

**ASGAP BRACHYCHITON & ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP**

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**Mea culpa :** A late newsletter again, I fear. Largely due to me being well & truly laid low by Ross River Fever for over 3 months. The older you are, the harder this virus hits, & I am no spring chicken. Meanwhile the weeds went berserk in my nursery zone, & I am still busy restoring order.

**Weather & plant behaviour :** This year summer was relatively cool, followed by a cool April, then a warmer-than-usual May & June, until the first frost (-3 degrees C.) on June 16th. By mid-April all the *Brachychiton megaphyllus* were starting to yellow, while the 2 *B. sp. aff. megaphyllus* (from much farther inland) had dropped all their leaves, as had some of the *B. viscidulus*. As I write this in mid-July, one of the two larger *B. sp.* Exmoor Station is leafless & showing red flower buds. The other, more protected from recent frosts (-1 & -2, except for the first), still has most of its leaves. Both belong to the same clone.

Exmoor Station is shown on RACQ's current Rockhampton-Mackay-Gladstone map at position G3.5 as 'Exmoor', at a level just north of Mackay (on the coast), & about 50 km S-E of Collinsville, & about 40 km north of the little mining town of Glenden.

Since the frosts, virtually all *Brachychitons* have lost many leaves, except *B. bidwillii*, *B. populneus* & *B. diversifolius*.

**Flowering durations :** Late February saw the last flowers on *B. bidwillii* & *B. viscidulus*; they started in late September in both cases. *B. spectabilis* flowered from late October to mid-January. For other spp., see the last newsletter.

**Paintings :** Jean Dennis from Benalla, Vic., dropped in last weekend, & showed my wife & I the 20 or so water-colour paintings of *Brachychitons* that she had completed. Lovely ! She & her husband are caravanning north, & hope to catch some of the N.Qld. species in flower, & paint them.

**Funds :** As of now, the study group has \$47-90 in the bank, so I will have to stop sending newsletters to people whose subs are more than one year in arrears. I have placed a tick in the relevant place in the 1-line table below, so everyone can see what my records say for them.

2002-01	2001-00	2000-99	1999-98
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**New Plants :** The *spectabilis* x *bidwillii* hybrids are still too young to flower, but growing steadily if not spectacularly. Merv Hodge's *bidwillii* x *acerifolius* seedlings are very fast-growing, & looking more like *acerifolius* as they grow older. There is some variation in leaf shape between plants. In both these crosses, the female (pod) parent is written first.

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