



Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc.

February 2026 Newsletter

COMMITTEE & SOCIETY POSITIONS

President	Carol Burgdorf* mob: 0419 409 939
First Vice President	Perry Avnell*
Second Vice President	Barbara Jones*
Secretary	Edwina Wain* mob: 0424 713 130
Treasurer	Graham Kohler*
Assistant Treasurer	Suzanne Burrows
Minute Secretary	Ann Kennon* mob: 0424 923 795
Editor	Vacant*
Program Officer	Bob Stephens* mob: 0412 834 985
Publicity Officer	Perry Avnell*
Assistant Publicity Officer	Edwina Wain*
Show Secretary	Edwina Wain*
Assistant Show Secretary	Nina Woodcock*
Show Co-ordinator	Stephen Wain* mob: 0416 008 295
Librarian	Graham Bevan
Assistant Librarian	Steven Ryde
Property Officer	Graham Bevan
Competitions Officer	Sharyn Baraldi*
Assistant Competition Officer	Stephen Wain* & Margaret Davenport
Plant Sales Officer	Monica DeClouett*
Assistant Plant Sales Officers	Beth Clague
General Sales Officer	Elizabeth Bevan
Assistant Sales Officer	Vacant
Welfare Officer	Barbara Jones*
Refreshments Officer	Ann Kennon*
Assistant Refreshments Officers	Julie Stringer
Audio Visual Officer	Vacant

*Committee members are indicated with asterisk and in bold

LIFE MEMBERS

Sharyn Baraldi, Margaret Bartley, Carol Burgdorf, Elizabeth & Graham Bevan, Beth Clague, Sylvia Clare, Monica De Clouett, Barbara Jones-Beverstock, Ann & Noel Kennon, Jarka Rehak, Phillip Robinson, John Toolan

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Subscriptions: Due 30th June each year.
\$20 single/\$30 family + \$2 joining fee
Bank details for membership payment:
Great Southern Bank;
BSB No. 814 282; Account No. 50997160

SOCIAL MEDIA & CORRESPONDENCE

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraBromeliadSociety>
Facebook Member group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/illawarrabroms>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarrabroms/>

Correspondence to be sent to Illawarra Bromeliad Society secretary at email: illawarrabroms@gmail.com

MEETING DETAILS

Time & Date: 12noon – 4pm, on the first Saturday of each month (February – November) and December Christmas party.

Address: Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way Berkeley NSW 2506

Activities: Speaker, Competition, Bromeliad Sales, Pots/literature Sales, Raffle, Library and Afternoon tea

Visitors are always welcome!

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NEXT MEETING

Date: Saturday 7th March 2026

Venue: Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way Berkeley NSW 2506

Speaker: To be confirmed

Monthly Raffle Prize & Cleaning Roster for this month:

Freda Kennedy, Glenn Martin, Julie Stringer

Afternoon tea:

- **Bring only food that does not require heating & Please BYO cup/mug**

MONTHLY RAFFLE PRIZE ROSTER

Each rostered member is asked to bring up to five bromeliad plants-- or goods related to the cultivation of bromeliads--for the raffle. The quality of plants should comply with the requirements of 'Plants for Sale' and should you be unable to provide items for the raffle on your rostered day please contact the Program Officer (Bob Stephens 0412 834 985) so that appropriate rearrangements can be made.

March 2026: Freda Kennedy, Glenn Martin, Julie Stringer

April 2026: Bill Homer, Barbara Jones, Philip Snowden

May 2026: Noel Kennon Graham Kohler,

June 2026: Nina Woodcock, Deniece Crutchley

July 2026: Carol Burgdorf, Sandra Carnie, Katie Chin

August 2026: Stephen Wain, Dawn Harvey, John Boyd

September 2026: Bob Stephens, Perry Avnell,

October 2026: Cheryl Mathews, Sandra Southwell, Ines Ryde

November 2026: Suzanne Burrows, Beth Clague, Laurie Irvine

February 2027: Graham Bevan, Sharyn Baraldi, Monica De Clouff

CLEANING ROSTER

Those people listed for the monthly raffle are also asked to help with the final tidy up on the day as well. While our members are very good with helping to stack and store all the tables and chairs, it's just the last-minute chores of making sure that the floor is clean, etc. before we lock up for the day.

SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2026

DATE	DETAILS
21 Feb 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Sale Day Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way Berkeley NSW 2506 Sat 9am-3pm
7 Mar 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker to be advised
4 Apr 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Hook, president of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, will talk about Bromeliad Genera
2 May 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker to be advised
16 May 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Sale Day Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way Berkeley NSW 2506 Sat 9am-3pm
6 Jun 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker to be advised
4 Jul 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soups and Sweets
1 Aug 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker to be advised • AGM
5 Sep 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker to be advised
3 Oct 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker to be advised
17 & 18 Oct 2026 (Set up Fri 16/10/2025, from 12 noon)	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Annual Show Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way Berkeley NSW 2506 Sat 9am-3pm, Sun 9am-2pm
7 Nov 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker to be advised
21 Nov 2026	Workshop, Q&A Session and Garden Visit To be held at Sharyn Baraldi's residence
5 Dec 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society Christmas Party

NB – Society Garden Visits and Workshops to be included.

OTHER EVENTS – 2026

DATE	DETAILS
15 – 18 Apr 2026	California Dreaming, World Bromeliad Conference. Costa Mesa, California USA
2 & 3 May 2026	Bromeliad Society of Australia Autumn Show, Castle Hill Showground

NEW MEMBER

A very warm welcome to our new member who signed up during the last month, Linda Molloy. We wish you a long and happy association with our society.

JOHN TOOLAN VALE

5 December 1942 – 8 February 2026

We share the sad news that John Toolan passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, 8 February 2026, surrounded by his family.

John was a valued and much-loved member of the Illawarra Bromeliad Society. He joined the society in 2012 and quickly became actively involved in club activities. In 2014, John took on the role of Show Co-ordinator, a position he held with dedication for nine years. During this time, he was instrumental in establishing additional sales days, greatly contributing to the growth and success of the society.



Above: John Toolan receiving his Life Membership badge from Barbara Jones on 3 June 2023

John and his wife Rita generously opened their home for many workshops and BBQs, creating welcoming opportunities for members to learn, share, and connect.

John was a fun-loving individual, always ready with a laugh. His honesty and directness meant you always knew where you stood with him, and his generosity and willingness to help others were well known and deeply appreciated.

Beyond his love of bromeliads, John was a keen water skier and enjoyed singing in a barbershop chorus.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution and long service to the society, John was awarded Life Membership on 3 June 2023. He will be greatly missed.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Rita and his family. Rest in peace, John.

7th FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING SUMMARY

We had our first meeting for 2026. At the last minute we receive notification that our scheduled speaker couldn't make it. Graham Bevan kindly stepped in with a short talk about the society library and some of the books available. He also spoke about the assistance they provide and how to borrow them.

During the discussion on the competition plant results, we had a more detailed look at each bromeliad with members invited to talk about their plant and how they grow it, including any tips.

Competition Plant Results – 7TH February 20260

Novice:

- 1st Graham Kohler.....*Billbergia* John Catlin
- 2nd Graham Kohler.....*Neoregelia* Gold Medal

Open:

- 1st Edwina & Steve Wain.....*Guzmania sanguinea var brevipedicellata*
- 2nd Edwina & Steve Wain.....*xSincoregelia* Ralph Davis
- 2nd Bob Stephens*Billbergia* Our Rena
- 3rd Bob Stephens*Vriesea sucrei*
- 3rd Ann Kennon*Hechtia texensis*
- 3rd Ann Kennon*Pitcairnia flammea*

Tillandsia:

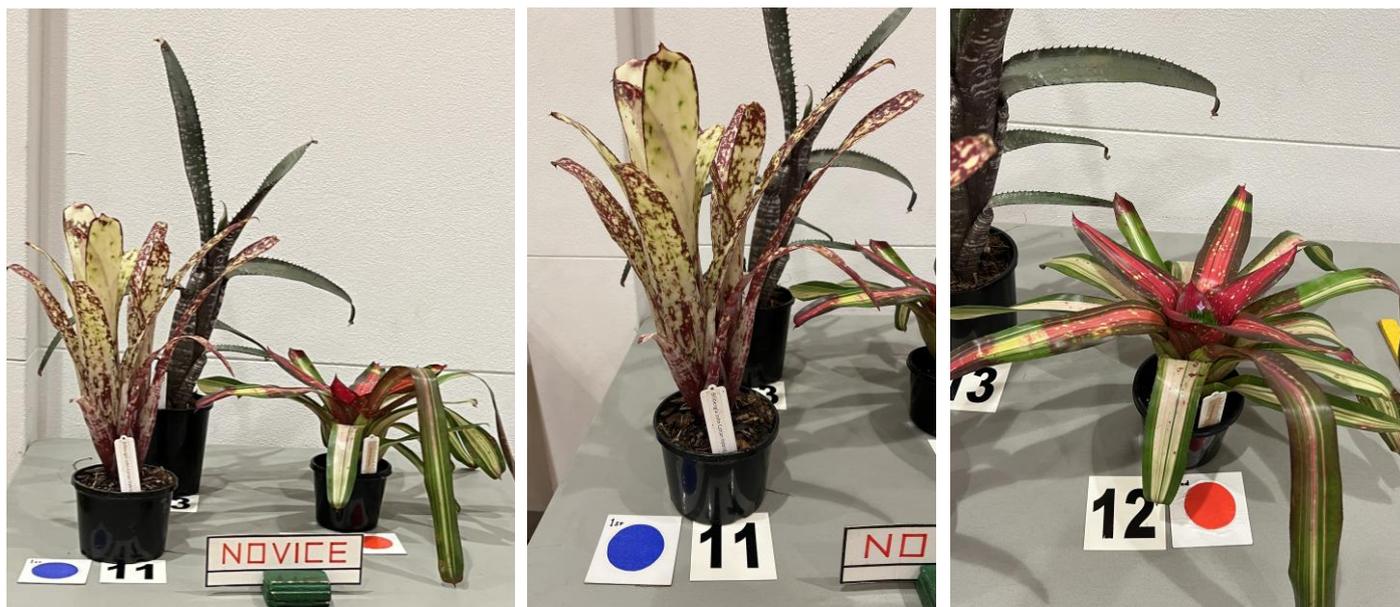
- 1st Edwina & Steve Wain.....*Tillandsia streptophylla*
- 2nd Edwina & Steve Wain.....*Tillandsia* Scarlet Giant
- 3rd Edwina & Steve Wain.....*Tillandsia confertiflora*

Thanks to every one who entered into competition.



Above: View of all the competition plants

Photos of Novice Competition plants – February 2026 meeting



Novice Section

Above left: **Novice Section** had 3 entries

Above middle: First place – *Billbergia* John Catlin

Above right: Second place – *Neoregelia* Gold Medal

Photos of Open Competition plants – February 2026 meeting



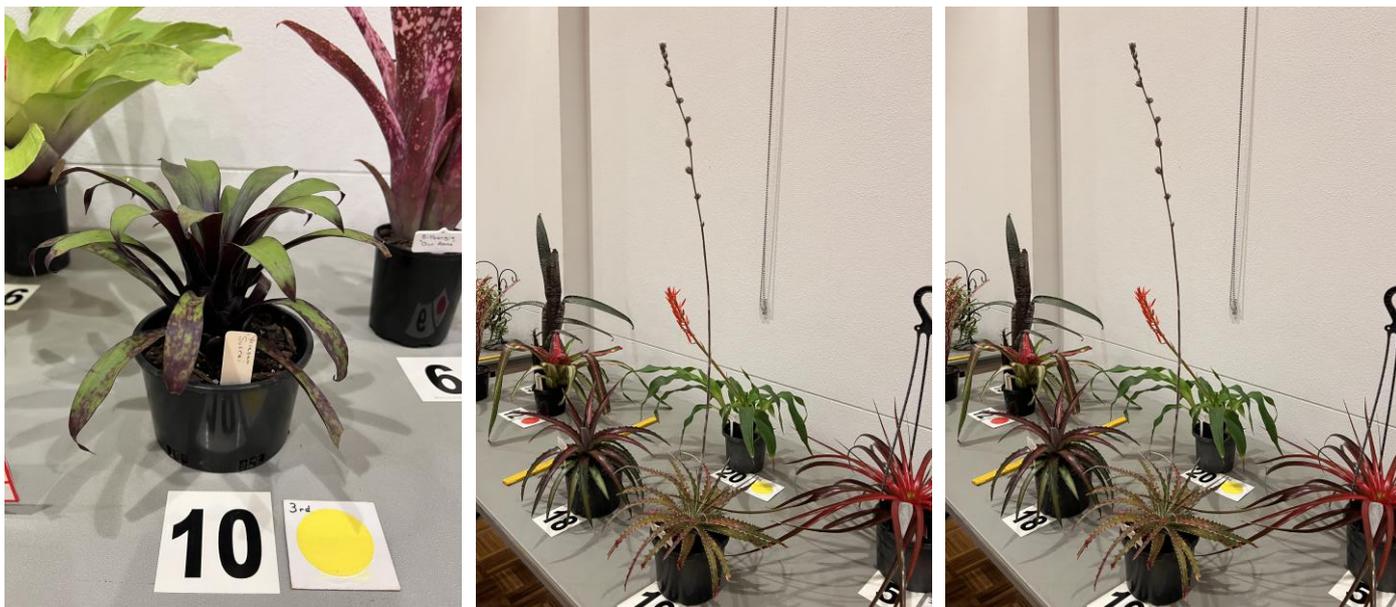
Open Section above, left to right:

First place – *Guzmania sanguinea* var *brevipedicellata*

Equal Second place - *xSincoregelia* Ralph Davis

Equal Second place - *Billbergia* Our Rena

Photos of Open Competition plants – February 2026 meeting continued



Open Section continued above, left to right:

Equal Third place – *Vriesea sucrei*,

Equal Third place - *Hechtia texensis*,

Equal Third place - *Pitcairnia flammea*



The 2 photos above show the **Open Section** which had 12 entries

Photos of Tillandsia Competition plants – February 2026 meeting



Tillandsia Section above, left to right:
First place – *Tillandsia streptophylla*
Second place - *Tillandsia Scarlet Giant*
Third place - *Tillandsia confertiflora*



Above: **Tillandsia Section** which had 6 entries