



A boiling hot day and end of year exhaustion, combined with a couple of severe storms over recent days, might best explain that our numbers were down a bit for our November meeting. 73 members attended with 7 visitors and 9 apologies. As a result, there were just 37 entries in our Benching – a boon for regular exhibitors but among the lowest for the year. Having said that there were a couple of very good entries indeed.



Included were the lovely caladium (at right) from Wendy Clear. Worth reminding new members that we are a 'garden club' not a 'horticultural society' so presenting exhibits in decorative pots such as Wendy's is "all good" at our club. We like to see displays at their best.



Another great exhibit was Laurie Baxter's **Cattleya purpurata** va. **Carnea**. (above left). This highly regarded species is known for its large flowers that are basically white but with pink colouration to the throat. It is a fragrant species known for being 'showy' and you could hardly get much showier than this specimen.



Our regular raffle took \$275 – the exact amount needed to cover our budgeted monthly 'Members Rewards'. Alison Risse (at right) was one of the lucky winners. With a budget of just \$100 for 10 items it is getting increasingly difficult to buy any decent prize for that amount but some lucky nursery visits got the prize pool to a total of 12 (including one of the \$10 Bunnings vouchers they donate to us).



On a personal note, I would like to thank President Denise and submissions author Secretary Val Hoy for their efforts in securing me one of the Queensland Council of Garden Club's Certificates given bi-ennially to Garden Club members who have contributed to the operation of their clubs. Equal thanks to all those members who made the effort to express kind words on our Facebook page. They were humbling. Other announcements included that we are still investigating a possible joint Bus Trip with the Blue Pacific Garden Club in April next year to the Q.C.G.C.'S Plant and Floral Fair at Mt. Coot-tha.



As it is near the end of the year it is worth thanking again **PAM WOOD**, our Kitchen Co-Ordinator. She and her team have a limited budget of around \$50 but each month still provide enough 'nibbles' to get us through the meeting. On her behalf, thanks also to those who bring their 'keep cups' thus reducing our costs.



This meeting was also the last chance to book a place at our Christmas Party on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – being held in effect instead of what would have been our Home Visit day. With 119 financial members as of 1/11/25 it was very gratifying that 90 members have booked to attend the Christmas Party – with another 7 spouses and friends to give a total of 97. As a reminder, the party begins at 12 p.m. on the day at our usual meeting venue of the Carrara Community Centre. We will be having tables of eight and at the meeting people were advised to organise their own group with the first arrival claiming any one table.

Also, at the meeting members were reminded that our fees for 2026 have not yet been published. An e-mail will be sent out in early January detailing what the 2026 fees will be with payment beginning then. As usual there will be a different JOINING FEE for new members that will include the ADMINISTRATION FEE that continuing members will pay.



## GUEST SPEAKER - NEUTROG



Our guest speaker for the day was **BRIAN LEPSIG** of NEUTROG. Neutrog was founded in 1988 by then twenty-four-year-old ANGUS IRWIN and his partner BRIAN SMITH. They produced pelletised organic fertilisers from poultry 'manures' that were designed for farm use. In 1991 they started selling to the general public and in 1998 they partnered with the Flemington Race Course to look after their famous rose gardens. In 2001 they launched their '**Sudden Impact for Roses**' which remains perhaps their most famous and enduring product. GOGO Juice followed in 2009 and in 2017 WHOFLUNG DUNG hit the market. This biologically activated 'supermulch' was a by-product of Neutrog's manufacturing process.

Made from a combination of chicken manure, straw and wood-shavings, composted and inoculated this amusingly but accurately named product has built a cult following. It is just one of the advances made by the company since 2017 when their R and D Department began. Since then, they have DNA tested some 4000 different soil pathogens to develop and enhance their products to help improve soil quality and to combat the negative effects of such pathogens.



As can be seen below left Brian came equipped with 'sample goodies' – with enough for one product for all who were at the meeting with just a few left over for our raffles. Given the realities of retail in the 2020's no one expects such a generous handout so our **THANKS** to Neutrog for their being so generous.

