromeliads by sharing triumphs, challenges and disappointments etc

Notice Board



When members are looking for a Bromeliad to purchase or swap we have a board that facilitates informing those at meetings. Please give details to Bev or any Committee member. *Bev*

Suggestion Box



This was introduced to encourage members to put forward ideas for meetings, any other item of interest or concern. We appreciate your input & feedback.

Thanks *Bev*

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Show & Sales guidelines: 2019-2020

- Each seller to donate a quality plant to the sales raffle
- Show Marshall appointed –in charge of all aspects of the show
- QUALITY show plants for show - minimum of 4-6
If only small collection 2-4 plants
- Plants for judging must be owned & grown by the member for at least 6months
- HELP - If possible be available for setting up the venue.
- Should be available to pack up and clean the venue at closing of last day.
- No of Display plants to be noted on a Register.
- Display plants are to remain on display until closing time
- 20 – 25 plants for members initially on the sales tables - as directed by Show Marshall on day
- Must be present for minimum of 4 hours each day to aid the buying public.
- Sale plants shall be in good condition- NO damage and presented in clean pots.
- Be free of water.
- Plants should be the quality you would purchase if you were buying
- Plants shall be ‘rooted’ and stable in pots or marked with date of potting. Bare rooted plants to be labelled accordingly.
- All sellers to take home cloths to wash.
- Pups must be ready to pot up and grow, some semblance of roots
- Plants will be removed from tables if they do not meet the quality criteria.
- Packing up etc must not start until advertised closing time
- No plants to be brought in after 9AM through back door
- All purchases on Friday to be paid for on Saturday through cash register.



Dates for your diary

- ✓ Home Show & Outdoor living 11th to 13th Oct 2019
- ✓ Begonia & Fern Spring Show 19th Oct 2019
- ✓ Spring Salvia sale October 27th 2019
- ✓ Herb day November 3rd 2019
- ✓ S.A. Bonsai Society sales 12th & 13th October 2019
- ✓ Bromeliad Society show & sales 2nd & 3rd November 2019