

# ***Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group N.S.W.***

Study Group meets the third Thursday of each month

Next meeting 17th February 2016 at 11 a.m.

Venue: PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery

114 Pine Street Wardell 2477

Phone (02) 6683 4188

Discussion: January 2016

General Discussion

## **Editorial Team:**

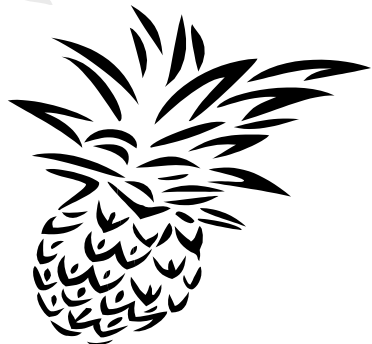
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## Meeting 17th December 2015

The meeting was opened at approximately 11.00 am  
The 23 members and two visitors present were welcomed.  
A total of two apologies were received.

### General Business

Ross opened the meeting welcoming everyone and wishing them best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. He had received a BSI Journal and the Qld. Society's Bromeliaceae to go into the library. Congratulations to Lesley who has two photos in the Qld. Journal, one of them on the front cover. We are hoping to have Lesley do a talk on taking photos of Bromeliads at one of our meetings in 2016. Hopefully this talk will inspire and encourage others to offer their photos to grace the pages of our Newsletter.

### Show, Tell and Ask!

Doug Binns brought along an *Orthophytum hatschbachii* which he grew from seed obtained 2 years ago and it is flowering for the first time. It comes from central Brazil where it grows in rock crevices, some grow under overhangs so get no natural rainfall. They can handle full sun but grow at 1000m altitude so can also handle cold. He keeps it just moist in winter but it enjoys lots of water in summer. The leaves are stiff and upright when not flowering, and flatten out when flowering. This one was only described about 20 years ago and new ones are still being discovered in different gullies. Doug has found this plant to be fast growing and easy to grow. He has written an excellent article on Orthophytums in the December Newsletter (pp 10-12). Thank you Doug. Also brought along for show by Doug was a *Pitcairnia palmeri* which has been harder to grow as you need to be very careful with watering as it rots easily. It is hard to see in habitat unless it is flowering because it is deciduous.

Kevin brought in a plant for identification which was agreed by all as being a good example of an *Aechmea pectinata* which is known from the States of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Parana and Santa Catarina. It grows as an epiphyte or saxicolous (growing on rocks), rupicolous (living among or growing on rocks) and terrestrial in Atlantic rain forest and sandy coastal plains ('restingas') at altitudes between sea level and 1100 metres. *Aechmea pectinata* can grow to over 1mtr across with its green leaves turning bright red at anthesis, the inflorescence often described as a green tennis ball on a stick can grow to 1.5mts high.

Jeanette also brought in a plant which Ross will photograph and hopefully be able to identify for her. This plant appears to have quite a chequered history with indications it was known as *Tillandsia tequendamae* 'yellow' form. In our first investigations we looked toward *Till. azuayensis* and *Till. cylindrica*, however some measurements didn't quite match and colours according to the description didn't quite match either. Further discussions with Derek Butcher pointed us in the direction of the NYP (Not Yet Published) section of his Tillandsia files and to look toward *Tillandsia cuencaensis*. However Peter Tristram informs us that this naming is still up in the air also and may become *Till. aureispica*. I did say it has a chequered history, so for now it has been suggested that Jeanette should put *Till. cuencaensis* on her label.

Laurie brought in an assortment of flowering Tillandsias, some of which were seedlings from Ross. Laurie has a long standing passion for growing Tillandsias so we are regularly rewarded throughout the year with his flowering efforts.

Ross thanked everyone for their continuing participation in **Show Tell and Ask!** segments, for bringing raffle plants and asking questions during the past year. We are all here to learn and want to keep this Study Group strong and moving forward, so the more we put into it the more we will get out of it. Ross also thanked Kay, Trish, Helen and Lesley for all their valued help with the Newsletter as it has been greatly appreciated.

After our show and tell we all enjoyed a bountiful Christmas lunch. Many thanks to Helen who organised the cold meat trays, bbq chickens, bread rolls, drinks and decorated the tables and surrounding area. Also thanks to our members who contributed food, and a special thank you to Coral and Gary who donate so much during the year.

After lunch we had our plant/gift exchange with everyone contributing very high quality plants, there was a great selection on offer which was reflected in the members' abilities as growers and collectors. The members went in groups in order of attendance during the year, the more meetings one attended the higher up the draw list one was placed to select a plant/gift. Les and Laurie had the highest attendance for the year and we've never seen Les move so fast to get the *Guzmania* he had his eye on! Ross being almost as fast later to select a 'gift' box of chocolates.

We also had a 'Special Christmas Raffle' of donated plants and would like to particularly thank Peter Tristram, Doug Binns, Ross and Helen and other members for their contributions to help raise additional funds for our Group.

1	B	beuckeri	i	w
2	R	rank	k	i
3	O	offset	t	t
4	M	Mexico	o	t
5	E	epiphytic	c	r
6	L	lindenii	i	o
7	I	insect	t	c
8	A	amoena	a	k
9	D	discolor	r	i
10	S	show	w	a

**From the Registry BCR**

In our FNCBSG NSW Newsletter March 2015 p.6 we published an article about the variegated *Aechmea chantinii* cultivars and whether these were all related or of differing origins. As we found out the origin of the ‘German clone’ was a plant selected by Hermann Prinsler from a seed batch grown by the Link Nursery in Germany whereas ‘Samurai’ is of tissue culture from Japan. The albomarginated form/sport known as ‘Shogun’ is still of unknown origin.

Since publishing that article the *Aechmea chantinii* variegated ‘German clone’ has been registered on the BCR as:

***Aechmea* ‘Prinsler’s Link’**

We also saw the albomarginated form that Hermann has been growing since the early 1980s get registered on the BCR as:

***Aechmea* ‘Hermann’s Link’**

Both the albomarginated *chantinii* forms have cloudy origins so any additional information available regarding their origins would be appreciated.

***Aechmea* ‘Minuta’**

by Derek Butcher Nov 2015

Tania Wendt in Bot Journ. Linnean Soc. 125: 245-271. 1997 reviewed *Aechmea pineliana* and although not specifically treating Foster’s var. *minuta* with the type she did quote the size of *Aechmea pineliana* as being from 25 cm to 100 cm high when in flower, and this would include this small form. Because this form is in cultivation, the name ‘Minuta’ will be conserved as a Cultivar in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register.

Protologue

*Aechmea pineliana* var *minuta* M. B. Foster, Bromel. Soc. Bull. 11: 96, fig. 1961.

A var. *pineliana* omnibus partibus minoribus, seminibus paucis differt.

Collected in Espirito Santo near Sta. Theresa, Brazil, in 1940 by M. B. Foster, #3052. Type in U. S. National Herbarium).

This new variety of *Aechmea pineliana* collected twenty years ago, in open forests, has been a favorite for many collectors ever since we brought it back alive to compare with the original *Ae. pineliana* var. *pineliana* which had been in our collection for several years. The typical variety came over from Europe with some of the earliest bromeliads introduced into the U. S. A.

The first time it was introduced into cultivation in Europe by Morel was about 1851. The first botanical description of it was published in Hortus Donatensis in 1854 when it received its first name, *Echinostachys pineliana* Brong. ex Planchon, possibly in honor of Dr. Pinel, consul in Rio de Janeiro at the time. Beer named it *Echinostachys rosea* in 1857, Lemaire called it *Macrochordium pinelianum* in 1862. Seventeen years later, in 1879, Baker placed it in the genus *Aechmea* where, ever since, it has rightfully remained under its present name.

The new variety, *minuta*, is much more attractive, both in color and form, than its prototype. Also, because of its miniature size it is more suitable as a house plant. Naturalized outside in Florida, it has stood a temperature as low as 25° F; it thrives best in good partially filtered light.



Photo by Ross Little: *Aechmea* ‘Minuta’ 150 mm high

## Canistropsis 'Gulz'

by Derek Butcher Dec. 2015

While reading old copies of The Journal of the Bromeliad Society I came across the following article in BSI Journal 1975 V25 (2) and wondered why the variegated form had not been registered.

### “NIDULARIUM BILLBERGIOIDES (Schultes f.) L. B. Smith



Photo Ken Kennedy

*Nidularium billbergioides* (Schultes f.) L. B. Smith is a charming small, upright-growing species native to southern Brazil. It differs from the regular conception of a nidularium in that the inflorescence, instead of being deep in the heart of the plant, appears on the end of a stem, usually 9 to 10 inches above the center of the plant. The leaves are soft, medium to dark green, and measure up to 20 inches in length and 1½ inches in width. The bracts are either burnt orange in color or bright yellow—this latter usually being called var. *citrinum*. Petals are white. The species is generous with offshoots, the new plants appearing on the ends of stolons. This graceful plant is easy to grow. It is tidy in habit and the inflorescence lasts in color for several months, thus making it good houseplant. The plant pictured above is of the variegated form that originated in the nursery of Hans Gulz in West Germany and now available in nurseries in the United States. In every way it is similar to the plain green leaved species. Mr. Gulz also grows a form with dark red foliage which he calls *folia rubra*”.

I had never seen a variegated form so I asked Ross Little if he knew of such a plant. Surprise, surprise he was growing a plant as ‘Variegata’ which had been in the possession of PineGrove Bromeliad Nursery since 1981. Of greater importance is a plant obtained in 1985 from Ede Schaefer in Adelaide and we know he had close connections with Gulz. So this plant has survived many years without a proper name and is why I believe we should call it ‘Gulz’. The photo as published in 1975 does show orange primary bracts which links to Ross’s plant. No mention is made about colour of variegations and although the photo shows pale yellow striations you can never be sure of the actual colour from photos of that vintage. Cultural conditions have also to be considered.



Finally we believe that *folia rubra* has already been captured as *Canistropsis* ‘Plum’.



Photos by Ross Little





John Crawford  
Open  
Champion  
2015



Les Higgins  
Novice  
Champion  
2015



Lyn

Laurie

Jennifer

Barb



Jennifer Laurie  
Judges Choice  
Champion  
2015



Helen Clewett  
Decorative  
Champion  
2015



Flo Gary Kevin Gloria Jim  
Ted Kay Marie Trish  
Lesley Coral Jeanette Keryn Dave  
Debbie Shirley

Apologies to those camera shy members I didn't get photos of.

Photos supplied by: Ross Little



## **Neoregelia 'Caroline Tricolor'**

*Neoregelia carolinae* forma *tricolor* has never been reported from the wild and is not accepted in the World Checklist nor on other check lists such as The New Bromeliad Taxon List. It seems prudent to acknowledge it as a Cultivar. I have decided to anglicise the name which was originally based on Caroline Morren, the wife of Edouard Morren.

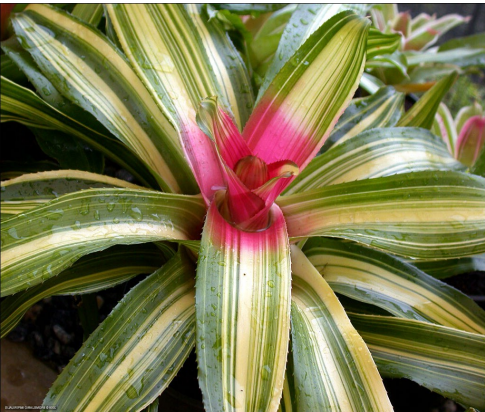
Details on this plant follow:

Protologue

*NEOREGELIA CAROLINAE* var. *TRICOLOR* M. B. Foster var. nov. Bromel. Soc. Bull. 3: 29. 1953.

A var. *carolinae* foliis rubro albo virideque longitudinaliter pictis differt.

Cultivated in Orlando, Florida, since 1944. M. B. Foster No. 2831 (Type in U. S. National Herbarium).

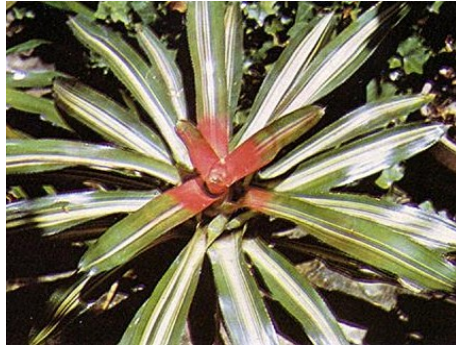


This striking three-colored variety of *Neoregelia carolinae* has been known for several years both in Europe and America but has invariably been listed by horticulturists and sold as *Nidularium tricolor*. The writer has collected two different phases of the typical *Neo. carolinae* both in their native habitat in Brazil, and examination of this new variety *tricolor* show it to be definitely a variegated form of the species *carolinae*.

The leaves of *Neoregelia carolinae* var. *tricolor* are distinctly striped in white, rose and green, a striking contrast to the plain green leaves of the typical *Neo. carolinae*. While the center scape bracts surrounding the flower head are of the usual deep red, the same as in the typical *Neoregelia carolinae*.

This variegated form does not come true from seed, therefore, must be propagated by offshoots to continue its variegated coloration. Even then, one may occasionally find a perfectly green offshoot just as seedlings would be.

by Derek Butcher Dec. 2015



*Neoregelia carolinae* (Beer) L. B. Smith forma *tricolor* (M. B. Foster) M. B. Foster ex L. B. Smith, Phytologia 15: 186. 1967.

*Neoregelia carolinae* var. *tricolor* M. B. Foster, Bromel. Soc. Bull. 3: 29. 1953. Leaf-blades longitudinally striped white, rose and green.

Type. Foster 2831 (holotype US), cultivar in Florida since 1944, collected December 1953.

Distribution: known only in cultivation.

## **Some Choice Clones of Neoregelia carolinae**

by: Ervin Wurthmann and William Drysdale in Bromel Soc Bull 16(6): 131, 1966.

### **Neoregelia carolinae var. tricolor**

This bromeliad of unusual beauty is gaining in popularity among plant fanciers in this country. In Europe where bromeliads were in vogue for many years before they were introduced into the United States, *Neo. carolinae* var. *tricolor* is still one of the top sellers.

(See Bulletin, Vol. VIII, P. 71.)



There is considerable difference in the three types being offered on the market; this difference can probably be accounted for by the fact that *Neoregelia carolinae* sported at three different nurseries on the Continent. The most striking form is compact, many leaved, and has pink coloration suffused through its entire foliage even as a young plant, provided good light is furnished. Upon flowering, the center leaves turn a cherry red; this coloring persists for many months, sometimes upwards of a year.

The other extreme is fewer leaved, the leaves also being more straplike in appearance. Only upon flowering when the center leaves take on their color do the center leaf areas show any indication of pink suffusion, which tends to leach out after flowering has ceased.

The intermediate type, while more compact than the latter, is just as reluctant to acquire the pink coloration in the outer leaves when immature.

Only when grown in bright light (50% constantly filtered or nearly so) can the true potential coloration and conformation be attained. With less favorable light, the pink blush in the foliage of the more compact, more highly colored type will diminish or disappear, but the difference is still quite apparent, making the other types scraggly by comparison.

## **The Origins of Three Variegated *Neoregelia carolinae* Clones**

by: Michael P. McMahon in J Brom Soc 35(5): 197-199, 205. 1985

Thirty-two years ago Mulford Foster described *Neoregelia carolinae* var. *tricolor* as a new variety in the Bromeliad Society Bulletin of July-August 1953. He noted that this plant "has been known for several years both in Europe and America but has invariably been listed by horticulturists and sold as *Nidularium tricolor*." He also observed that it does not come true from seed, and therefore must be propagated by offshoots to retain the variegation.

Most growers believe the origin of this popular plant to be forever lost in the mystery of the past. In this article I hope to share what I have learned of the origin of variety *tricolor*.

My bromeliad hobby and profession as an attorney came together when I was retained by the noted Belgian grower, Paul deCoster, and the Homestead, Florida, firm of Trans Florida Foliage to prosecute a patent infringement case. Mr. deCoster owns the U.S. plant patent for *Neoregelia carolinae* 'Perfecta Tricolor', and Trans Florida Foliage is his prime licensee. The legal issue was whether *Neo. carolinae* 'Perfecta Tricolor' is patentably distinguishable from *Neo. carolinae* forma *tricolor*. To assist the prosecution of the case, an examination of the origins of these plants was necessary.

The information in this article is taken primarily from the official records of Belgian horticultural review boards and sworn statements filed in the official records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by those personally familiar with the origins of these plants, including Omer Morobe. Perhaps the most interesting discovery to bromeliophiles is that two different plants are to be found in commerce bearing the name *Neo. carolinae* var. *tricolor*.

In 1929 Arthur Gyselinck was raising seedlings of the common *Neo. carolinae* "Meyendorffii" (then known as *Nidularium meyerendorffii*) at his family's nursery, M. L. Gyselinck, fils. Among the seedlings he found a single variegated sport, which he isolated and nurtured. This distinctively beautiful plant was displayed before the prestigious Belgian horticultural societies in 1932 under the name *Nidularium Regelia foliis medio Aurea striata*. It was then recognized as a new plant variety in the official proceedings of the meetings of the societies. The Gyselinck clone was soon being cultivated in the family business. Over the ensuing years, it was sold under several names, including *Nidularium meyerendorffii* 'Folis Variegatis.' Eventually it became known in the trade as *Neo. carolinae* var. *tricolor*.

Just three years after the Gyselinck clone had bloomed for the first time, Omer Morobe discovered an entirely separate form of variegated *Neo. carolinae*. This is the man for whom many outstanding bromeliad hybrids and cultivars have been named. He was employed in 1935 by the firm of M. A. Declerq-van Ghysegem. In the course of raising seedlings of *Neo. carolinae* 'Marechalii' (then known as *Nidularium marechalii*), he found a variegated mutation, which became named *Nidularium marechalii tricolor*. In 1937, the Declerq clone was recognized by the Belgian horticultural societies as a new variety, and honored by the award of a certificate of merit. The following year it was awarded a medal at the Floralie of 1938 at Ghent. Mr. Morobe later married the daughter of Mr. Declerq-van Ghysegem, established his own nursery and began growing the Declerq clone as a major crop. Over the years, the Declerq clone also became known in the trade as *Neo. carolinae* var. *tricolor*.

These plants initially were known by distinctive, albeit incorrect names. They should have retained different names for botanical nomenclature purposes. At the same time, it has not been determined which of the two clones Mulford Foster had in mind when he published his description. On the one hand, given the fact that the Declerq clone was produced in greater numbers, and that Mr. Foster referred to his plant as being known in Europe by the synonym *Nidularium tricolor*, it would seem likely that he had obtained Mr. Morobe's *Nidularium marechalii tricolor*. On the other hand, in my own plant collection *N. carolinae* var. *tricolor* is the Gyselinck clone (as established by careful comparison). Since many of my old favorites, like *tricolor*, were obtained from Orlando area old-timers, who in turn were the direct beneficiaries of Mr. Foster's generosity, it seems equally possible that Mr. Foster possessed the Gyselinck clone. Racine Foster has sifted through much of Mr. Foster's voluminous correspondence in search of the answer, but to no avail. The herbarium specimen of Mr. Foster's type *Neo. carolinae* forma *tricolor* (M.B. Foster 2831), U.S. National Herbarium, may eventually provide an answer. The differences between the two clones are so slight, however, that they may well be indistinguishable when dried and pressed specimens are compared. Examination of a high quality photocopy of the type generously provided by Dr. Robert W. Read, did not disclose to this writer which clone Mr. Foster described.

The distinctions between the two clones are subtle, but discernible. Although several differences have been noted by their growers, I have observed three to be consistent. First, the Gyselinck clone develops a rosy-red center with a tinge of orange when flowering. The Declerq clone's center becomes a deep red.

Second, the creamy striping of the Gyselinck clone is usually very slightly broader than that of the Declerq clone. This difference is not apparent on casual observation, but is a distinction Omer Morobe described in U. S. Patent Office proceedings as being consistent. The visual effect of the slightly wider striping is noticed when both clones are viewed together from a distance or when two leaves are viewed close-up. Third, in the Gyselinck clone the flower bracts tend to remain below the elevation of the leaves, while in the Declerq clone the bracts tend to rise slightly above the elevation of the leaves, as is generally true of the 'Marechalii' cultivar of *Neo. carolinae*.

A third variegated *Neo. carolinae* cultivar was discovered in 1968 by Adriens Simoens of Merelbeke, Belgium. It was named 'Perfecta Tricolor' by Paul deCoster. It is interesting to note that this third cultivar, like the Declerq clone, was also found among *Neo. carolinae* 'Marechalii' seedlings. The broad leaves and compact growth habit of 'Perfecta Tricolor', however, make it decidedly more attractive and desirable. On the basis of these differences, 'Perfecta Tricolor' was granted a Belgian plant patent in 1975 and a U.S. plant patent in 1976. (Mr. Simoens has since transferred his patent rights to Mr. deCoster, who has been responsible for its commercial development.)

In 1985 the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office completed a re-examination of the 'Perfecta Tricolor' patent and upheld it as valid. As a result, it is clear that it is unlawful in the United States to reproduce 'Perfecta Tricolor' asexually (i.e., to remove pups) for sale without authorization from Mr. deCoster and Trans Florida Foliage, Mr. deCoster's U.S. licensee. All lawfully grown or imported plants are tagged with labels stating that they are patented. Unlawfully grown plants are subject to seizure and destruction under U.S. patent laws, and their growers could be held liable in court for infringement.

As far as I am aware, these are the only established clones of *Neoregelia carolinae* with central stripes of variegation. The highly variable specimens of *Neo. carolinae* generally sold under the varietal misnomer *meyendorffii variegata* are all marginated, and have thick, coarse leaves. (Perhaps someone will undertake to study the origins of these marginated plants.) It would seem that other sports must have occurred over the years, but either have been ignored or have not been established as cultivars. If so, it is unfortunate because some beautiful strains have surely been lost. Indeed, it appears that over the next few decades the Gyselinck and Declerq clones may also be lost. In Europe, 'Perfecta Tricolor' has become the commercial plant of choice, with even the Morobe family nursery discontinuing its own Declerq variety in favor of 'Perfecta Tricolor'.

In the United States, this trend is just beginning, but in many areas the old clones now can be found only occasionally in a collector's greenhouse, with retailers appearing to have opted for the showier and more compact 'Perfecta Tricolor'. In many ways, it is a matter of survival of the fittest, but the impending loss is a bit sad especially now that I feel an affinity to all of these treasures.

#### NOTES:

1. The category variety was later changed to forma: *N. carolinae* forma *tricolor* (L.B. Smith, Bromelioideae [New York: N. Y. Botanical Garden, 1979]; 1553).
2. In re: U.S. Plant Patent 3,971: Re-examination Request Control No. 000,557.
3. This name was chosen by Mr. Gyselinck as descriptive of his discovery. It has never been recognized as botanically correct.
4. Labels are available from Trans Florida Foliage, 24500 S.W. 167th Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33031, upon payment of standard royalties of \$0.20 (U.S.) per plant. Other licensees and sublicensees in the United States are prohibited from selling labels separate from plants.

**The Belgians and the Bromeliads** by G Samyn & E. Thomas  
Journal Brom. Soc. 46(1): 11-15. 1996

A selected paragraph:

There are six bromeliad growers in Belgium located around Ghent near the Research Station of Ornamental Plant Growing who are active breeders. They are: Albert Deroose, succeeded by his son Reginald, Hendrik De Meyer, Caroline De Meyer and her husband Luc Pieters, and Luc Devroe who specializes in *Neoregelia* and *Nidularium*. We wrote in some detail recently (Samyn 1995) about the activities of De Meyer, Deroose, and Pieters-De Meyer, and for that reason will not repeat ourselves. Devroe deserves mention for his culture of chimeric classics such as *Neoregelia* 'Perfecta Tricolor' and *Neo.* 'Flandria' and several selected mutants such as *Neo.* 'Devroe' and *Neo.* 'Gruvroe'. He is now collaborating with this Research Station in the development of different, small, commercial *Neoregelia* types: the Cathy clones.

**Editors Note:** We felt this bit of history may be of interest to some as we did see *Neo. carolinae* forma *tricolor* have a name change in 2005 to *Neo.* 'Tricolor'. However this is a NO NO under the current ICNCP rules regards grex names. The new name is ***Neoregelia* 'Caroline Tricolor'**.



## Trophy Presentation for 2015

### **Novice - Les Higgins**

Les can now, in his own words 'leave the Novice section with honour! We are looking forward to seeing your entries in the Open section Les.

### **Open - John Crawford**

John was 'blown away' with his win which was well deserved as John has brought in some very interesting and well-grown plants this year.

### **Decorative - Helen Clewett**

Helen has shown she has a talent for making original creations with bromeliads which are always admired each month.

### **Judges Choice - Jennifer Laurie**

Congratulations to Jennifer who has consistently brought in plants of amazing quality this year.

After the trophy presentation Ross noted that "it was about time the boys stepped up again"! This is the first year we have had men win sections of the competition since its inaugural year and several were runners up so watch out ladies, at last we have competition! It is also worth noting that we have a bit of a 'State of Origin' thing happening as both John and Jennifer are Queenslanders and the trophies will be heading north. It will be very interesting to see the results of next year's competition.

For those interested in entering the Popular Vote Competition for the first time this year you are allowed one plant per entrant or as a couple. First time entrants are to decide if you are a total novice or a reasonably experienced grower and therefore enter the appropriate section, Novice or Open (one section only). In addition you may also enter the Decorative section, one entry per person also. Entries must be in a decorative container or in a decorative setting on a log etc. or a dish garden, embellishments may be used but not as the main focal point of the setting.

Print clearly **your full name** and **plant name** under the **appropriate headings** on the Competition Entry Sheet, this will make the point scorers job much easier. If you print 'name unknown' under the **wrong heading** ..... **!!**



**We look forward to another year of  
discussions, fun and friendship in 2016.**

