

# ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INCORPORATED

## NEWSLINK

July 2018



***Aechmea* 'Nationalis Median'**

(Previously known as *Aechmea ornata* var. *nationalis*)



***Aechmea* 'Nationalis Marginated'**

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#### ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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	PHILLIP ROBINSON	
	NEVILLE WOOD	

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**BANK DETAILS FOR FEE PAYMENT, ETC:** Illawarra Credit Union; BSB No. 802249; Account No. 249 039 602

**MEETINGS** - The Society meets at 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of each month (except January and December) in the Laurel Room\* at the Ribbonwood Centre, DAPTO. \*Scribbly Gum room for November meetings only.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS** - Due 30<sup>th</sup> June each year: \$15 single/\$25 family.

**NEWSLINK ISSUED QUARTERLY** - January, April, July, and October and at <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

## NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

**NEW MEMBERS:** A very warm welcome to our new members, Hope Philp, who joined our Society at our May meeting and Denise Wetzel and Ana Mallon, who joined in June. We wish you a long and happy association with us.

### MONTHLY RAFFLE PRIZE ROSTER

July	-	Suzanne Burrows, Michael Drury, Eileen Killingley, June Smith
August	-	Sandra Carnie, Edwina Caruana, Freda Kennedy, Pam Townsend
September	-	Carol Burgdorf, Deniece Crutchley, Beverley Irvine, Brian Smith
October	-	Maadi McKenna, Val Miller, Fred Mirande, Rhonda Patterson

**ROSTER FOR CLEANING UP AFTER THE MEETING:** As announced at last September's meeting, a roster for cleaning up after the meeting has been introduced. This helps share the load and it is expected that each member will only be called on two or three times each year.

July	-	Brian Smith, June Casey, Isabella Chambers, Lisa Chambers, Julie Stringer, June Smith
August	-	Gary Claydon, Colleen Claydon, Christine Stephens, Pam Townsend, Glenrae Barker
September	-	Elizabeth Bevan, Graham Bevan, Jan Thoroughgood, Steve Wain, Edwina Caruana
October	-	Yvonne Perinotti, Jørgen Jakobsen, Noel Kennon, Ann Kennon, Bob Stephens

### GENERAL MEETING – 7<sup>th</sup> JULY – SOCIAL FUNCTION – 'SOUP & SWEETS'

Members will enjoy several soups and several sweets made by members. Additionally, there will be the usual monthly plant competitions, raffle and 'Lucky Draw prize' as well as a short Business Meeting which will include proposing amendments to the two By-Laws concerning eligibility of members to enter 'novice competitions'. To lighten the afternoon, there will be a Quiz, mostly concerning bromeliads, presented by Noel Kennon and with appropriate prizes.

**WORKSHOP #2 - Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> JULY** - will be held at the home of John and Rita Toolan, 5 Rondanella Drive, Kanahooka, starting at 10.00 am with morning tea and later a sausage sizzle lunch. Please bring cake or slice and salad to share. Tutors, Graham Bevan and Laurie Dorfer, will provide guidance about "Environments for Plants" covering such topics as plants for full sun, part shade, full shade and indoors; shade and glass houses; singles or clumps; growing on trees; to pot or not to pot; and much more. Come along with your questions—especially new members—as there will be a wealth of information for you to absorb.

### GENERAL MEETING – 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.

In August we return to the usual meeting format but without a Social Function which is replaced with the Annual General Meeting. At that meeting the Treasurer will present the Audited Financial Statement and the President will present her Annual Report, followed by the election of officers for the year 2018-2019.

**WORKSHOP #3 - Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST** – will be held at the home of John and Rita Toolan, starting at 10.00 am with morning tea and later a sausage sizzle lunch. Please bring cake or slice and salad to share. Tutors, Ann and Noel Kennon, will take us through all the intricacies of preparing plants for the Show, now only 3 weeks away. They will deal with topics such as how to get your plants into peak condition; the competition rules and regulations; transporting your plants; plants for sale and display; mounted plants; labelling and awards. This workshop is a must for inexperienced growers.

### **GENERAL MEETING – 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER – “Bromeliads in Landscaping and Other Uses”**

We had hoped to have a representative of a garden products company talk about their products in relation to growing bromeliads but that fell through (now next year). Our resident guru, Nev Wood, has stepped in and will inform us about landscaping, etc. etc. with broms.

**ANNUAL SHOW – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER:** We will need helpers for setup on the Friday—a starting time of 8.00 am for those who can help John pick up tables, etc. from 66 Kenny Street, Wollongong and 9.30 am for helping with setup at the hall in Corrimal. Also, speak with June Casey re cakes, slices, etc.

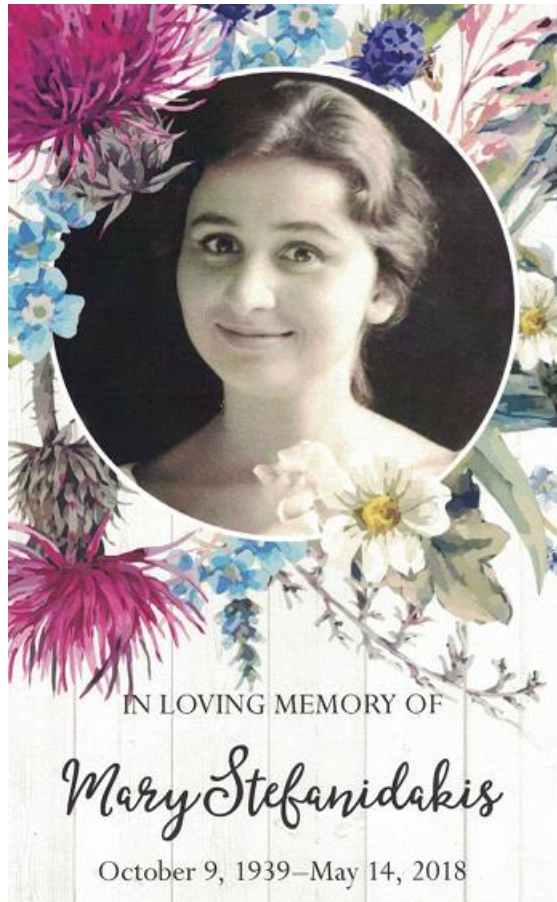
**NOTE:** Good news for those members currently ineligible to enter **Novice competition** due to winning in Novice at our Shows since 2015. If the July General Meeting passes amendments to the By-Laws, those members will be able to regain eligibility this year simply by applying to the Secretary.

### **GENERAL MEETING – 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER: “My Garden” - Presented by Lydia Chinnock**

Lydia has delighted us during the last few years with superb plants entered in both the monthly competitions and Show competitions. How and where does she grow these plants? She will give a power point presentation of her garden to try to answer these questions.

**GARDEN VISITS – Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER:** The arrangements are not yet completed but we hope to start off with morning tea at Graham and Elizabeth Bevan’s then move on to Bev and Laurie Irvine’s and finish up at Freda Kennedy’s at Jamberoo for lunch.

### **VALE - MERI STEFANIDAKIS**



Like our other members I was deeply saddened when I heard of the passing of our popular member and dear friend, Meri Stefanidakis, or, as most of us knew her, just as “Meri”, and I feel very privileged to have been asked to write this memoriam as a tribute to honour her memory.

Meri was a member of this Society since joining in 2001, and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. Although she was a quiet, unassuming person, she was very much part of the “backbone” of our Society and one of a team who could always be relied upon when help was needed.

I first met Meri in 2004 when buying a plant from the sales table at one of my first meetings. Since she joined she had always been involved assisting with the selling of plants, either at our monthly meetings or annual spring shows, and it was at these sales tables that people first encountered her friendly smiling face where she was only too happy to discuss sale plants and give advice to those who asked for it.

This led to us often discussing plants, and through these discussions our friendship grew over the following years and our love of plants led to us eventually visiting each

other’s gardens and swapping plants. Meri was one of those fortunate people with a “green thumb” and everything she planted seemed to grow. But her skills didn’t end there as she was also an accomplished photographer and talented artist who used these skills to capture and record all the beautiful things that Mother Nature shared with her.



Due to her modesty she didn't show her plants, but was always willing to have members come and visit her garden and share the beauty she had created there. She had her pet frogs and parrots which she fed daily and even fed the small skinks which frequented her garden area, which was her little slice of paradise.

When my wife and I accepted an invitation to visit and look at her garden, we were amazed at the many beautiful paintings that adorned the walls of her home and it was when we realised they were all her own work that we really appreciated just what a talented lady she really was. When she saw we were interested in her art, she went on to show us dozens more of her paintings that weren't hanging on walls and all were of a similar high standard of a vast selection of varied subjects, which only emphasised what a versatile artist she really was.

Meri's love of nature was second to none and she was interested in all of Nature's beauties whether they were flowers, birds, plants, animals or just ordinary inert objects which didn't rate a second glance from others. I remember that once she showed me a wonderful photo she had taken at one of our workshops at the Light Rail Museum. It appeared to be a very attractive and beautiful piece of abstract art in autumn colours, but when I asked what it was she said it was a piece of rusty metal she had found and photographed. Meri was like that, she could see beauty where others couldn't; but not just see it, she had the skill to capture it on a photograph or in one of her numerous beautiful paintings.

During the last two years when Meri became so ill she couldn't attend meetings anymore we would communicate several times a week by email or Facebook messages and post pictures of beautiful flowers and other interesting and unusual wonders of Nature to each other. She told me time and time again how these little conversations and pictures seemed to lift her spirits when she was feeling down. The beauty of Nature was something we both share and it was such a very big part of Meri's life right up until she finally found peace. I will always remember Meri as a lovely lady who loved Nature's beautiful things with a passion.

Rest in peace, Meri, you will be greatly missed!

*Neville Wood*

#### UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

Sept. 8 - 9	<b>ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY SPRING SHOW</b> – Uniting Church Hall, <b>CORRIMAL</b>
Sep. 22 – 23	
	<b>BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA SPRING SHOW - CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUNDS – FEDERATION PAVILION</b> - Saturday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm/Sunday 10.00 am – 3.00 pm Note: Cash Sales only!
Sep. 22 - 23	<b>KARIONG PLANTS LOVERS FAIR</b> – Kariong Mountains High School, Festival Drive <plantloversfair.com.au> Entry fee \$12pp/Children under 18 free.
Oct. 18 - 21	<b>BERRY GARDENS FESTIVAL:</b> Open daily 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. \$20 for 8 gardens (may be used over the 4 days/\$5 indiv. gardens. Children under 18 free.
Oct. 27 – 28	<b>BROMELIAD FAIR</b> - Concord Senior Citizens Centre, 9-11 Wellbank Street, Concord
<b>2019</b>	Saturday 10 am – 4 pm/Sunday 9 am – 12 noon – EFTPOS, Visa, MasterCard available
Oct. 17 – 20	<b>GOLDEN BROMS – 20<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALASIAN BROMELIAD CONFERENCE</b> – Hosted by the Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society Inc. – <b>SEA WORLD RESORT, GOLD COAST</b> For contact information and registration: <a href="http://www.goldenbroms.com">www.goldenbroms.com</a>

**Front Cover:** *Aechmea ornata* var. *nationalis* – September 2017 Derek Butcher says: “Now is the time for var. *nationalis* to bite the dust and be replaced by the cultivar name of *Aechmea* ‘Nationalis’. This is in line with my crusade to treat plants found in the wild with variegated leaves as cultivars which I started in *Die Bromelie* 2:62, 2013. ... To accommodate the different coloured variegations, the yellow one will be called ‘Nationalis Median’ and the white one [will] be called ‘Nationalis Marginated’.

### April 7, 2018: Plant Results

#### Open:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Yvonne Perinotti	<i>Neoregelia carolinae</i> X <i>concentrica</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lydia Chinnock	<i>xSincoregelia</i> 'Galactic Warrior'
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Colleen and Gary Claydon	<i>xSincoregelia</i> 'Ralph Davis'

#### Tillandsia:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Beth Clague	<i>Tillandsia complanata</i>
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### May 5, 2018: Plant Results

#### Open:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Neville Wood	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Kiwi Baker'
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Imposter Red'
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Pomegranate'

#### Novice:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Belinda Drury	<i>Cryptanthus bivitattus</i> 'Ruby'
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Belinda Drury	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Marian Oppenheimer'
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Belinda Drury	<i>Cryptanthus bivitattus</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pam Townsend	<i>Aechmea comata</i>

#### Tillandsia:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Tillandsia araujei</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Eric Knobloch'
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Tillandsia disticha</i> 'Major'

### June 2, 2018 Plant Results

#### Open:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Neville Wood	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Delicioso'
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Beth Clague	<i>Goudaea</i> 'Tiger Tim'
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Strawberry Flambe'
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Neville Wood	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Stephen Stone'

#### Novice:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Anne Mobbs	<i>Nidularium</i> 'Ruby Lee'
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Anne Mobbs	<i>Orthophytum</i>

#### Tillandsia:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lydia Chinnock	<i>Wallisia cyanea</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Copper Penny'
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Noel Kennon	<i>Tillandsia secunda</i>

### WEB LINKS PROVIDED BY MICHAEL DRURY:

- Book Reviews: <https://bromsqueensland.com.au/resources/book-reviews/>  
<http://fcbs.org/book/bromeliadbooks.htm>
- Bromelia Contactgroep (BCG), Utrecht, The Netherlands, Newsletters  
<http://botu07.uu.nl/bcg/index.php?print=13> - Index of Newsletters  
(Change number at end to browse the web pages)  
<http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/index.php?name=English&topic=Newsletter>  
(Some English translations – and wonderful photographs!)

## COLLECTING SEAWEED IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Information kindly supplied by Michael Drury from the following references:

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/1284177/summer-storms-stir-up-a-stack-of-seaweed/>

<http://www.milkwood.net/2016/06/06/foraging-drying-using-seaweed-australia/>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/313836965/Seaweeds-Australia-Newsletter-Issue-3-2-Nov-2013>

It turns out that you can collect up to 20 kg of seaweed per day (check with your council as some may say less than 20 kg, depending on various factors) from NSW beaches as long as:

- That seaweed is for personal use only
- That seaweed is not attached to a rock—i.e., it's been washed up and is in the process of decomposition.
- You're not in a National Park or marine reserve

Seaweed is an important part of the marine ecosystem, so only take what you need, and don't go crazy!

Hooray! We're off to see what's available.

### Using Foraged Seaweed on Your Garden

Seaweed is packed with all sorts of amazing trace elements that your veggie garden soil is aching for. There's a couple of ways for getting it into your home soil food web:

- Seaweed as mulch
- Slip some seaweed under your existing garden mulch here and there—it will jellyfy and break down into the soil food web gradually. Here's some references:
  - *Gardening Australia* seaweed Fact Sheet
  - Using seaweed as mulch in your garden
- Seaweed as garden nutrient tea
  - Seaweed tea is easy-peasy!
  - Collect your seaweed, add it to a bucket of water, and seal the bucket. Come back in a month and check your brew. When it stops smelling awful, it's ready.
  - Water it onto your garden at a dilution of 10:1 for added nutrient oomph for your soil.
- Seaweed in your compost
  - Seaweed is a fabulous compost additive, as mentioned extensively in the *Rodale Book of Composting*, and also by every serious and vaguely coastal compost lover we know.

### From the *Gardening Australia* web site – Presenter: Peter Cundall, 14/06/2002

"In Australia, you're allowed to harvest 20 kilograms a day of seaweed from beaches for your own personal use on gardens. Once collected, it's best to dry it, cut it up and add it to your compost.

Fertile soil is the most important and significant substance on Earth. It is the source of our health and when it is kept fertile it is the source of our wealth. How is it possible to keep our soil continually enriched without having to spend money on expensive fertilisers? The answer is to go to the source of life itself.

The sea is more than salty water. The sea is a vast nutriment. It contains a large spectrum of trace elements in suspension, and some of the debris that is washed up on the beach like seaweed and shells also contains quite a lot of these trace elements. Seaweed is one of the best soil conditioners of them all. Note: There are regulations governing the quantity and removal of seaweed from beaches. Permission is required so check with your local council for more details. If you can acquire some seaweed how can you use it?

Seaweed itself contains very little salt. It is the sea sand that is enmeshed in it that is quite alkaline and needs to be removed. It can be used around almost any plant except acid loving plants like rhododendrons and azaleas or strawberries. It can be placed around but not near the actual plant,

covered by pea straw or mulch, and will gradually convert to a jelly-like substance. Seaweed is not a fertiliser but a soil conditioner that has an amazing beneficial effect on plants. It can make them frost-resistant and more resistant to diseases. The trace elements in the seaweed eventually are transferred to the soil and into the plant and its fruit.

Cuttlefish is a source of calcium. When it is crushed and pulverized into small particles it can be sprinkled around plants for additional nutrient.

To make your own fertiliser begin by soaking seaweed in a container of water for several weeks. This solution will contain all the trace elements and nutrients released from it. Add a dash of carp emulsion, an excellent use for a pest fish. It is far too strong to use as a fertiliser by itself. Only a small amount should be added to a full watering can of water and this is beneficial to be used around any plant.

Sand consists of small particles of rock, shell grit and pulverised sea creatures. It has a pH of 8. A 50:50 mixture of sand and wood ash or soot mixed together and spread around onions or garlic and any plants that like an alkaline soil.

Coco peat blocks are very inexpensive and will soak up an amazing amount of water. An excellent fertiliser can be made at home: Soak two blocks to half a bucket of water; add to this ½ cup of seaweed concentrate, 1/3 cup of carp juice, ¼ cup of potash and about 2 tablespoons of magnesium as Epsom salts. Stir this together and let the mixture stand while the coco peat expands and the nutrients are absorbed. Add bulk to this by adding river sand to make an inexpensive wonderful fertiliser that can be used on lawns or any garden beds to add fertility to the soil.

#### **NOTES EXTRACTED FROM NEV'S REPORT ON THE APRIL 14, 2018 WORKSHOP**

- Neville discussed the various pots and pot hangers which we have for sale at our meetings and described their good and bad points, in particular the pots which sometimes have the drainage holes partly obscured by plastic where they haven't come out of the mould cleanly and the importance of making sure they are all fully open before they are used.
- He also explained the importance of selecting the correct size pot for the plant and said that he found his plants grew better if they were slightly under-potted rather than over-potted.
- Next he explained about the three sizes of pot hangers we now sell at the club and said that he still preferred the original type we have always had as it is truly universal and will fit any size pot. With the two newer styles there were some problems. With the two longer types, the sturdier of the two has ridges along each of the three hanger legs and these ridges can damage leaves when they rub against them during windy conditions. The new type recently purchased had the fault that the gripping section on the bottom will only fit a certain type of pot and that you need to look closely at the end that fits onto the pot to make sure it's the right one for the pots you are using.
- Nev then demonstrated the old trick for removing damaged leaves by first splitting them down the centre and pulling each half away from the centre so as not to damage tiny pups which may be hiding behind them.
- One of the plants he was using for demonstration was a bit on the dry side and showing signs of Root Mealy Bug. He explained various controls for this pest with the main two sprays used being Confidor and Yates Defender Max Guard. However, Confidor—a systemic insecticide—is going out of favour as the active ingredient (Imidacloprid) is fatal to bees while Max Guard apparently is not harmful to bees and is a three-way insecticide: a systemic, residual and contact spray, and has a better chance of killing the insect pest. Personally he prefers Diatomaceous Earth, sold as a health food, and is the fossilized remains of tiny, aquatic organisms called diatoms. It's a fine white powder (sometimes called fossil flower) which must be "food grade" and uses it sprinkled around the surface of the pot and watered into the mix where the microscopic razor-sharp edges kill the Mealy Bugs. Sue added that there is a pyrethrum insect spray which is very effective on the surface-dwelling Mealy Bugs.



- Nev explained the importance of making sure that a newly planted pup can't move in the pot as that if it continually moves it won't put down good roots as they keep getting broken off. He uses wooden skewers as stakes to ensure the pups don't move.
- Suzanne's favourites for attaching plants to mounts are black cable ties and old stockings. She doesn't favour glue as she hadn't had any success when using it.
- Suzanne then showed a wide selection of nicely grown plants mounted on pieces of wood of various types and sizes, and was getting very good results using Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) weather board off-cuts as mounts for some of her tillandsias.

Lots of very good information given at these workshops and so we hope that our newer members will take advantage of attending these. Questions which you may be a bit shy about asking at a meeting may be easier for you to ask at these friendly, informal gatherings. So please don't feel intimidated as these workshops are the time and place to get to know each other, see how other members grow their plants, and, usually, even pick up a free plant or two!

### **SELECTING PLANTS FOR DISPLAY [COMPETITION] IN THE SHOW**

[Extracted from an article By Alan Herndon and Barbara Partagas, appearing in The Bromeliad Society of South Florida's newsletter, *BromeliAdvisory*, March 2018 issue]

Are you just starting out and wondering what plants are appropriate for entry into the competition at our upcoming Annual Show and Sale? First, you should remember that you have two major categories of entry in our show: Horticultural and Artistic. These categories differ in almost every respect. For starters, you must have grown any plants entered in the horticultural category for at least three months prior to the show. In most sections in the artistic category, you could enter a plant you just bought the day before show setup.

In the horticultural category, the judging is based on the entered plant(s) alone.... A clump is defined as a group of rosettes that are connected by their natural stems. In other words, it is not permissible to plant more than a single pup in a pot and enter it as a clump—even when the pups were taken from the same mother rosette. Containers (pots, wood, baskets) that might draw attention away from the plant are not allowed. You must use plain pots without writing or patterns on the sides and restrict the colors to black or green [or a terracotta clay pot for certain classes as noted in our Schedule]. Hanging baskets are suitable for entries containing clumps of larger plants, but again with a limited range of permissible colors and no decorative features that might attract attention away from the plants. Wood and cork are allowed for mounting smaller epiphytes and, in particular, species and hybrids of tillandsia. The surface of the wood or cork must have a natural, weathered appearance.

During ribbon judging [judging 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places], horticultural entries are compared to a hypothetical 'perfect' specimen. Of course, you have no idea what a judge considers perfect in any plant, but they generally look with more favor on plants that are larger than average—and/or have bolder colors—compared to other plants within a given species or hybrid. The actual criterion set for plants in the Non-blooming Bromeliad Division is that the plants must be of blooming size to earn maximum points. Plants, of course, have not read the Judges' Handbook and bloom in a large range of sizes. However, it will not hurt—if you have two plants of comparable quality—to enter the larger.

Apart from size, the judges are also looking for plants that are symmetrical; in other words, the plants appear to be developed to the same degree no matter what side you look at. This symmetry is most apparent in plants with large numbers of leaves, but even plants with a relatively small number of leaves will show noticeable differences. In general, a plant grown under conditions where part of the rosette is exposed to more sun than the rest of the rosette, the side with greater exposure will have shorter, wider, more highly colored leaves and the side with more shade will have longer, narrower greener leaves with more gaps between the leaves. What you are looking for is a plant where the leaves have no obvious disparities in length, width or color from one side to the other.

Another form of asymmetry occurs primarily when you grow plants from pups that are harvested from the centre of dense clumps. If the pups developed under too much shade, the leaves will be long, thin and narrow. If the newly potted pup is now grown in more light, the new leaves formed after repotting will be abruptly shorter than the earlier leaves. Judges refer to this as 'uneven growth' and treat it as a serious cultural flaw. Note that the same unevenness can occur when you move an adult plant to a sunnier area to encourage the development of more color in the leaves. This can result in an abrupt change in the shape and color of the new leaves produced after the move.

If you are entering small, stoloniferous species as clumps, the overall appearance of the clump is very important. The clump should appear balanced, and not contain obvious gaps due to missing rosettes. Plant color should not vary greatly from one part of the clump to another unless some of the rosettes are blooming. Individual rosettes in the clump should be free from major defects but minor defects are easier to overlook.

As a beginner you are unlikely to enter any plants in the Habitat Division [although this could well fit within the Illawarra Society's classes 'P' and 'Q' in our Schedule]. In this Division, the emphasis is on growing plants in a manner that mimics natural growth. This generally translates into a clump of connected rosettes that are grown on the same piece of wood for several years. Also, Habitat is the only Division within the Horticultural category where more than one species or cultivar can be displayed in a single entry.

In the Artistic category, plants are still expected to be of good quality, but judging is based more on how well the plants interact with other elements in the entry to provide a pleasing overall effect. Also, as noted earlier, you do not have to grow the plants under your own conditions for any length of time before entering them in the Show.

There is only a single Division—the Artistic Division—in the Artistic Category, so the discussion in the next few paragraphs refers to Sections within the Artistic Division.

In the Decorative Container section, how well the plant harmonizes with the container is crucial. The plant and container colors may complement each other or contrast with each other, but the judges are looking for some connection between the two.

You are on your own with the Artistic Arrangement section. I have read the rules and seen the results of judging within these sections for many years, but still don't understand what the judges are looking for.

### **Preparing Plants for [Competition] in the Show**

Take care of the basics first. Assume that judges are always looking for easy ways to avoid spending much time on individual plants. You can make it much harder for judges to summarily dismiss your entries by taking the time to clean your plants and pots (or replanting into clean pots). You might also need to replant some of your entries to centre the rosette or clump in the container.

Checking for and removing insect infestations is mandatory. With bromeliads, this almost always means infestation by scale insects. Several different scale insects will attack bromeliads, but the general method of identifying and removing them is the same for all types. These insects are named for the characteristic protective shell that covers a feeding female. These shells range widely in color and size, but all can be felt as a small bump on the surface of a leaf. Most of the time, they are found on the sheaths of the older (lower) leaves and are far more frequent in plants that have been growing in crowded conditions for considerable lengths of time.

The commonly seen Coconut Scale has a relatively large, light brown shell that is often easily wiped away with a wet cloth. This scale is almost always found on plants that are growing in conditions where free air movement is greatly restricted and is unable to persist when the plants are moved into conditions where air has free access to the plants. In other words, this is an easy problem to solve.

Much more difficult to deal with is the Flyspeck Scale. This insect has a very dark, small scale that feels thick because it is as tall as wide. It is also difficult to scrape off under the best of conditions. In addition, once established, this scale is perfectly able to grow and reproduce in exposed conditions with free air movement. Uncontrolled infestations can kill bromeliads, so we are talking about controlling early infestations. If only a few scale are present, they can be scraped off using your fingernail or the edge of a plastic plant tag. You have to be careful to scrape gently or you will damage the leaf. You can kill the visible scale using a cotton swab dipped in isopropyl alcohol. Of course, you still need to scrape individual scales off the leaf a week or so later, but this is much easier once the insect is dead.

Cleaning plants involves removing any debris accumulated in the leaf axils as well as getting rid of white splotches caused by calcium buildup or dried algae. Most of the debris can be removed by holding the rosette upside down while squirting water into the leaf axils. You may have to wash out the leaf axils 2-3 times to get rid of most debris. In some cases there may be a leaf or small stem or other foreign object tightly wedged in a leaf axil. These will have to be pulled out using long tweezers or long needle-nose pliers. Any dead or dying leaves at the base of the rosette should also be removed.

During the rainy periods in summer, it is common for algae to grow prolifically in the water held in a bromeliad rosette. If not washed out on a frequent basis, you will have thin layers of the algae stick to the upper surface of the leaves during days when the water level in the plant drops. This layer of algae will dry to a white film. It is usually no problem to remove any dried algae. If re-wet, it can be easily removed with a soft cloth, but if it has been on the leaves for more than a few days it will have blocked enough sunlight to interfere with the production of chlorophyll in the body of the leaf. The areas of lighter green will remain obvious until the chlorophyll has had a chance to recover to normal levels, so you need to remove the algae now to give the chlorophyll a chance to recover before the Show.

Calcium, of course, is plentiful in our local groundwater. Calcium buildup is generally seen on the lowermost leaf sheaths of the rosettes. Much of this buildup can usually be removed using a soft cloth and water, but stubborn patches will have to be removed using a weak acid. For instance, the weak acid in carbonated drinks (carbonic acid) has been used by many people to loosen hard patches of calcium sufficiently to aid in removal.

Judges expect to see plants that are centred in the container, and strictly erect. Most of the bromeliads in cultivation tend to gravitate towards the edge of their pot when grown for several months, so it is often necessary to remove the plant from its pot and repot it for the Show. You need to pay particular attention to two potential—often related—problems. First, judges do not like to see plants potted so deeply that any part of any leaf sheath is covered by any potting medium. Second, if you need to repot a plant with a small root system, it may be impossible to pack the potting medium around the small underground base tightly enough to hold the plant firmly in place during judging. Fortunately, judges do not ever see what is beneath the surface of the potting mix. You can cut pieces of bamboo to a length where they press against the inner sides of the pot at the proper level and use a pair to hold the plant base steady under the surface. You could also tie some string around the base of the plant and then tie the string to something that can be buried in the pot to provide extra stability.

Leaf damage is virtually impossible to avoid when growing bromeliads—especially the forms with spiny leaf margins—in the garden. You can minimize the damage by spacing plants far enough apart that their leaves do not touch. However, you do not have to grow a plant completely free of leaf damage to have success on the show table. Large dark spots caused by bacterial or fungal infection, or large holes in leaves are never acceptable in show plants, but a few small spots caused by mechanical damage on a few leaves will not always disqualify a plant from the head table [receiving an award].

If you prepare your plants for entry as described above a few weeks before the show, final cleanup just before the show will be easy and allow you to enjoy the show more fully. So, look around your collections for a plant or two or three that look good.

**ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC.'S**  
**TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SHOW**  
**SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 2018**  
**SCHEDULE**



• **CATEGORY I - DIVISION I: HORTICULTURAL - OPEN**

Class

A	Aechmea - Individual specimen plant
B	Billbergia - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted
C	Neoregelia - Individual specimen plant
D	Neoregelia - miniature - Individual specimen plant (Not to exceed 200 mm/8" diameter)
E	*Tillandsia - Individual or multiples permitted - May be potted or mounted
F	*Vriesea/Guzmania - Individual specimen plant
G	Bromeliad not listed in 'A' to 'F' - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted

• **CATEGORY I - DIVISION II: HORTICULTURAL - NOVICE**

Class

H	Aechmea - Individual specimen plant
I	Billbergia - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted
J	Neoregelia - Individual specimen plant
K	Neoregelia - miniature - Individual specimen plant [Not to exceed 200 mm/8" diameter]
L	*Tillandsia - Individual or multiples permitted - May be potted or mounted
M	*Vriesea/Guzmania - Individual specimen plant
N	Bromeliad not listed in 'H' to 'M' - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted.

• **CATEGORY I - DIVISION III: HORTICULTURAL - DISPLAY AND MULTIPLE PLANTS**

Class

O	Colony of Multiple or Clump Plants--e.g., Aechmea, Neoregelia, Vriesea
P	*Mounted Tillandsias - minimum of two (2) established plants which may be the same or different
Q	Mounted Bromeliad(s) other than Tillandsias - Established plant(s) which may be the same or different.

• **CATEGORY II - ARTISTIC**

Class

R	Basket or Decorative Container - minimum of three (3) plants which may be the same or different. No embellishments.
S	Bromeliad Garden - Any Container - Embellishments may be used.
T	Artistic Arrangement - to consist of predominantly bromeliad material - Embellishment may be used.

- \*This class includes *Tillandsia* and allies--i.e., those species affected by the recent name changes, including *Barfussia*, *Josemania*, *Lemeltonia*, *Pseudalcantarea*, *Racinaea* and *Wallisia*.
- \*This class includes *Vriesea* and allies--i.e., those species affected by the recent name changes, including *Goudaea*, *Lutheria*, *Stigmatodon* and *Zizkaea*.
- In horticultural parlance the key word is 'home', meaning that this is where the plant(s) has been growing in a natural fashion, either potted or mounted.
- In classes covering "Individual Specimen Plants", pups are permissible on the adult plant only if they are so small that their removal might jeopardize their survival.
- When allowing for multiple plants the key word is "interconnected"—i.e., they must all have a common root system.
- In Category I individual specimen plants (excepting tillandsias) should be potted, unless otherwise noted.
- Pots for entries in Category I, Divisions I, II and III, must be either black or dark green plastic. However, exceptions are provided for classes 'G' and 'N' where non-decorative terracotta [clay] pots may be used for succulent bromeliads such as dyckias, hechtias, etc. and in Division III, class 'O', hanging (non-decorative) baskets are acceptable.