

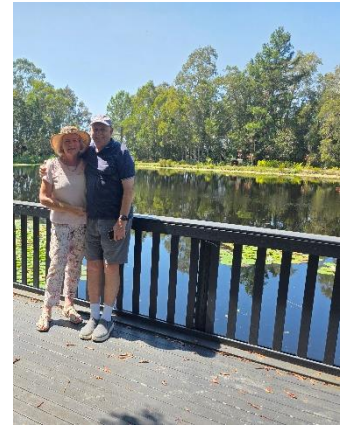


The weather was almost perfect for our bus trip to the Redlands Bay area on Thursday, October 2nd – '**almost** perfect' as it did get a bit hot as the day went on. A full complement of 57 members and friends had booked for the trip with 54 on the bus. We had had 10 cancellations but thanks to an enthusiastic group on the waiting list we thus ended up with just the three spare seats on the bus. No one will be surprised to hear that we again filled up the storage bays on the bus. Thanks to guidance by our excellent driver **TREVOR** (at right) from CURRUMBIN VALLEY BUS AND COACH LINES none of those buys went missing and everyone got their purchases easily at day's end.



First stop was the **LAGOON VIEW NURSERY** at Redland Bay.

Located close to the bay itself and sitting beside two lovely lagoons it was here that our Kitchen Co-Ordinator **PAM WOOD** (second left) was able to prove a pleasant morning tea in the shade of trees overlooking one of the lagoons. Like many others, Neil and Vicki Taylor (at right) admired the tranquillity of the larger lagoon.



This nursery has a wide range of plants and, under the shade of an avenue of very tall pine trees, a good display of shade loving plants. Apart from the nursery and the seating areas overlooking the lagoon this site includes an expansive tropical garden. The very friendly **KARA**, whose family own the nursery, handled questions and assisted our group. Roadworks leading up to the nursery forced quite an extensive detour but that actually proved an advantage as we got to see more of the local area – a mix of acreage estates, small farms, horse studs and the spreading invasion of the area by new housing estates.



From there it was a short drive to THORNLANDS and to a double stop. First was **FAME ORCHIDS** who are one of the best-known specialist orchid nurseries around Brisbane. While Lesley and Graham Wilkinson (above left) and Catherine Goodacre and Wendy Clear (above right) were happy to admire the orchids on offer it was specialist orchid growers and collectors like Alex Blewman (at left) who really enjoyed themselves at this stop – and helped strain budgetary constraints! The nursery does sell a lot of other plants but for orchids it is a nursery to add to any 'must see'.



Just a tennis court away is **TIMBARA GARDEN CENTRE** which also has a very wide range of plants including shade lovers and cacti and succulents. Their collection of spring and summer flowering annuals and perennials was the best of the day – with (among others) Mandy Hicks and Anne Andrew (below right) looking for something special. This garden centre also sells a wide range of fountains, including (as left) those that can be built into your garden to appear as if they are a natural water course.



From there another short drive took us to the **VICTORIA POINT SHOPPING CENTRE** where we split up to find what best suited our needs. One of the sushi shops there proved to be especially popular.



After lunch it was back to Alexandra Hills and the **HOYA GARDEN PLAZA**. Though it does have some excellent examples of Hoyas the two types of plants that really shone this day were their collection of cactii/succulents and a huge variety of roses. Val and John Hoy (right) focused on the former. This nursery has a very wide variety of specialist cacti – some so rare and valuable they need to be locked up in a cage in case 'they wander off'! Ann Inns (left) one of five Blue Pacific Garden Club members who joined us on the day, was just one very happy to find that special rose for their garden at reasonable prices. This nursery has a café that serves meals for those wanting to visit.



By this time on a hot day Carmen Davis with Melody and Peter McIntyre (above) had one of the better ideas – a sit down! However, we had one final stop on our way home at **MY GARDEN OASIS** (formerly Neilsen's) at Logan-Holme. Re-branded as a 'native nursery' this stop gave us a chance to 'check out' the nursery under its new management. Maureen Clarence (right) and Di Lloyd and Kathy Watt (at left) seemed to be happy enough with what they were seeing.



The usual horrific M1 traffic tried to put a damper on the day but our driver Trevor weaved in and out of some 'back roads' to add interest to the journey home till we confronted unpacking our purchases! Thanks again to our driver (Trevor) and, for their co-operation and assistance, **to all who attended.**

