



ROBINA GARDEN CLUB INC.

BENCHING RULES FOR 2026



Each meeting the Club holds a BENCHING COMPETITION. This involves members bringing along examples of things from their garden in 10 categories.

1. The Benching Competition is only open to financial members of the club.
2. Up to **a maximum of 2 entries** per member **per section** is permitted.
3. Entries are to be benched before 12.30 p.m. **Late entries will be rejected.**
4. Entrants are responsible for putting their name on a piece of paper (upside down) under each entry. If you can, name the entry also.
5. Place your entry in the correct section but its final placement is decided by the Stewards so that all exhibits are fairly displayed.
- Under no circumstances should an exhibitor shift other entries.**
6. Collect a ticket from the stewards to enter the **EXHIBITOR'S RAFFLE**. Prize = \$10.
7. There are ten sections available for entries –

SECTION 1	-	Monthly Feature
SECTION 2	-	Orchid
SECTION 3	-	Foliage Plant/s
SECTION 4	-	Flowering Plant/s
SECTION 5	-	A Single Bloom
SECTION 6	-	Produce
SECTION 7	-	Multiple Blooms (Cut)
SECTION 8	-	A Vase of Flowers
SECTION 9	-	Small Pot Plant/s
SECTION 10	-	Creative Display
8. The 'rules' governing entries into each section are attached. The Stewards use these to decide if an entry is a valid entry or has to be removed/shifted.
9. Members and visitors judge the entries with one vote per section.
10. There is a \$5 prize for each of the ten winners plus a Stewards Prize. (If there is a tie after members have voted the Chief Steward selects one as the winner).
11. Members **must have owned any potted plants for at least 3 months** – i.e. we are not judging the ability of Bunnings to grow plants!
12. In the case of 'pots' a **winning entry cannot be re-submitted for at least 3 months**. This is designed to ensure no one pot plant dominates month after month and gives others a chance to win.
13. This does not apply to 'cuts' – for example a second rose from the same tree counts as a different entry and thus can be submitted next month.
14. Points (3 for 1st, 2 for 2nd) are recorded monthly then totalled towards the Annual Trophy awarded at our Christmas Party. (Champion = \$50, 2nd = \$30 and 2 x \$10 Encouragement Awards.)
15. The Stewards keep a record of how many entries each person submits during the year – this number helps decide who deserves an Encouragement Award.



The Benching Officials only are responsible for the final positioning of all entries for judging. In the event of a dispute the President has the final decision.

"Show and Tell" is a non-competitive section and is for discussion and interest only. Members and visitors may bring unusual plants, displays that don't fit one of the categories or problem plants to stimulate discussion or to enhance members' general knowledge of gardening/plants.

ROBINA G.C. BENCHING - ENTRY CRITERIA – 2026 COMPETITION

<u>SECTION 1</u> Monthly Feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A different type of exhibit each month and revised each year, designed to encourage diversity in our gardens. • Items named for the monthly feature cannot be entered into or used in any other sections for that month (except in the Creative Display). • See Monthly Features page that follows for the full details.
<u>SECTION 2</u> Orchids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchid/s of any type - e.g. swamp, ground, epiphytic, native, etc. • It can be one or more plants in/on a growing medium e.g. in a pot, on a piece of wood, etc. or a vase of orchids. • Exhibit must have been owned for more than 3 months by the exhibitor. • Orchid plants/vases of orchids cannot be exhibited in any other section.
<u>SECTION 3</u> A Foliage Plant/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more plants in/on a growing medium. Can be in or on a 'container' of any type e.g. a pot, on a piece of wood, etc. • The pot is to be 20cm or above as measured by the growing surface. • The plants must not be in flower or in bud/berries so are being displayed for the (unaltered e.g. not polished) quality of their foliage. • Exhibit must have been owned for more than 3 months by the exhibitor and not won this section in the last three months.
<u>SECTION 4</u> A Flowering Plant/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more plants in/on a growing medium. Can be in or on a 'container' of any type e.g. a pot, on a piece of wood, etc. • The plant/s must be in flower or with berries. If a plant is 'in bud' it should also be displayed in this section. • The pot is to be 20cm or above as measured by the growing surface. • Exhibit must have been owned for more than 3 months by the exhibitor and not won this section in the last three months.
<u>SECTION 5</u> A Single Bloom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'single bloom' from your garden taken from any one plant that you have owned and have been growing for at least three months. • 'Single bloom' refers to flower heads that are visually a single flower e.g. a Rose, a Hibiscus, a Grevillea, a Daisy, an Anthurium, etc. • Blooms should have a single stem with or without leaves attached.
<u>SECTION 6</u> Produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collection of produce e.g. Lettuce, Tomatoes, Herbs, etc. grown in your garden. They can be displayed in any way you think best. • Anything grown and available for culinary, medical, cleaning or other household/domestic use. Can be one type or a collection of things. • The produce must be from plants that have been growing in your garden for at least three months.
<u>SECTION 7</u> Multiple Bloom/s (Cut)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'cut' from your garden taken from any one plant that you have owned and have been growing for at least three months. • 'Multiple Bloom/s' can be two or more single blooms on a branch or a single flower head that is a cluster of smaller blooms. • This includes such things as a Hippeastrum, a Crepe Myrtle, Agapanthus, flower spikes such as Asters, rambler type Roses, etc.
<u>SECTION 8</u> A Vase of Flowers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Vase of Flowers all of which have been grown in your garden. Position them to their best advantage e.g. tallest in the middle etc. • Can be any type of vase – presented as you would present them at home. You can put the vase on a base of some type. • Can be any mix of flowers you have e.g. one type, different colours, different types, etc. (Can include 1 Orchid cut only).
<u>SECTION 9</u> A Small Pot Plant/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'small pot plant/s' 18cm or less in diameter as measured by the growing surface and less than 11cm high. • Can be plant/s of any kind (except Orchids) and in flower or not. The plant can have attached suckers, offsets and the like. • Entries in this section must have been owned by and been grown by you for at least three months.
<u>SECTION 10</u> Creative Display	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed to demonstrate the entrants 'creativity/imagination'. • Could be for example a Floral Arrangement, A Dried Arrangement, an 'Art Installation' or any display that uses 'the garden' as inspiration. • The Chief Steward has the right to reject an entry the Stewards feel does not meet these criteria of being 'garden inspired'.



BENCHING COMPETITION 2026

MONTHLY FEATURES.

JANUARY	Fern/s <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A fern/s of any type in any type of container e.g. in a pot, on a piece of wood, in an old shoe, etc.• Must be from your own garden and have been owned by you for at least three months.• Bring your own stand/stool if it is a hanging pot and needs to be put up.
FEBRUARY	Coleus <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A collection of coleus cuttings displayed as you wish in a vase or container of any type. Can be a 'pot' of Coleus plants.• Can be one type only or a collection of different types of Coleus.• Must be from plants you have been growing for at least three months.
MARCH	Bromeliad <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Bromeliads must be entered in this section this month.• Includes Bromeliad species of all types e.g. Tillandsias, Guzmanias, etc.• Must be one single type of plant (however can include pups) which can be in a growing medium of any type or on a log etc.• Leaves cannot be manipulated e.g. polished, waxed, etc.
APRIL	Hibiscus and/or Roses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single Rose or Hibiscus or a collection of Hibiscus and/or Roses from your own garden. They can be presented with or without leaves.• Must be from plants you have been growing for at least three months.• Can be displayed in any type of container/vase.
MAY	A Garden in a Pot <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two or more different plants arranged or growing in any sized single container and arranged to represent a 'garden scene'.• No artificial plants allowed but can include 'paths'/'fences' etc.• Must be a 'garden' that you planted up at least three months ago.

JUNE IS OUR AGM/LUNCH. NO COMPETITION IN JUNE.

JULY	Anthurium <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single Anthurium plant growing in any type of container/pot. Can include 'pups' still attached to the parent plant.• Could also be a vase full of different anthurium flowers.• Must have been owned by you for at least three months.
AUGUST	Begonia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Begonia of any type growing in/on any type of container or pot. Plant and its 'offshoots' can be as large as you like provided it is one type.• With or without a flower.• Must have been owned by you for at least three months.
SEPTEMBER	Hippeastrum/s <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be one or more hippeastrums in a pot, a vase full of cut hippeastrum flowers or a single hippeastrum bloom in a vase.• Can be any variety or type of hippeastrum.• Must be from plants you have owned for at least three months.
OCTOBER	Foliage Display <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A collection of different types of foliage from your own garden.• Can be presented in any way you wish – in a vase, on a tray, etc. etc.• The leaves can be manipulated to enhance their presentation e.g. stapled into shape, trimmed, polished with milk, etc. etc.
NOVEMBER	Desert Rose <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A desert rose in a pot or a cutting from one of your yard plants.• Can be judged on the flowers or on the 'caudex' – that water holding 'bulge' at the bottom of the plant.• Can be any size pot or cutting.• Leaves cannot be manipulated e.g. polished, waxed, etc.