



MEETING REPORT for AUGUST 2026.



Our August meeting saw 79 people attend with 5 apologies and 2 visitors. We had two new members join which brings our total to 120 people – not far below our 126 for 2025. The Sales Table was down a bit to \$9.40 – perhaps because those attending spent a year record (by \$34) of \$333.00 on our main raffle (*prizes as below*). Thanks to all for supporting the club so generously. The Cuttings Table took \$84.90 which is their third highest total of the year. Thanks again to those who bring in cuttings for this fund raiser.



As usual Pam Wood and her team provided a good afternoon tea of cheese, tomatoes, crackers and cakes. We spend an average of \$55 a month on food, cups, tea, coffee and sugar which is not a lot considering it serves around 80 people every month.



The benching (*below left*) included a few things that really attracted attention. Including an excellent vase of flowers (*right*) from Maxine – which includes the white lace like flower heads of the ***Orlaya grandiflora*** – no surprise it's called the White Lace Flower.



Also attracting attention was the ***Hippeastrum*** (*above left*) which was our first of these for 2026 – with many more to come over the next two months. Pictured below it is a brightly coloured ***Bromeliad*** family member white below that is a ***Camellia Japonica*** 'Volunteer'. Another less than common entry was the ***Anthurium scherzerianum*** or pig's tail anthurium. This type grows smaller than many other types of anthuriums but of course is prized for that curly flower.

As for club business the majority of time was spent on arrangements for our **ORCHIDS+ BUS TRIP** on Thursday, October 8th leaving the Carrara Community Centre at 8.00 a.m. and then the Burleigh Town Tavern at 8.30 a.m. with an expected return time of around 4 p.m.



The trip includes a free morning tea and a first stop at the home of Laurie Baxter and Val Marsden who are orchid specialists. From there we go to the Enchanted Garden Nursery at Ocean Shores, then to two of our favourites – Aura Nursery in Murwillumbah (below right) (which is also the lunch break) and then the ever-reliable Kingscliff Nursery at Cudgen.



After having to cancel our last trip due to lack of numbers it was gratifying that by the end of the meeting **THE BUS** (with 57 seats) **IS FULL**. Anyone else wanting to go please e-mail your contact details to info@robginagardenclub.org.au at any time before 8/10/26 to go onto the waiting list. Every trip we get an average 4-5 cancellations so you can pay when that occurs. (P.S. the final date to cancel is October 1st when we book the bus. After that time no refunds are given).

GUEST SPEAKER – LYN GAMPS



Our Guest Speaker for the month was **LYN GAMPS** who has been growing and collecting **AFRICAN VIOLETS** for decades. Lyn surprised more than a few of us by saying that these plants can live for a very long time indeed – decades long in fact! Real news for those of us who seem to kill them within months if not weeks or even days of getting one! The key as Lyn explained is to provide them with what they need. For example, she noted that if you are feeling hot one day then your African Violet will be as well. And in winter if you are feeling cold then so too will it. So, in winter, provide some heat but do as you would do – do not direct artificial heat direct onto the plant. It burns the leaves. Ambient warmth is key. In summer the same rule applies – do not direct fan wind direct onto the plant or it can be damaged. Similarly, do not put them directly behind a window that gets direct sun – the heat of the glass burns them. They like a stable temperature and some humidity – thus they are good indoors in indirect light and a stable atmosphere. They like a shallow pot that should not be too big – **DO NOT OVERPOT**. There are 24,000 registered varieties now with new types (such as at left) appearing literally every day!

