



# Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc.

April 2026 Newsletter

## COMMITTEE & SOCIETY POSITIONS

<b>President</b>	<b>Carol Burgdorf* mob: 0419 409 939</b>
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Perry Avnell*</b>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Barbara Jones*</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Edwina Wain* mob: 0424 713 130</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Graham Kohler*</b>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Suzanne Burrows
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	<b>Ann Kennon* mob: 0424 923 795</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Vacant*</b>
<b>Program Officer</b>	<b>Bob Stephens* mob: 0412 834 985</b>
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<b>Perry Avnell*</b>
<b>Assistant Publicity Officer</b>	<b>Edwina Wain*</b>
<b>Show Secretary</b>	<b>Edwina Wain*</b>
<b>Assistant Show Secretary</b>	<b>Nina Woodcock*</b>
<b>Show Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Stephen Wain* mob: 0416 008 295</b>
<b>Librarian</b>	Graham Bevan
<b>Assistant Librarian</b>	Steven Ryde
<b>Property Officer</b>	Graham Bevan
<b>Competitions Officer</b>	<b>Sharyn Baraldi*</b>
<b>Assistant Competition Officer</b>	<b>Stephen Wain* &amp; Margaret Davenport</b>
<b>Plant Sales Officer</b>	<b>Monica DeClouett*</b>
<b>Assistant Plant Sales Officers</b>	Beth Clague
<b>General Sales Officer</b>	Elizabeth Bevan
<b>Assistant Sales Officer</b>	Vacant
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	<b>Barbara Jones*</b>
<b>Refreshments Officer</b>	<b>Ann Kennon*</b>
<b>Assistant Refreshments Officers</b>	Julie Stringer
<b>Audio Visual Officer</b>	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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

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

**Speaker: Louie Kelbert, from Kel Bee Apiaries, will give a presentation on “Raising Bees and Production of Honey”**

**Monthly Raffle Prize & Cleaning Roster for this month:**

**Noel Kennon, Graham Kohler**

**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.

**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 Clouett

## 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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2026

DATE	DETAILS
2 May 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker: Louie Kelbert, from Kel Bee Apiaries, will give a presentation on “Raising Bees and Production of Honey”</li> </ul>
2 & 3 May 2026	<b>Bromeliad Society of Australia Autumn Show,</b> Castle Hill Showground
16 May 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Sale Day</b> Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way Berkeley NSW 2506 Sat 9am-3pm
6 Jun 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker: Edwina Wain will give two short presentations, one on “Preparing for our Annual Show” and the other topic to be confirmed</li> </ul>
4 Jul 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soups and Sweets</li> </ul>
1 Aug 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGM</li> </ul>
5 Sep 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker to be advised</li> </ul>
3 Oct 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker to be advised</li> </ul>
<b>17 &amp; 18 Oct 2026</b> <b>(Set up Fri 16/10/2026,</b> <b>from 12 noon)</b>	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Annual Show</b> Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way Berkeley NSW 2506 Sat 9am-3pm, Sun 9am-2pm
7 Nov 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker to be advised</li> </ul>
21 Nov 2026	<b>Workshop, Q&amp;A Session and Garden Visit</b> To be held at Sharyn Baraldi’s residence
5 Dec 2026	<b>Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Society Christmas Party</li> </ul>

**NB – Society Garden Visits and Workshops to be included.**

# PHILLIP ROBINSON VALE

We were saddened to hear that our Life Member, Phillip Robinson, passed away on Wednesday 15th April 2026.

Phillip was a valued member of our society and one of the core group who founded it in March 1992. He served as Vice-President from 1992 to 1998 and, for over 20 years, faithfully managed the sales tables at our monthly meetings and shows. He also made significant contributions through his well-researched and engaging articles, including “The Naming of Plants”, “Key to the Nidularioid Complex” and “Description of Genera and Subgenera” along with several shorter pieces on a range of topics.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution and long service, Phillip was awarded Life Membership with our society on 5th June 2010.

Beyond our society, Phillip studied Botany at university and worked as a science teacher until his retirement in 1997. He also dedicated more than 20 years as a volunteer at the Wollongong Botanic Garden, where he generously shared his extensive knowledge. On 13 December 2012, Phillip and a colleague were recognised for their work documenting endangered and threatened plants at the Garden, receiving the Environmental Improvement Program Encouragement Award. He was presented with a plaque by the Lord Mayor at a special ceremony.

In 2013, Phillip was honoured with the President of the Garden Clubs of Australia Award for outstanding individual contribution to gardening and horticulture.

Although he had not been able to attend meetings in recent years, Phillip continued to take a keen interest in the society. He greatly appreciated the regular visits and updates from Sue Burrows.

Phillip will be remembered as a true gentleman, known for his quiet achievements, generosity, and kindness. He will be greatly missed, and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.



Above left: Illawarra Bromeliad Society 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (2017)  
Above right: Phillip inside Wollongong Botanic Garden glasshouse (2012)  
Left: Delegates at Brom-A-Warra (2001)

# 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026 MEETING SUMMARY

Ian Hook, president of the Bromeliad Society of Australia (BSA) gave us a very informative talk on “Bromeliad Genera”. Along with providing a history of Bromeliads, Ian brought with him many Bromeliads, across many different genera. He went through all the different genera he had with him, explaining some features of each genus and the difference between some of the genera.

During the presentation, Ian gave out some handouts on Bromeliads, including Bromeliad hierarchy, list of genera, Bromeliad culture and general care for Tillandsia. The BSA meets on the second Saturday of the month at Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground. Their next show and sale day is 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.

Ian also brought many Bromeliads for sale which proved to be very popular with our members. Many thanks to Ian for his wonderful presentation.



Above: Ian with some of his Bromeliads



Left: We had some beautiful Bromeliads on our raffle plants at our April meeting

## Competition Plant Results – 4<sup>TH</sup> April 2026

### Novice:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Perry Avnell.....*Neoregelia Heat Wave*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Graham Kohler.....*Orthophytum gurkenii* ‘Warren Loose’
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Graham Kohler.....*Vriesea saundersii x platynema*

### Open:

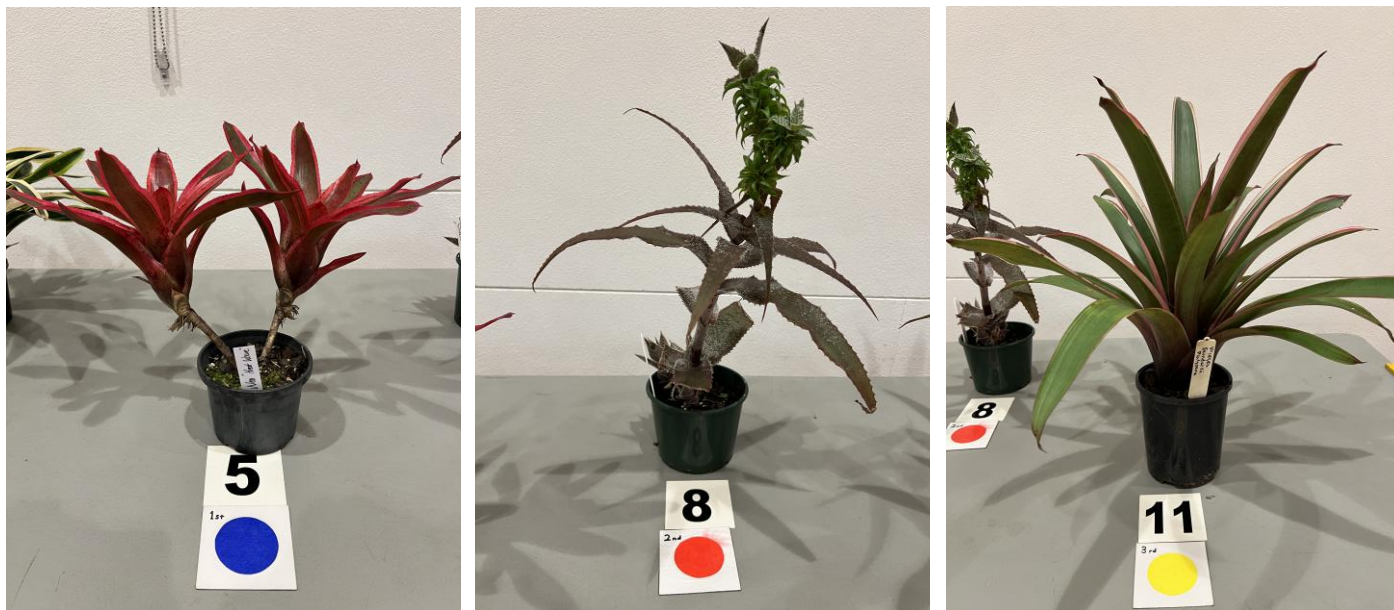
- 1<sup>st</sup> Bob Stephens .....*xSincoregelia Galactic Warrior*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edwina & Steve Wain.....*Aechmea contracta*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann Kennon .....*Billbergia John Catlan hybrid*

### Tillandsia:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Edwina & Steve Wain.....*Tillandsia fasciculata* ‘Dennis’
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edwina & Steve Wain.....*Tillandsia fasciculata* No. 14
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Julie Stringer .....*Tillandsia complanata*

Thanks to everyone who entered into the competition.

## Photos of Novice Competition plants – April 2026 meeting

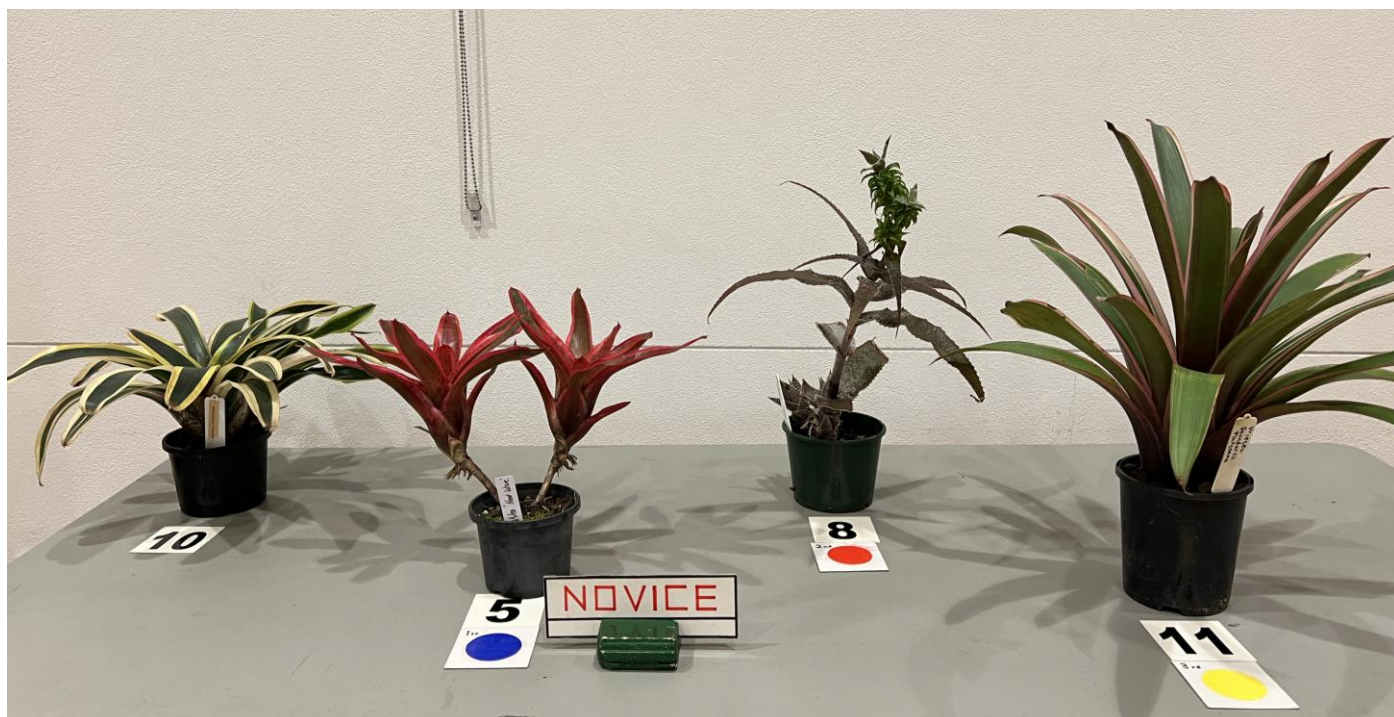


**Novice Section** above, left to right

Above right: First place – *Neoregelia Heat Wave*

Above left: Second place - *Orthophytum gurkenii* 'Warren Loose'

Above centre: Third place – *Vriesea saundersii* x *platynema*



Above: **Novice Section**, which had 4 entries

## Photos of Open Competition plants – April 2026 meeting



**Open Section** above, left to right

Above right: First place – *xSincoregelia* Galactic Warrior

Above left: Second place - *Aechmea contracta*

Above centre: Third place – *Billbergia* John Catlan hybrid



Above: **Open Section**, which had 9 entries

## Photos of Tillandsia Competition plants – April 2026 meeting



**Tillandsia Section** above, left to right:  
First place – *Tillandsia fasciculata* 'Dennis'  
Second place - *Tillandsia fasciculata* No. 14  
Third place - *Tillandsia complanata*



Above: **Tillandsia Section**, which had 4 entries

# ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY SALE DAY – 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

Our next society Sale Day is on **Saturday 16th May 2026**. We need volunteers as well as plant sellers, so if you can help, we would love to see you there!

You can also help by spreading the word to family, friends, social groups, or by posting our Sale Day flyer on a community noticeboard.

If attending, it would be great if you can wear your Illawarra Bromeliad shirt (if you have one). Another option is wearing a white polo shirt with your name badge.

The hall will be open from 7am for set up. It will be open to the public 9am - 3pm at our usual hall at Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way, Berkeley NSW 2506. If you can help with boxes for our customers, it would be greatly appreciated. If you'd like to sell at this sales day, contact Steve on 0416 008 295.

## Reminders for sellers:

- Bromeliads for sale should be of a quality that you would be happy to buy
- Please ensure bromeliads and pots are clean and empty water from cups of bromeliads
- Make sure you have a paddle pop stick for each bromeliad, clearly showing your initials and price of the plant.
- Potted bromeliads should be well rooted
- It's OK to sell unpotted cut pups
- Bring a bromeliad to donate to the raffle
- We have a shared selling table for those that can't fill a full sales table
- Once you've unloaded your bromeliads, please move your vehicle to the street so that we can keep the car park free for customers
- For those that haven't already, Graham Kohler requests your bank account details so he can deposit your sales money (less 20% society commission) straight into your bank account



## The Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc.

**Bromeliad Sale Day**  
**16th May 2026**

**Time: Saturday 9am – 3pm**

**Where: Berkeley Community Centre Hall,  
40 Winnima Way Berkeley, 2506  
(Entry and parking via back)**



**Free Entry**



**Huge variety of Bromeliads for Sale**



**Raffle Prizes to WIN!**