



Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc.

March 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

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!

Articles or images within this publication are not to be reprinted without prior permission from the Illawarra Bromeliad Society.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Saturday 4th April 2026

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

Speaker: Ian Hook, president of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, will talk about Bromeliad Genera

Monthly Raffle Prize & Cleaning Roster for this month:

Bill Homer, Barbara Jones, Philip Snowden

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.

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
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
18 & 19 Apr 2026	Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Open Gardens and Plant Fair 1 Old South Road Bowral & district
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, Carmen Gauci. We wish you a long and happy association with our society.

7th MARCH 2026 MEETING SUMMARY

It was great having some of our members sharing their experience of growing Bromeliads at this meeting. Thank you to our president Carol Burgdorf, Bob Stephens, Nina Woodcock and Linda Molloy. Thank you to Perry Avnell for taking all the photos in this newsletter edition.

Carol gave a short presentation on her visit some time ago to Bolivia when she saw bromeliads growing in the wild. She now owns two of the plants she saw then, *Fosterella spectabilis*, and *Deuterochonia brevifolia*, and displayed them at the meeting.

Bob showed two plants of the same *Billbergia* species, to illustrate the difference when growing one in a shaded position, the other in bright light and/or sun.

Nina gave a presentation on growing plants from seed, illustrated by showing a container with multiple plants from one seedpod at 1 year of growth, another container at 2 years of growth, and the different appearances that can occur at later stages of growth.

Linda gave a short presentation on her method of encasing bromeliad roots in hessian and rope balls, known as Kokedama.

Right: Carol with her *Fosterella spectabilis*,
and *Deuterochonia brevifolia*



Right: Nina with some of her plants and 2 of Linda's Bromeliad Kokedama can be seen front right of the table



Competition Plant Results – 7TH March 2026

Novice:

- 1st Perry Avnell.....*Neoregelia carolinae*
- 2nd Perry Avnell.....*Neoregelia* Koah Knotalot

Open:

- 1st Bob Stephens*Billbergia* B A Bubblz
- 2nd Ann Kennon*Billbergia* Haileys Gold
- 3rd Nina Woodcock*Neoregelia* Shirley Kay
- 3rd Bob Stephens*Neoregelia* Tiger Head

Tillandsia:

- 1st Perry Avnell.....*Tillandsia fasciculata* hybrid
- 1st Nina Woodcock*Tillandsia* Hal's Nidus
- 2nd Nina Woodcock*Tillandsia velutina*

Thanks to every one who entered into competition.

Photos of Novice Competition plants – March 2026 meeting

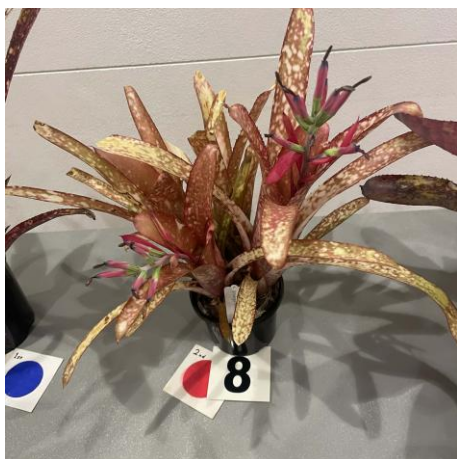


Above left: **Novice Section** had 2 entries
 Above middle: First place – *Neoregelia carolinae*
 Above right: Second place – *Neoregelia* Koah Knotalot

Photos of Open Competition plants – March 2026 meeting



Above left: **Open Section** which had 9 entries
 Above right: First place – *Billbergia* B A Bubblz



Open Section continued

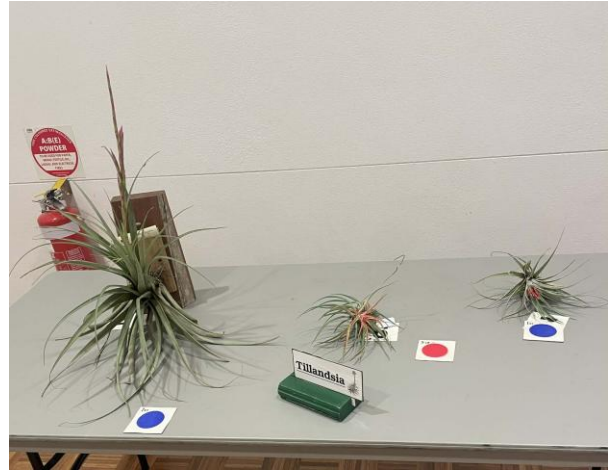
Above left: Second place - *Billbergia* Haileys Gold
 Above centre: Equal Third place – *Neoregelia* Shirley Kay
 Above right: Equal Third place - *Neoregelia* Tiger Head

Photos of Tillandsia Competition plants – March 2026 meeting



Tillandsia Section above, left to right:
 Equal first place – *Tillandsia fasciculata* hybrid
 Equal first place - *Tillandsia* Hal's Nidus
 Second place - *Tillandsia velutina*

Right: **Tillandsia Section** which had 3 entries



THE MERI STEFANIDAKIS MEMORIAL TROPHY

A reminder about our society's photographic competition, the Meri Stefanidakis Memorial Trophy. Photos can be taken any time throughout the year, with entries due at the October meeting. Take a moment to review the details below and start snapping!

This trophy is awarded for the photograph in the Annual Photographic Display that best captures the spirit of the culture of bromeliads. The subject of the photographs must concern some aspect of the culture of bromeliads. Entry is restricted to members of the Society and all members are eligible to enter.

Each member may submit up to three photographs. Each photograph must be taken in the year of the Display and by the member submitting it.

- The photographs must be "postcard" size (10 cm x 15 cm) and may be in colour or black and white.
- The orientation of the photograph may be portrait or landscape. A border on the photograph is optional.
- The photographic print may be made commercially or by the member submitting it.
- Each photograph must be submitted in a separate envelope, have a sticker on the back showing the name of the member submitting it and be accompanied by a separate 5 cm x 10 cm card showing the date the photograph was taken and a suitable title for the photograph. Nothing else.
- Entries must be submitted to the Competitions Officer of the Society in a plain envelope before conclusion of the October General Meeting of the Society.
- Any photograph that does not conform to the requirements set out here, will not be eligible for entry.



Photo above, Billbergia flower taken by Meri Stefanidakis

The Competitions Officer will arrange for the entries to be displayed for inspection and judging by popular vote at the November General Meeting. In judging this competition, members are urged to apply "awarded for the photograph that best captures the spirit of the culture of bromeliads" to the best of their ability. The results of the vote will be announced at the December General Meeting and the member who took the winning photograph will be awarded the Trophy for that year.