



Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc.

October 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!

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NEXT MEETING

Date: Saturday 7th November 2026

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

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

Speaker: Carol Burgdorf will talk about how she grows and cares for African Violets

Monthly Raffle Prize & Cleaning Roster for this month:

Suzanne Burrows & Beth Clague

Afternoon tea:

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

Reminders:

- **All Library books are due to be returned at this meeting**
- **Graham Kohler (Treasurer) is taking payment for the society Christmas Party on 5th December 2026 at Berkeley Sports Club. 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.

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
7 Nov 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting • Speaker - Carol Burgdorf will talk about how she grows and cares for 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.

2027 SALES DAYS & ANNUAL SHOW & SALE DATES

Save the date for our 2027 Sales Days and Annual Show & Sale. They will all be hosted at our usual venue at Berkeley Community Centre Hall.

Sales Day: 27TH FEBRUARY 2027

Sales Day: 15TH MAY 2027

Annual Show & Sale: 16TH & 17TH OCTOBER 2027, set up on 15th October 2027



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



Gary Claydon

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our member, Gary Claydon, on 20 July 2026, aged 82.

Gary and his wife, Colleen, who passed away on 13 August 2025, joined our society in 2008. Along with his love of Bromeliads, Gary was a keen fisherman and had a lifelong passion for footy. He played in his younger years and remained a devoted supporter of his NRL team, the St George Dragons.

Gary was a valued member of our society and will be sadly missed. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our new members who recently signed up. Tracey Douglas, Stephen McMillan and Yan Luo, we wish you a long and happy association with our society.

3rd OCTOBER 2026 MEETING SUMMARY

Our October meeting speaker was Bronwyn Holm, founder of Earthfood based in Brisbane, who spoke about fertilisers and building up soil health. With a background in natural history education and over 40 years experience in the field, Bronwyn is passionate about living soil and encouraging soil borne microbiomes in our gardens. Through Earthfood she advocates for supporting soil to address common issues faced by gardeners by helping plants efficiently access nutrients and minerals.

Earthfood microbes are in suspension to extend their life and are activated by water. Bronwyn recommends applying Earthfood every 3 weeks by spray bottle after watering. It can be applied directly to soil or to plants where it will find its way to the soil. Gardeners should see results two weeks after applying but may need to apply more intensively initially. It can be used on pots as well. Members were invited to subscribe to Earthfood's informative newsletter.



Monthly Competition Plant Results – 3rd October 2026

Novice:

- 1st Graham Kohler.....*Neoregelia* Hot Embers
- 2nd Ines Ryde.....*Aechmea recurvata*
- 3rd Graham Kohler.....*Neoregelia* Paper Tiger
- 3rd Perry Avnell*Billbergia* 'Perriam's Pride'

Open:

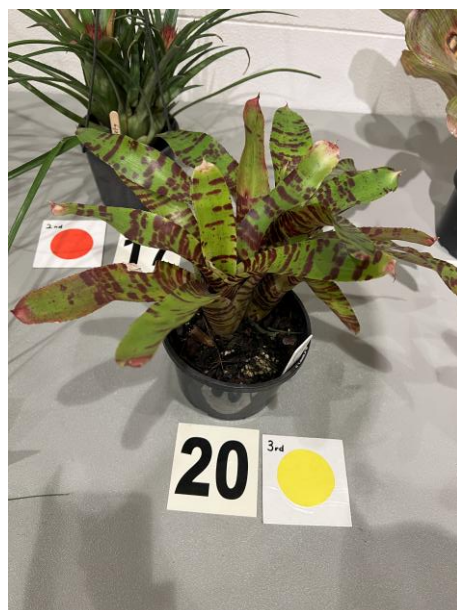
- 1st Edwina & Stephen Wain*Neoregelia* Pinegrove Tiger
- 2nd Edwina & Stephen Wain*Neoregelia* Wild Rabbit
- 3rd John Boyd*Aechmea* 'Pot Belly'

Tillandsia:

- 1st Ann Kennon*Tillandsia subsecundifolia*
- 2nd Edwina & Stephen Wain*Tillandsia ionantha*
- 3rd Perry Avnell.....*Tillandsia ionantha* 'Pink Champagne'

Thanks to everyone who entered the monthly competition.

Photos of Novice Monthly Competition plants



Novice Section

Above left to right:

First - *Neoregelia* Hot Embers;

Second - *Aechmea recurvata*

Equal Third - *Neoregelia* Paper Tiger

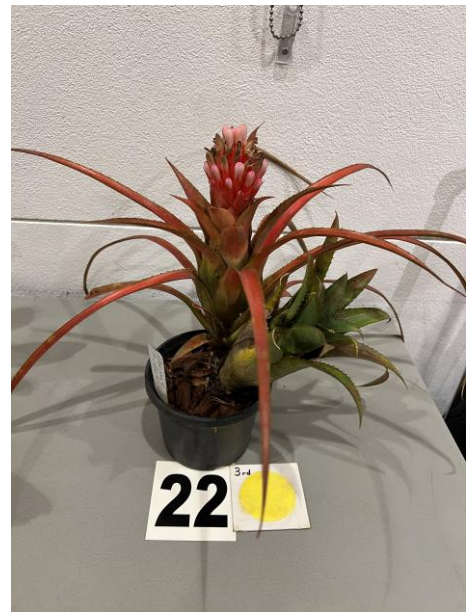
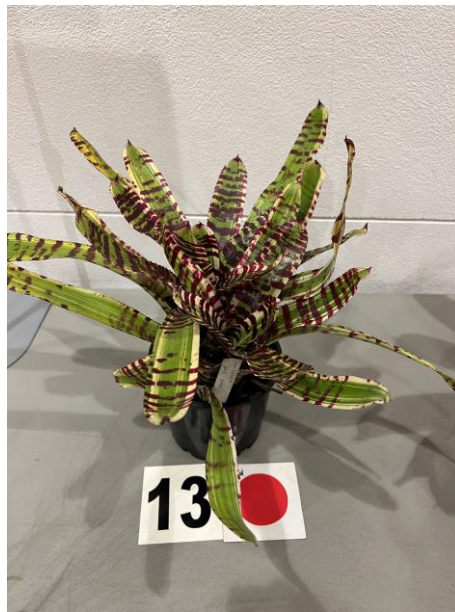
Below

Equal Third - *Billbergia* 'Perriam's Pride'

Novice Section, which had 5 entries



Photos of Open Monthly Competition plants



Open Section

Above left to right:

First - *Neoregelia* Pinegrove Tiger;

Second - *Neoregelia* Wild Rabbit

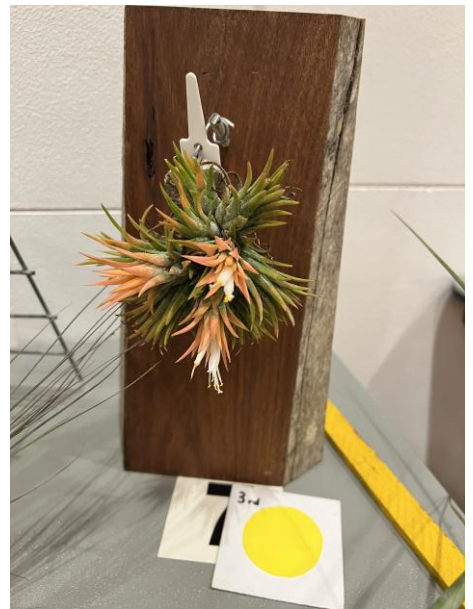
Third - *Aechmea* 'Pot Belly'

Below

Open Section, which had 4 entries



Photos of Tillandsia Monthly Competition plants



Tillandsia Section

Above left to right:

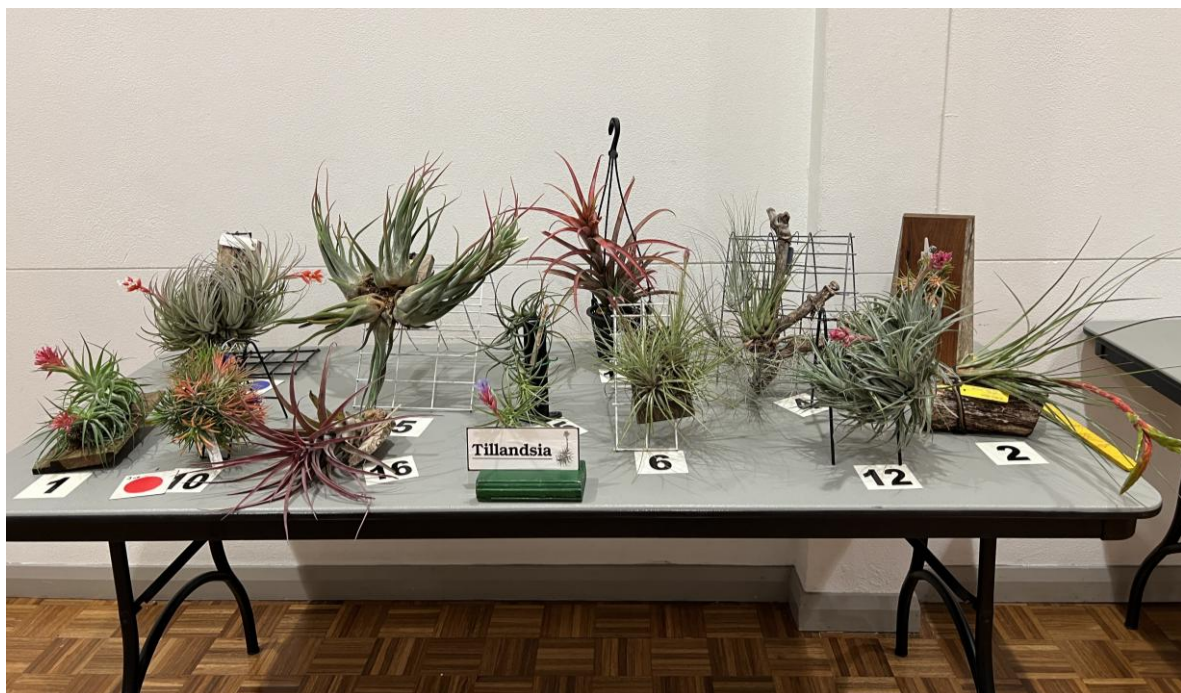
First place – *Tillandsia subsecundifolia*;

Second place - *Tillandsia ionantha*;

Third place - *Tillandsia ionantha* 'Pink Champagne'

Below – left to right:

Tillandsia Section, which had 12 entries



2026 ILLAWARRA ANNUAL SHOW RESULTS

The Illawarra Bromeliad Society's 32nd Annual Show was held at Berkeley Community Centre on 17 and 18 October 2026. The hall was transformed into a beautiful, colourful display, with a wonderful range of Bromeliads entered in the competition and available for sale.

The Bromeliad display was a highlight of the show. This year's theme was "Bali", another stunning creation by Sharyn Baraldi. Sharyn puts an enormous amount of time and effort into planning the display in the lead-up to the show, as well as setting it up and packing it all away afterwards. Her hard work is greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the weekend's success, including our helpers, sellers, competition entrants and visitors. Preparing plants for sale, and especially for competition, takes considerable time and effort, and we appreciate everyone who contributed.

The competition is at the heart of our show, and it was particularly rewarding to receive positive feedback from members of the public who took the time to thank us for it.

We had 17 competitors and 136 entries in this year's competition, with both numbers up on last year. The competition results are listed below.

SPECIAL PRIZE WINNERS

GRAND CHAMPION BROMELIAD: OPEN - EILEEN KILLINGLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Edwina & Stephen Wain - *Tillandsia tectorum*

CHAMPION BROMELIAD: NOVICE AWARD

Linda Molloy – *Neoregelia* Wild Rabbit

BEST SPECIES – RUBY RYDE AWARD

Edwina & Stephen Wain – *Guzmania vittata*

DULCIE DOONAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Elizabeth Bevan Arrangement - "Morning"

CATHERINE (RENA) WAINWRIGHT MEMORIAL AWARD

Edwina & Stephen Wain – *Tillandsia ionantha*



Above: Dulcie Doonan Memorial Artistic Award, for "Morning"
Entered by Elizabeth Bevan

CATEGORY I – DIVISION I: HORTICULTURAL – OPEN

Class A - Aechmea (3 entries)

1st	Bob Stephens	<i>Aechmea</i>
2nd	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Aechmea</i> Purple Heart
3rd	Nina Woodcock	<i>Aechmea</i> Red Bands

Class B - Billbergia (16 entries)

1st	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Billbergia</i> Grand Finale
2nd	Bob Stephens	<i>Billbergia</i> 'B A Bubblz'
3rd	Ann Kennon	<i>Billbergia</i> John Catlan hybrid

Class C - Neoregelia/Hylaeaicum (12 entries)

1st	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Neoregelia</i> Bottoms Up
2nd	Nina Woodcock	<i>Neoregelia</i> Lorena Lecter
3rd	Nina Woodcock	<i>Neoregelia</i> Broken Heart

Class D - Miniature Neoregelia (7 entries)

1st	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Neoregelia</i> White Hot Embers
2nd	Nina Woodcock	<i>Neoregelia</i> Sweetheart
3rd	Nina Woodcock	<i>Neoregelia</i> Chili Verde

Class E – Tillandsia & allies (18 entries)

1st	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Tillandsia tectorum</i>
2nd	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Tillandsia ionantha</i>
3rd	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Tillandsia leiboldiana</i>

Class F - Vriesea/Guzmania & allies (5 entries)

1st	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Guzmania vittata</i>
2nd	Freda Kennedy	<i>Goudaea ospinae</i> var. <i>gruberi</i>
3rd	Beth Clague	<i>Vriesea gigantea</i> var. <i>seideliana</i>

Class G - Other Genera (10 entries)

1st	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>xSincregelia</i> Kaleidoscope
2nd	Bob Stephens	<i>Quesnelia</i> 'Tim Plowman'
3rd	Bob Stephens	<i>Nidularium angustibracteatum</i>

CATEGORY I – DIVISION II: HORTICULTURAL – NOVICE**Class H – Aechmea (1 entry)**

1st	Graham Kohler	<i>Aechmea</i> Bert
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Class I – Billbergia (2 entries)

1st	Monica De Clouett	<i>Billbergia</i> hybrid
2nd	Monica De Clouett	<i>Billbergia</i> Opal Joy

Class J – Neoregelia/Hylaeaicum (10 entries)

1st	Linda Molloy	<i>Neoregelia</i> Wild Rabbit
2nd	Linda Molloy	<i>Neoregelia</i> Royal Flush
3rd	Linda Molloy	<i>Neoregelia</i> Samsara

Class K – Miniature Neoregelia (5 entries)

1st	Linda Molloy	<i>Neoregelia</i> More or Less #2
2nd	Linda Molloy	<i>Neoregelia</i> Blushing Zebra
3rd	Linda Molloy	<i>Neoregelia</i> Heat Rash

Class L - Tillandsia & allies (4 entries)

1st	Perry Avnell	<i>Tillandsia tectorum</i>
2nd	Perry Avnell	<i>Tillandsia</i> Eric The Red
3rd	Perry Avnell	<i>Tillandsia</i> Elva

Class M - Vriesea/Guzmania & allies (3 entries)

1st	Graham Kohler	<i>Vriesea</i> Flaming Sword
2nd	Graham Kohler	<i>Vriesea saundersii</i> x <i>platynema</i>
3rd	Graham Kohler	<i>Guzmania</i> hybrid

Class N - Other Bromeliad (3 entries)

1st	Graham Kohler	<i>Canistropsis</i> 'Tutti Frutti'
2nd	Graham Kohler	<i>Orthophytum</i> 'Warren Loose'
3rd	Graham Kohler	<i>Deuterocohnia brevifolia</i>

CATEGORY I – DIVISION III: HORTICULTURAL - DISPLAY AND MULTIPLE PLANTS

Class O - Colony (15 entries)

1st	Linda Molloy	<i>Neoregelia</i> Gizmo
2nd	Freda Kennedy	<i>Aechmea</i> Jean
3rd	Freda Kennedy	<i>Neoregelia</i> Lilac Prince

Class P - Mounted Tillandsias, 2 or more separate plants (7 entries)

1st	Perry Avnell	<i>Tillandsia loliacea</i>
2nd	Edwina & Stephen Wain	<i>Tillandsia fuchsii</i> forma <i>gracilis</i>
3rd	Ann Kennon	<i>Tillandsia schiedeana</i>

Class Q - Mounted Bromeliad(s) (1 entry)

Not awarded

CATEGORY II – ARTISTIC

Class R - Basket or Decorative Container (4 entries)

1st	Bob Stephens	Basket
2nd	Sue Burrows	<i>Neoregelia lilliputiana</i> basket
3rd	Elizabeth Bevan	"Basket Bounty"

Class S - Bromeliad Garden (3 entries)

1st	Graham Kohler	<i>Deuterocohnia</i> / <i>Orthophytum</i> Garden
2nd	Noel Kennon	"Bromeliad Garden"
3rd	Sue Burrows	<i>Tillandsia leiboldiana</i> in Boot

Class T - Artistic Arrangement (6 entries)

1st	Janine Varley	"Tangled in Bloom"
2nd	Linda Molloy	"Kokedama"
3rd	Elizabeth Bevan	"Morning"



Above: Sharyn Baraldi with her beautiful Bromeliad display



Above left: Awards table. Above right: Grand Champion Bromeliad– Open: *Tillandsia tectorum*
Below left: Best species: *Guzmania vittata*; Below centre: Catherine Wainright Award: *Tillandsia ionantha*;
Below right: Champion Bromeliad – Novice: *Neoregelia* Wild Rabbit



Below: Competition tables





Above and below left and centre: Competition tables. Below right: Sales tables



Left: We had some wonderful raffle prizes at our Annual Show.

A big thank you to our members who donated Bromeliads, and to Bunnings and Leisure Coast Garden Centre for their generous \$50 vouchers. We also greatly appreciate the very generous donation of products from Healthy Earth.

Thank you all for your support