ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INCORPORATED NEWSLINK

October 2023



Tillandsia Silverado

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- The Society is, by the holding of meetings, displays and competitions, to provide a forum for the people of the Illawarra region who are interested in the culture and collection of bromeliads.
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ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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BANK DETAILS FOR FEE PAYMENT, ETC: GREAT SOUTHERN BANK; BSB No. 814 282; Account No. 50997160

MEETINGS - The Society meets from 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm on the first Saturday of each month (February to November) at the Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre, Winnima Way, Berkeley

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS - Due 30th June each year: \$20 single/\$30 family + \$2 joining fee/rejoining fee.

NEWSLINK ISSUED QUARTERLY - January, April, July, and October and at http://www.bromeliad.org.au

NEWSLINK: After June 30, 2023 a copy of Newslink will be emailed to members; however, after that date should you like to receive a hard copy then there will be an additional cost of \$10/year.

NEW MEMBERS: A very warm welcome to our new members Steven, Ray, Amal, and Ines and Stephen. We wish you all a long and happy association with our Society.

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 04 1283 4985) so that appropriate rearrangements can be made.

October - Cheryl Mathews, Anne Mobbs, Sandra Southwell, Romina DiNoro

November - Suzanne Burrows, Ana Mallon, Edwina Wain

February 2024 - Graham Bevan, Jim Clague, Sharyn Baraldi, Monica De Clouett

CLEANING ROSTER: We have decided to reintroduce a cleaning roster so that the same people are not left to do a final tidy-up after each meeting. While our members are very good with helping to stack and store all of 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.

October - Suzanne Burrows, Romina Di Noro, Cheryl Mathews

November - Ana Mallon, Edwina Wain, Pam Townsend

December - Ann Kennon, Colleen Claydon, Darren Truscott

February - Graham Bevan, Sharyn Baraldi, Monica DeClouett

March - Deniece Crutchley, David Hastings, Glenn Martin

April - Freda Kennedy, Maadi McKenna, Christine Stephens

May - John Toolan, John Boyd, Faye Crozier

June - Michael Drury, Nina Woodcock, Heather Thain
July - Sandra Carnie, Jenny Starling, Isabella Chambers

August - Dawn Harvey, Steve Wain, Val Miller September - Belinda Drury, Brian Smith, Bob Stephens

WORKSHOP – SATURDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2023: All members are invited to attend this workshop at the home of Sharyn and Italo Baraldi, WARILLA (Phone: 4296 2166 with a 10.00 am start and we expect to finish around 2.00 pm. This will be a questions and answers workshop about bromeliads so bring lots of questions about bromeliads or anything related to the Society and bring your lunch and cake or slice to share. Sharyn will provide tea and coffee and we will be able to view Sharyn and Italo's beautiful garden. Please contact Bob Stephens on 0412834985 for details of full address if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023: This year's Christmas party will be held at our usual meeting venue in Berkeley and will be mostly a catered affair with chicken and salads from the same supplier as last year and various desserts. The cost to members will be \$15 and it would be appreciated if moneys for this could be paid to Glenn by our November meeting. As in past years please bring a gift to the value of around \$20 for sharing (men bring presents suitable for men and women bring presents suitable for women--and bromeliads always welcome). We will have access to the hall from 11.00 am and so help to set up from this time would be welcomed. We plan to eat at 12.30 pm.

GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024: At our first meeting for the year we have the opportunity to have as our guest speaker, Greg Aizlewood, from Queensland who will give a PowerPoint presentation on 'Bromeliads in Habitat'. You may remember that Greg gave a very interesting talk on the bromeliads of Mexico earlier this year and he will again be bringing some plants, plant stands and hangers, with illustrations and prices of his 'Wireworks' set out in our October 2022 *Newslink*.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these hangers/stands perhaps you could give Anne an idea of what you would like to order (by our Christmas get-together) so that we can give Greg some advance notice on what to bring down, although he will also be bringing a selection from which to choose.

August 5, 2023 - Competition Plant Results

Open:

1 st	Edwina and Steve Wain	Aechmea Pica	
2 nd	John Toolan	Vriesea psittacina	
3 rd	John Toolan	Neoregelia Heat Wave	

Novice:

1 st	David Hastings	Dyckia hybrid
2 nd	Nina Woodcock	Billbergia Crescent Moon
3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Mini Skirt

<u>Tillandsioideae</u>

Γ	1 st	Ann Kennon	Tillandsia punctulata
	2 nd	Ann Kennon	Tillandsia floribunda
	3 rd	Michael Drury	Tillandsia Cotton Candy

September 2, 2023 - Competition Plant Results

Open:

1 st	John Toolan	Aechmea recurvata
2 nd	Edwina and Steve Wain	Aechmea orlandiana
3 rd	Bob Stephens	Aechmea pineliana var. minuta

Novice

1 st	David Hastings	Neoregelia Dunmore (unregistered)
2 nd	David Hastings	Aechmea comata
3 rd	David Hastings	Aechmea Jezabel

<u>Tillandsioideae</u>

1 st	Suzanne Burrows	Tillandsia bulbosa
2 nd	Ann Kennon	Tillandsia recurvifolia
2 nd	Michael Drury	Tillandsia recurvifolia
2 nd	John Toolan	Tillandsia ?
2 nd	Edwina and Steve Wain	Tillandsia fasciculata
3 rd	Edwina and Steve Wain	Tillandsia recurvifolia

WEB LINKS FOR CHECKING CORRECT IDENTIFICATION AND SPELLING

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR): http://registry.bsi.org/

Refer to this site for correct identification and spelling of your hybrid or cultivar.

New Bromeliad Taxon List: https://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist/Refer to this site for latest species name changes and correct spelling.

Bromeliads in Australia (BinA) http://bromeliad.org.au
Refer to this site for its Photo Index, Club Newsletters, many with Table of Contents Index, and Detective Derek Articles.

SHOW RESULTS - 2023

CHAMPION BROMELIAD: OPEN

Edwina and Stephen Wain	Tillandsia paleacea	
CHAMPION BROMELIAD: NOVICE		
CHAMPION BROWLELIAD. NOVICE		
Nina Woodcock	Tillandsia Eric Knobloch	
BEST SPECIES		
Nina Woodcock	Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'	
DULCIE DOONAN MEMORIAL AWARD		
Elizabeth Bevan 'Foliage Basket'		
CATHERINE (RENA) WAINWRIGHT MEMORIAL AWARD		

CATEGORY I - DIVISION I: HORTICULTURAL - OPEN

Class A - Aechmea (6 entries)

Edwina and Stephen Wain

1 st	John Toolan	Aechmea Mary Brett
2 nd	Edwina and Stephen Wain	Aechmea Pica
3 rd	John Toolan	Aechmea Foster's Favorite

Tillandsia ionantha colony

Class B - Billbergia (7 entries)

1 st	Ann Kennon	Billbergia Our Rena
2 nd	John Toolan	Billbergia vittata ?
3 rd	Freda Kennedy	<i>Billbergia</i> hybrid

Class C - Neoregelia (15 entries)

1 st	Edwina and Stephen Wain	Neoregelia Lorena Lector
2 nd	Freda Kennedy	Neoregelia Heart Music
3 rd	Freda Kennedy	Neoregelia Jewellery Shop

Class D - Miniature Neoregelia (2 entries)

1 st	Ann Kennon	Neoregelia Little Faith
2 nd	John Toolan	Neoregelia carolinae hybrid

Class E - Tillandsioideae (24 entries)

1 st	Edwina and Stephen Wain	Tillandsia paleacea
2 nd	Edwina and Stephen Wain	Tillandsia ionantha
=3 rd	Edwina and Stephen Wain	Tillandsia sprengeliana
=3 rd	Michael Drury	Tillandsia bulbosa

Class F - Vriesea/Guzmania (3 entries)

1 st	Freda Kennedy	Vriesea platynema var. variegata
2 nd	Suzanne Burrows	Vriesea ospinae
3 rd	John Toolan	Vriesea psittacina

Class G - Other Genera (8 entries)

1 st	David Hastings	Dyckia hybrid (Silver)
2 nd	David Hastings	Dyckia hybrid (Red)
3 rd	Graham Bevan	Fosterella schidosperma

CATEGORY I – DIVISION II: HORTICULTURAL – NOVICE

Class H – Aechmea (1 entry)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Aechmea 'Pie in the Sky'
_	Milla WOOdcock	Accilined Fie in the Sky

Class I – Billbergia (3 entries)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Billbergia Talbot Sweet Cherry
2 nd	Nina Woodcock	Billbergia Darth Vader
3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Billbergia Apocalypse

Class J – Neoregelia (8 entries)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Shark Attack
2 nd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Blast
=3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Diamond Mine
=3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Lucifer

Class K - Miniature Neoregelia (5 entries)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Little Red Hen
2 nd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia My Word
3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Blueberry Yogurt

Class L - Tillandsioideae (2 entries)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Tillandsia Eric Knobloch	
2 ⁿ	Nina Woodcock	Tillandsia Purple Gem	

Class M - Vriesea/Guzmania (2 entries)

1 st	Amal Eid	Vriesea Angela
2 nd	Amal Eid	Vriesea Maroochy Smooch

Class N - Other Bromeliad (3 entries)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'
2 nd	Nina Woodcock	Canistrum
3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Dyckia Grand Marnier

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

Class O - Colony - Aechmea/Neoregelia/Vriesea (13 entries)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia guttata
2 nd	Edwina and Stephen Wain	Guzmania vittata
3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Quirky

Class P - Mounted Tillandsias (8 entries)

1 st	Edwina and Stephen Wain	Tillandsia fuchsii forma gracilis
2 nd	Graham Bevan	Tillandsia tectorum
3 rd	Warwick Varley	Tillandsia recurvifolia

Class Q - Mounted Bromeliad (3 entries)

1 st	Nina Woodcock	Canistrum Repton/Canistrum seidelianum
2 nd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia Witchcraft
3 rd	Nina Woodcock	Neoregelia

CATEGORY II - ARTISTIC

Class R - Basket or Decorative Container (3 entries)

1 st	Elizabeth Bevan	'Foliage Basket'
2 nd	Belinda Drury	Basket
3 rd	John Toolan	Decorative Container—'Need Bigger Boat'

Class S - Bromeliad Garden (4 entries)

1 st	Belinda Drury	'Earth-Bound Stars'
2 nd	Ann Kennon	Bromeliad Garden
3 rd	Graham Bevan	'Needs a Mow'

Class T - Artistic Arrangement (3 entries)

1 st	Freda Kennedy	Bowl with Floral Arrangement
2 nd	Elizabeth Bevan	'Bromeliad Delight'
3 rd	John Toolan	'Mullet Creek'

COMPETITION STATISTICS

2017 2018 2019	25 th Show 26 th Show 27 th Show	126 Entries 141 Entries 126 Entries	18 Competitors 17 Competitors 17 Competitors
2022	28 th Show	169 Entries	19 Competitors
2023	29 th Show	123 Entries	15 competitors



The World Bromeliad Conference will be held May 22-25, 2024 at the West Palm Beach Marriott in Florida (Special rates apply). WBC 2024 Registration Fees are \$US295 if paid by December 31, 2023 and \$US335 from January 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024.

TILLANDSIA FOR BEGINNERS

(Article and photos by Mike Wisnev, Editor, San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society – reprinted, with permission, from the SFVBS July 2020 newsletter.)

For a change of pace, this article is for new bromeliad collectors. If you don't have at least a handful of *Tillandsia* species you should. Do you also know, *Tillandsia* (often called air plants) is a genus of the bromeliad family.

The genus *Tillandsia* has some unique characteristics. For starters, it has more species than any other bromeliad genus. With almost 750 currently recognized species, it has about 20% of all species in the bromeliad family. While more are being discovered, some have been moved to new genera, so it isn't clear if the overall number will increase over time.

Second, unlike most other bromeliad genera, the leaf shape of different *Tillandsia* species can look wildly different from each other. I am not sure there is as much variation in another genus.

There are some great reasons to grow tillandsias. First, they are very easy to grow. Second, they don't need pots and weigh almost nothing, so no problems moving them around. Many of the common ones are very pretty and dirt cheap! Many have bluish flowers, something not seen for those of us in the cactus and succulent hobby. The inflorescences and flowers last for weeks. Finally, they don't have any spines!



Here are two different forms of *Tillandsia ionantha* that I got online a few years back. This is one of the most well-known *Tillandsia* species. Most tillandsias are green to grey-green to grey. The white spots on the leaves are trichomes—all bromeliads have them. This species, like many, can take a lot of sun, and needs very little water. But you do need to water it—you can just mist it or, if you have a lot, run a hose over them.

Unless you have them outside in a very humid area (maybe Florida) you will kill them if you don't water them. So you might wonder what they do over time. Well, they flower annually, though may not do so if you keep them inside or they don't get enough sun. Not only do they have rather interesting flowers, but the leaves change colour when the plant flowers.



Here are three different forms of *Tillandsia ionantha* wired to a tree. As you can barely see, the one at the very top that is mostly on the other side remains green. But the other two are flowering. Most forms have leaves that turn bright red when the plant blooms. The top one is aptly named *T. ionantha* 'Peach'.

Both have the same flowers that are quite common for many species—they have tubular royal blue petals. You can also see the yellow pollen, and the long white stigma (the female part of the flower). Plants in the wild will often grow on trees and root into them. The roots usually are meant to anchor the plant and don't generally take up water. Instead the leaves absorb water. For reasons I don't really understand, most of mine won't root into the tree although some of them do.

While it is easy to see all plants shown so far are the same species you can also see they do vary to some degree.



Tillandsia aeranthos is also very common. It is a larger plant that has longer and wilder-looking leaves. It grows quite rapidly and forms a large clump. This particular clump has 5 different plants that are flowering. The entire long stalk with flowers at the end is called an inflorescence—there are five of them. The flowers consist of the blue petals and surrounding sepals and pink flower bracts. As you can see, the inflorescence and flower are very different from that of *T. ionantha*.

While the two species shown above are small, some have leaves over a foot long. Here is a clump of *Tillandsia fasciculata*. This one can take a lot of sun and it gets full western exposure. It is looking a bit ragged after the winter. It is actually potted, one of the relatively few species that can be. The pot is jammed into some branches, so it is fairly secure. Below is the inflorescence. As you can see, the flower itself is very similar to that of *Tillandsia ionantha*, but the paddle-like inflorescence is completely different.





Tillandsia fasciculata has a huge distribution, and as a result is quite variable. In addition, there are many very similar species that are hard to tell apart. Some species have leaves that are more green than grey. These usually need a little more shade than the grey ones.





Tillandsia bulbosa: This is named after its bulbose base, which is hollow. In habitat, ants live in the base! While its leaves look very different, the flower (but not the inflorescence) is similar to *T. ionantha* and *T. fasciculata*.



Here is *Tillandsia stricta* (or perhaps a hybrid of it). With its large pinkish flower bracts and blue flowers it is a stunner. As I mentioned, it is easy to grow them. You can hang them from anything or place them on trees. If it isn't too windy, you can just lay them on your other plants, but a windy Santa Ana might move some around. As a general rule I water once a week by running a hose over them when I water my other plants--less in winter (none in a rainy one) and more frequently if it gets to the mid-90s. Some

folks in the San Fernando Valley water daily during particularly hot spells, but remember it just takes a few minutes. Some who sell off their collections often keep tillandsias since they are so easy to water.



Tillandsia harrisii is one of my favourites, with its very white and fairly soft leaves. The genus has a huge range from much of South America, through Central America and Mexico and into the southeast U.S. Some grow on beaches, others in deserts, others in high altitudes. So it is very hard to generalize how much heat and cold they can take. But a few cautionary notes are useful. In my experience, most don't like blazing afternoon sun—better to give them shade, or morning sun. As seen above, trees are great places to put them since it shades them from too much sun. I also suspect that most don't like a freeze, so it is probably best to bring them inside if you have a cold winter, or on potentially freezing nights here in the Valley.



Tillandsia brachycaulos is another easy-to-find species. It is very green, and doesn't like as much sun as some of those shown earlier. However, it is lovely when it blooms, as shown here. You can see it now has three heads but the ones not blooming are still green.





Tillandsia straminea. I have intentionally shown only species with blue flowers. But tillandsia flowers come in all colours, though orange is not very common. *Tillandsia straminea* is another easy to grow species with a very different inflorescence and flower. As an added bonus, the flowers are fragrant!

You can often find tillandsias at swap meets and many times they are growing in sea shells. They are very cute! As a general rule, however, most of them like air circulation and don't like to stay continuously wet. Watering them in a shell keeps the base wet and is a great way to kill your plant! Similarly, over time, most won't do great indoors for a long period and may be less likely to flower. However, bringing them in for a cold winter shouldn't be a problem, nor for periods where they are blooming.



Tillandsia juncifolia (left) and *T. usneoides* (right) at a local show. You can easily buy a single head of *T. juncifolia* and it will grow over time. But I had never seen anything like this award winner at a local show. For that matter, mine don't even turn red. Congratulations to the unknown owner. The silvery one on the right is often called Spanish moss, but it is a tillandsia, not a moss. It grows wild in the southeastern U.S. and forms huge clumps hanging from trees. *Tillandsia usneoides* will not harm the tree. It is very different than tree moss or bear lichen (which is the genus *Usnea* after which *Tillandsia usneoides* was named).

Lastly be forewarned they can be addictive. If you already grow plants, you probably already know this. But it is a great addiction to have and very rewarding.

TRUE FULL-SUN BROMELIADS

By Moyna Prince (Reprinted from fcbs.org)

This article appeared in the September 2002 edition of *The BromeliAdvisory*, the newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

The weather we've had this year has tried our plants in the extreme. While the winter was mild, drought conditions combined with sunny days stressed them. Then came the monsoon rains and the temperature climbed. These conditions tested the survival abilities of our toughest bromeliads and it's been interesting to assess those that flourished versus those that needed more protection.

In our garden, there is one bromeliad that is a clear winner in the full-sun category: *Hohenbergia castellanosii*. You cannot give this bromeliad too much sun. It's a big, tough plant with upright form, and wide green leaves that turn fiery red from the tips down as it gets more sun.

I went to several of our members for suggestions, and listed below are their recommendations. The experts pointed out that most plants that have gone through this year's weather extremes without sunburn had the advantage of being planted in cooler months, thus giving them time to become acclimated. You can't take a plant from a shady spot and place it in direct sun in July [November/December here in Australia] without getting some burn or bleaching. Sudden changes, length of sunny periods and humidity can also cause problems, even for well-established plants.

Here are some of the experts' suggestions for full-sun bromeliads:

Large	Medium	Small
Aechmea blanchetiana	Aechmea pectinata	Aechmea recurvata var. ortgiesii
Aechmea eurycorymbus	Aechmea ornata	Neoregelia olens
Aechmea mexicana	Ananas bracteatus	Neoregelia 'Fireball'
Aechmea bracteata (all forms)	Ananas comosus	Orthophytum gurkenii
Aechmea mulfordii	Neoregelia cruenta	Orthophytum navioides
Aechmea rubens	Neoregelia johannis	Orthophytum burle-marxii
Aechmea Little Harv	Neoregelia compacta	
Aechmea chantinii (black form)	Neoregelia macwilliamsii	
Aechmea 'Samurai'	Neoregelia marmorata	
Alcantarea imperialis	Quesnelia testudo	
Alcantarea regina	Quesnelia arvensis	
Androplepis skinneri	Wittrockia superba	
Hohenbergia castellanosii		
Portea petropolitanta (both var.		
petropolitana and var. extensa,		
the more common one.		

Most *Dyckias* and *Hechtias* (they'll require more frequent watering). The genus *Pitcairnia* is usually very sun-tolerant.

The plants in the above list are the most readily available. More uncommon species, also recommended, are:

Aechmea callichroma	Aechmea distichantha	Neoregelia tigrina
Aechmea mariae-reginae	var. schlumbergeri	Neoregelia bahiana
Aechmea beeriana	Aechmea lingulata	xNeotanthus Cardboard
Aechmea bromeliifolia	Aechmea phanerophlebia	Portea leptantha
Aechmea aquilega	Hohenbergia stellata	Orthophytum magalhaesii
Aechmea castelnavii	Neoregelia sarmentosa	Orthophytum rubrum

Steve Correale, who grows and sells tillandsias, suggests the following for the full-sun treatment: *Tillandsia fasciculata, capitata, chiapensis, streptophylla, xerographica, concolor, tricholepis, bulbosa, caput-medusae, ionantha* (all forms), *stricta, vernicosa, disticha, didisticha*. And don't forget *Tillandsia usneoides*! As with other genera, if your tillandsias have been growing in the shade, move them to direct sun in the fall or winter.

To sum up: If you can provide your plants with a little shade, even from a nearby palm or your patio screen, they'll thank you. If they're going to be in full sun from sunrise to sunset, get them established in the winter. Otherwise, be prepared for at least a little bleaching.