



Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc.

September 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
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Graham Kohler*
Assistant Treasurer	Suzanne Burrows
Minute Secretary	Clare Tuckerman*
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	Stephen Ryde
Assistant Librarian	Graham Bevan
Property Officer	Graham Bevan
Assistant Property Officer	Graham Kohler
Competitions Officer	Sharyn Baraldi*
Assistant Competition Officer	Stephen Wain* & Margaret Davenport
Plant Sales Officer	Monica De Clouett*
Assistant Plant Sales Officers	Beth Clague
General Sales Officer	Elizabeth Bevan
Assistant Sales Officer	Graham Bevan
Welfare Officer	Barbara Jones*
Refreshments Officer	Philip Snowden
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

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Subscriptions: Due 30th June each year.
\$20 single/\$30 family
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 should be sent to the Illawarra Bromeliad Society secretary by email: illawarrabroms@gmail.com

MEETING DETAILS

Time & Date: 12noon – 3.30pm, 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 and literature Sales, Raffle, Library and Afternoon tea

Visitors are always welcome!

Articles or images in this publication must not be reprinted without prior permission from the Illawarra Bromeliad Society.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Saturday 3rd October 2026

Time: 12noon. (Doors open at 12noon for set up, competition entry and plant sales. Meeting starts at 1pm)

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

Speaker: Bronwyn Holm from Earthfood will talk about how living functional soil biology can help restore stronger plants, better growing conditions and gardens that work with nature

Monthly Raffle Prize & Cleaning Roster for this month:

Cheryl Mathews, Sandra Southwell, Ines Ryde

Afternoon tea:

Bring only food that does not require heating & please BYO cup/mug

Reminders:

- **Photographic competition entries due in at this meeting**
- **Perpetual Trophies need to be returned at this meeting**
- **Graham Kohler (Treasurer) is taking payment for the society Christmas Party on 5th December 2026. Cost is \$20 per head**

MONTHLY RAFFLE PRIZE ROSTER

Each rostered member is asked to bring up to five bromeliad plants, or goods related to bromeliad cultivation, for the raffle. Plant quality should meet the Society's "Plants for Sale" requirements. If you are unable to provide raffle items on your rostered day, please contact the Program Officer, Bob Stephens, on 0412 834 985 so alternative arrangements can be made.

October 2026: Cheryl Mathews, Sandra Southwell, Ines Ryde

November 2026: Suzanne Burrows, Beth Clague

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

CLEANING ROSTER

Members listed on the monthly raffle roster are also asked to assist with the final tidy-up on the day. While members are very helpful with stacking and storing tables and chairs, a few last-minute tasks, such as checking that the floor is clean, need to be completed before we lock up.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2026

DATE	DETAILS
3 Oct 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting • Speaker – Bronwyn Holm from EARTHFOOD • If you have a perpetual trophy, please bring it to this meeting • Entries for Meri Stefanidakis Photograph competition to be submitted to Sharyn Baraldi at this meeting
17 & 18 Oct 2026 (Set up Fri 16/10/2026, 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 • Speaker - Carol Burgdorf will talk about African Violets • All library books need to be returned at this meeting or prior to this meeting
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 – Christmas Party • Venue: Berkeley Sports Club, 12 noon • Cost: \$20 per head (this is a society subsidised amount). Pay at the meeting or deposit to the society bank account • Monthly competition trophies, Annual Show awards and trophies & Meri Stefanidakis Photograph competition trophy will be presented • We will have a Kris Kringle for everyone who wishes to participate

NB – Society garden visits and workshops are to be included as details are confirmed.

Below: We had a great selection of plants on the raffle table



NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our new members who recently signed up. Treena and Neville Fielding, Will Brown and returning member Val Miller, we wish you a long and happy association with our society.

5th SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING SUMMARY

This month, members were invited to bring bromeliads for Show and Tell and to ask questions. We received a great response, with several members sharing details of their plants. See below for highlights.



Above, left to right:

- Clare brought in a small, struggling *Fosterella spectabilis*. Advice given: water it, trim it back, pot it up and move it to shade. The small size is likely due to previously growing crowded in a pot, creating a bonsai effect.
- Bob showed Sandra's *Fosterella spectabilis* (possibly *spectabilis* hybrid), currently in flower and pupping.
- Neville and Treenea brought a miniature fireball bromeliad and a self-sown orchid in flower. They asked whether it was good enough to sell and what price to ask. The group's answer was yes, with a \$30 minimum suggested.



Above, left to right:

- Graham showed an *Orthophytum gurkenii* 'Warren Loose'. He asked about entering it in the Annual Show & Competition — as pups or as a single plant. Recommendation: Class G, which allows either individual or multiple specimens. The mix of the compact pup and elongated mother plant, along with its current condition, may mean that it's not presenting at its best for competition.
- Phillip showed an *Aechmea recurvata* and asked how long a pup takes to flower — answer: 2–3 years, and they flower best when grown as multiple specimens rather than singly. Nina added that mature flowers can be hand-pollinated, and that the colour holds for a long time. Other tips: pot it up to a bigger size, give it plenty of sun (his plant is currently getting hot afternoon sun, which was noted).
- Stephen shared a folder that belonged to his mother, Ruby Ryde (prominent Australian bromeliad grower and hybridizer). It contains beautiful botanical bromeliad drawings by an unknown artist.
- Carol (not pictured) asked for recommendations on sourcing charcoal in smaller pieces than what's available at Bunnings. Suggestions: fireplace charcoal works well; try Enfield Produce in Sydney, orchid suppliers, or the local orchid society as these often stock a range of sizes.

Competition Plant Results – 5th September 2026

Novice:

- 1st Ines Ryde.....*Aechmea recurvata*
2nd Perry Avnell.....*Orthophytum glabrum*
2nd Philip Snowden.....*Aechmea recurvata*
3rd Linda Molloy.....*Neoregelia Samsara*
3rd Graham Kohler.....*Orthophytum* 'Warren Loose'

Open:

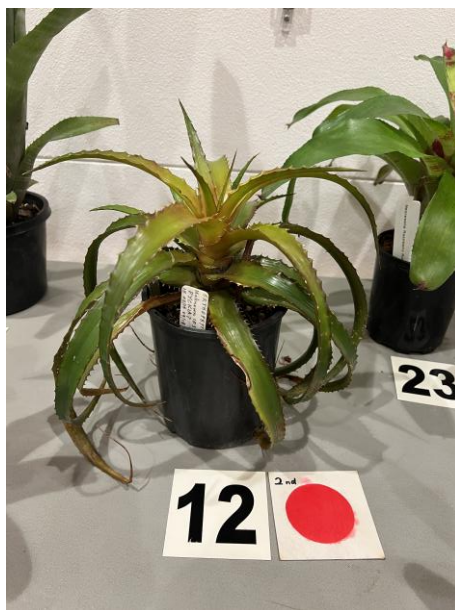
- 1st Edwina & Stephen Wain*Neoregelia* Bottoms Up
2nd Cheryl Mathews.....*Neoregelia* Michi
3rd Bob Stephens*Aechmea* Bert (?)

Tillandsia:

- 1st Edwina & Stephen Wain*Tillandsia subsecundifolia*
2nd Edwina & Stephen Wain*Tillandsia kautskyi*
2nd Perry Avnell.....*Tillandsia loliacea*
3rd Edwina & Stephen Wain*Tillandsia stricta* (white flowers)

Thanks to everyone who entered the monthly competition.

Photos of Novice Competition plants



Novice Section

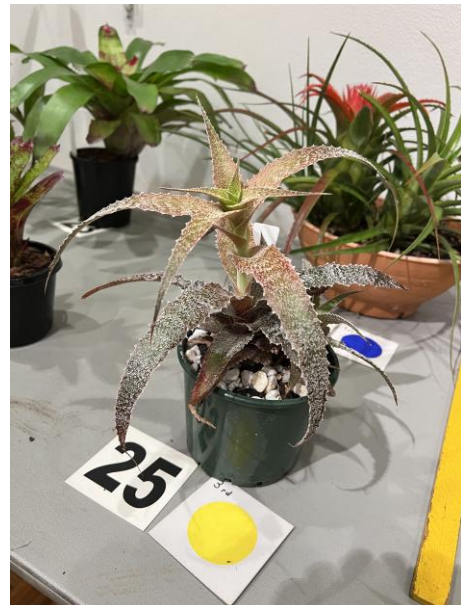
above left to right:

First place – *Aechmea recurvata*;

Equal Second place – *Orthophytum glabrum*;

Equal Second - *Aechmea recurvata*

Photos of Novice Competition plants continued



Novice Section

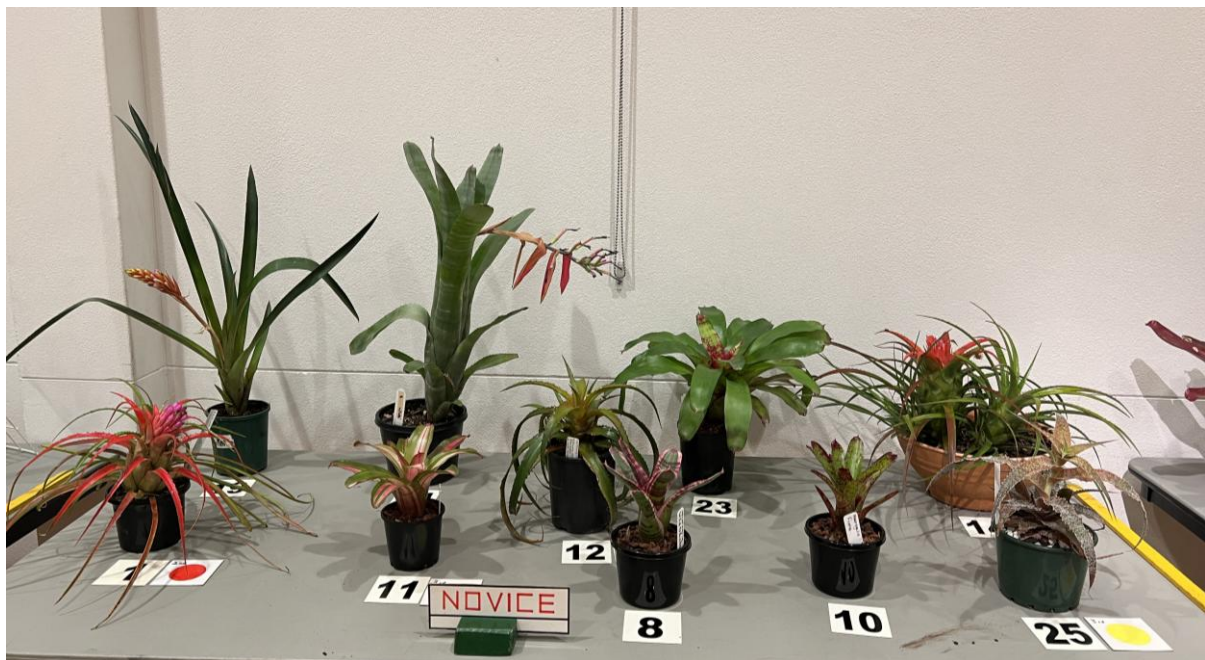
Above left to right:

Equal Third - *Neoregelia* Samsara;

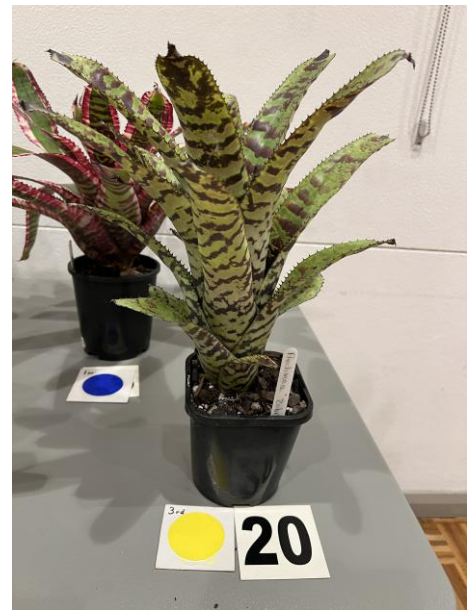
Equal Third - *Orthophytum* 'Warren Loose'

Below **Novice Section**, which had 10 entries

It's wonderful to see so many plants entered into the Novice section this month.



Photos of Open Competition plants



Open Section

Above left to right:

First place – *Neoregelia* Bottoms Up

Second place – *Neoregelia* Michi;

Third place - *Aechmea* Bert (?)

Below **Open Section**, which had 7 entries



Photos of Tillandsia Competition plants



Tillandsia Section

Above left to right:

First place – *Tillandsia subsecundifolia*;

Equal Second place - *Tillandsia kautskyi*;

Equal Second place - *Tillandsia loliacea*

Below – left to right:

Third place - *Tillandsia stricta* (white flowers)

Tillandsia Section, which had 7 entries



Sales Plants

We had a beautiful selection of bromeliads for sale at our meeting last month. Our wonderful Sales team, Monica and Beth do a fantastic job each month looking after the sales plants as well as managing sales at our Sales Days and at our Annual Show & Sale.

A big thank you to Monica and Beth for all their hard work and for keeping our sales running so smoothly!

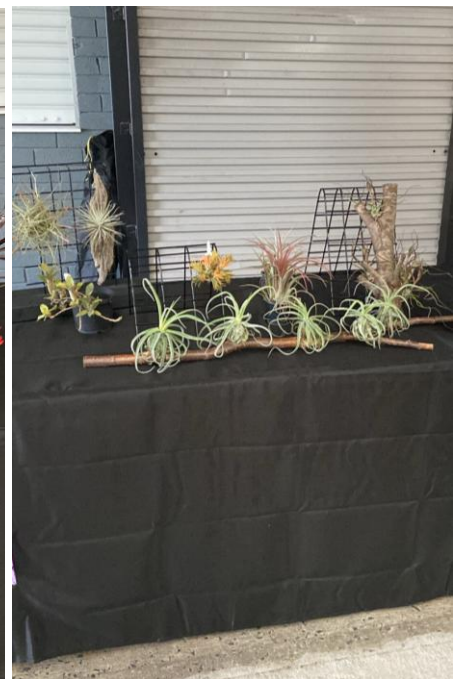


Dapto Country Show

Our society had a display stand at the Dapto Country Show on Saturday, 26 September 2026. The stand provided a great opportunity to promote our society and increase our visibility within the local community.

Information about our monthly meetings and upcoming Annual Show & Sale was available, and many flyers were handed out to people who showed interest in our society. We were delighted to welcome a new member who joined the society at the show, and we also collected contact details from six people who were interested in joining our mailing list and finding out more about the society.

A big thank you to Stephen and Perry for setting up the display, and to Graham Bevan for delivering the society flag. Thank you also to Stephen, Perry and Carol for volunteering their time to man the display and chat with visitors throughout the day. Your support is greatly appreciated!



NB – The society flag is not showing as the display photos were taken on Friday before the society flag arrived.