



Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc.

August 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 5th September 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

What's On: We don't have a speaker for this meeting, so bring in your Show & Tell and any Bromeliad questions or issues you would like to discuss

Monthly Raffle Prize & Cleaning Roster for this month:

Bob Stephens, Perry Avnell

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 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.

September 2026: Bob Stephens, Perry Avnell

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
5 Sep 2026	Illawarra Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting We don't have a speaker for this meeting, so bring in your Show & Tell and any Bromeliad questions or issues you would like to discuss
26 Sept 2026	Dapto Country Show Dapto Showground, 89 Princes Highway, Dapto NSW 10am – 4pm Illawarra Bromeliad Society will have a display stall at this show.
26 & 27 Sep 2026	Bromeliad Society of Australia Spring Show, Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill
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) • 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.

Right: Some of the beautiful plants for sale at our August meeting



1st AUGUST 2026 MEETING SUMMARY

We held our Annual General Meeting at the August meeting. The full list of positions and their respective position holders are on page 1 of this newsletter. Thank you to all the members who have volunteered to take on these important roles and contribute to the running of our society. Thanks to Ann Kennon, who stepped down this year from her roles as Minute Secretary and Refreshments Officer. We greatly appreciate the time, effort and support she has given in these roles, as well as in other positions she has held over the years.

We still have some vacant positions. If you are interested in filling any of the vacant positions, please contact Edwina via email on illawarrabroms@gmail.com or phone 0424 713 130.

Your committee for 2026-2027 is as follows:

President	Carol Burgdorf
Vice President	Perry Avnell
Vice President	Barbara Jones
Secretary	Edwina Wain
Treasurer	Graham Kohler
Minute Secretary	Clare Tuckerman
Program Officer	Bob Stephens
Committee	Nina Woodcock
Committee	Stephen Wain
Committee	Sharyn Baraldi
Committee	Monica De Clouett

Feedback, comments or suggestions about our society are always welcome and should be directed to the committee via the society email address illawarrabroms@gmail.com. The committee meets 6 times per year, generally every second month.

Our speaker this month was Stephen Wain, who gave an informative demonstration on separating Bromeliads and removing pups. It included both easy and more challenging pups to remove, as well as tips on potting them up successfully. A big thank you to Stephen for sharing his knowledge and experience with us.



Above: Stephen Wain during his demonstration

DAPTO COUNTRY SHOW

This year, the Dapto Country Show will be held on 26th September 2026 at Dapto Showground. As we did last year, the Illawarra Bromeliad Society will have a display stand at the show.

Last year, our stand attracted plenty of interest, and we were able to hand out many flyers promoting our society and upcoming Annual Show & Sale.

If you are interested in helping at the stand, please let us know via the society email. Even if you're unable to help, if you're at the show, please drop by and say hello.

Competition Plant Results – 1st August 2026

Novice:

- 1st Graham Kohler.....*Aechmea Bert*
- 1st Clare Tuckerman.....*Aechmea Flame*
- 2nd Graham Kohler.....*Deuterocohnia* 'Chlorantha'
- 3rd Graham Kohler.....*Aechmea Foster's Favorite*

Open:

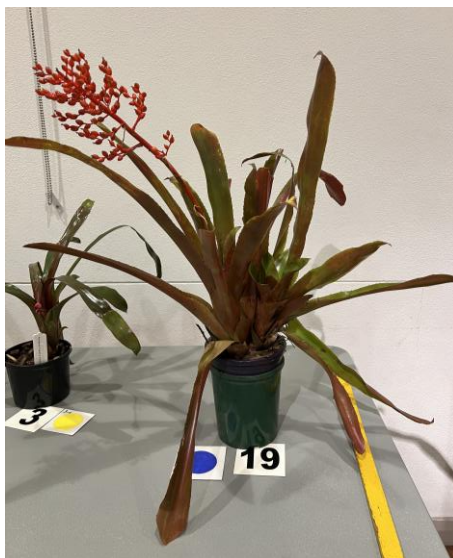
- 1st Ann Kennon*Billbergia Party Pink x nutans*
- 2nd Bob Stephens*Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'
- 3rd Bob Stephens*Billbergia* 'Foster's Striate'
- 3rd Nina Woodcock*Neoregelia lilliputiana x Roseberry Crush*

Tillandsia:

- 1st Ann Kennon*Tillandsia stricta*
- 2nd Edwina & Stephen Wain*Tillandsia toropiensis*
- 3rd Edwina & Stephen Wain*Tillandsia recurvifolia* (Large)
- 3rd Suzanne Burrows*Tillandsia juncea*

Thanks to everyone who entered the monthly competition.

Photos of Novice Competition plants – August 2026 meeting



Novice Section Left to right: Equal First place - *Aechmea Bert*; Equal First place - *Aechmea Flame*; Second place - *Deuterocohnia* 'Chlorantha'

Below: Left to right: Third place: *Aechmea Foster's Favorite* and **Novice Section**, which had 5 entries



Photos of Open Competition plants – August 2026 meeting



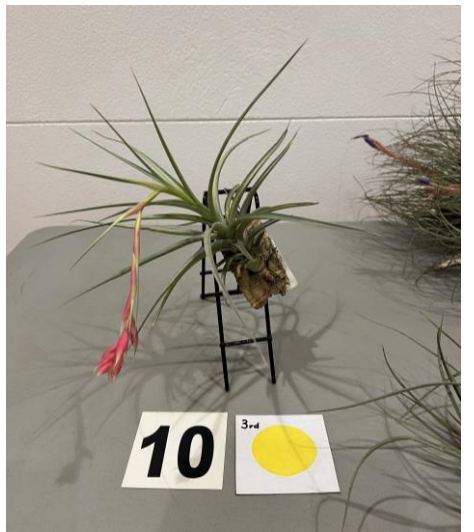
Open Section

Above left to right: First place – *Billbergia* Party Pink x nutans; Second place – *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'; Equal Third - *Billbergia* 'Foster's Striate'

Below left to right: Equal Third - *Neoregelia lilliputiana* x Roseberry Crush and **Open Section**, which had 7 entries



Photos of Tillandsia Competition plants – August 2026 meeting



Tillandsia Section

Above left to right: First place – *Tillandsia stricta*; Second place - *Tillandsia toropiensis*; Equal Third place - *Tillandsia recurvifolia* (Large)

Photos of Tillandsia Competition plants – August 2026 meeting continued



Above left to right: Equal Third place - *Tillandsia juncea* and **Tillandsia Section**, which had 6 entries

VOLUNTEERING AND SELLING BROMELIADS AT OUR SALES DAYS AND ANNUAL SHOW

Every year we have two Sales Days and our Annual Show & Sale. These events are very valuable for our society, both as an opportunity to promote our society to the public and as an important source of funds to support our society. Our next event is our Annual Show & Sale on 17 & 18 October 2026. Set up is on Friday 16 October 2026 from 12 noon.

Volunteering

We always need volunteers to help at these events, particularly at our Annual Show & Sale. There are many ways you can help, including setting up tables, helping with the display, setting up the competition tables, answering questions from the public and helping with security.

Even if you are unable to attend, you can help by spreading the word about our events to family, friends and social groups, or by putting a flyer on a community noticeboard. Flyers are available at our meetings.

You may also be able to help by providing boxes for our events. Customers use these boxes to safely carry their bromeliads home after making a purchase.

Selling Your Bromeliads

As a member of our society, you are welcome to sell your bromeliads at our Sales Days and Annual Show & Sale. You will receive your asking price less a **20% commission**, which is retained by the society. This commission helps cover society expenses, such as hall hire and other running costs.

If you have not already done so, Graham Kohler requires your bank account details so that your sales proceeds, less the 20% society commission, can be deposited directly into your bank account.

At the **Annual Show & Sale**, individual sales tables are not allocated to sellers. Sales plants need to be combined on the available sales tables, as a large portion of the hall is required for the competition display. At our **Sales Days**, sellers can request the number of tables they require.

Raffle and Display Plants

All sellers are asked to donate a bromeliad to the show raffle. The raffle is another important way we raise funds for the society.

For the **Annual Show & Sale**, we also need plants for the wonderful display that Sharyn puts together each year. Plants of all types are welcome, not just bromeliads.

Please label any plants you provide for the display with your name. An easy way to do this is to place a piece of masking tape around the base of the pot and write your name on the tape.

Preparing your Sales plants

To help ensure our sales plants are presented at their best:

- Bromeliads for sale should be of a quality that you would be happy to purchase yourself.
- Ensure bromeliads and pots are clean and presentable.
- Empty any excess water from the cups of bromeliads.
- Provide a paddle-pop stick for each plant, clearly marked with your initials and the price.
- Potted bromeliads should be well rooted.
- Unpotted cut pups are also fine to sell.

Entering the Competition

Preparing your bromeliads for competition at our Annual Show was covered in a presentation at our society meeting on 6th June 2026. This was followed by an email to all members on 10th July 2026 with the Show Schedule, Competition Entry Form and Bromeliad Judging cheat sheet. Copies of these documents are also available at our meetings. These documents will be emailed out to all members again in the lead up to the Annual Show & Sale.

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 on or before our October meeting on 3rd October 2026**. Take a moment to review the details below.

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 Christmas party in December and the member who took the winning photograph will be awarded the Trophy for that year.