



- **Our Club averages 130-140 members and welcomes new members interested in gardening.**
- Relatives, friends and potential members **are welcome to attend one of our meetings free of charge.** For potential members, that time is to assess whether the Club suits your needs.



MEETINGS

- Once per month (except December).
- Meetings are the last Thursday of the month.
- From 12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. at the Carrara Community Centre, Nielsens Road, Carrara.
- We issue a **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** listing meeting dates and major events for the whole year.

FEES AND CHARGES

- **JOINING FEE**
- New members pay a one-off joining fee of **\$30**.
- This exempts them from the Annual Fee for that calendar year.
- **ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION FEE**
- Our annual fee is currently **\$25** per person paid in January/February.



INFO SPOTS

A major aim of the Club is to **exchange information** e.g. by –



- Members explaining how/where they grow the plants entered on the Competition Table during our Benching results.
- Gardening specific items in the monthly Newsletter.
- **'Q and A' sheets** on the benching table. These allow members to ask specific questions they want answered – we then try to find some-one who has the answer.
- A **Top 5 Hints of the Month** presented just before afternoon tea at each meeting.

RAFFLE

- Each meeting we have a raffle with multiple prizes. Tickets are \$2 or 3 for \$5.
- The raffle is a major fundraiser for the club and helps pay for three \$10 monthly prizes and our free afternoon tea.



SOCIAL EVENTS

The Club has 2 major social events each year to promote friendship and club spirit, namely our **AGM LUNCH** in June and a **CHRISTMAS PARTY** in December - both subsidised for members using funds raised during the year.

AGM

- Our AGM is held at the June Meeting with all **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** positions up for re-election.
- The Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and others as needed.
- Nominations for various **VOLUNTEER POSITIONS** (e.g. Welfare Co-Ordinator, Kitchen Co-Ordinator, Raffle Prize Buyer, etc. etc. are taken leading up to the AGM.)
- After the AGM we have our **AGM LUNCH**.
- This lunch is subsidised using club funds.

MEETING PRIZE DRAWS

- Three \$10 Prizes are awarded per meeting.
- \$10 for a **Lucky Door Prize** – your sign in number determines who wins.
- \$10 for a **Cuttings Table Raffle** where each person who brings cuttings get a free ticket.
- \$10 for a **Benching Raffle** where each person who brings an entry gets a free ticket.

FACEBOOK

- We have our own Facebook group that shares photos and the like as another way of keeping in touch and sharing ideas.
- Membership is open only to Robina Garden Club Members.
- Once a member just approach the Secretary who will go through the process of joining the group.



This handout is being printed by the office of the Honourable KAREN ANDREWS M.P. Federal Member for McPherson. Contact Karen at – karen.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au

With our Thanks.

BUS TRIPS



- We average 2 bus trips per year.
- Costs can range from \$30-\$65 depending on whether lunch is included and on the cost of entry to venues visited on the day.
- Destinations vary – some are of general interest while others are directly gardening related e.g. gardens, plant shows, nurseries and the like.
- Buses usually leave at 7.30 a.m. – 8.30 a.m. from the Carrara Community Centre.
- We get back home to the Community Centre roughly around 4.00 to 6.00 pm.

CUTTINGS TABLE

- Each meeting members donate to our Cuttings Table.
- Donations include plant cuttings, potted plants and garden books – all for sale to other members.
- Prices are kept as low as possible.
- This is another excellent way of finding out what grows well here.
- Always feel free to track down the donor to discuss the growth habits of each plant.
- Donors to the trading table get a free ticket in a '**donor's raffle**' draw with a \$10 monthly prize.



SALES TABLE

- Our SALES TABLE is where members can sell plants they've potted up plus no longer needed garden items.
- The seller determines the price with the club keeping 10%.
- The Co-Ordinator there has a 'flyer' that details how the process works.



GUEST SPEAKERS

- Meetings include a half hour spot allocated to a **GUEST SPEAKER** (except our AGM and Birthday Meetings).
- These speakers are experts in their field and most include question and answer sessions.
- Often they have plants or garden products for sale.

BENCHING COMPETITION

- At the front of the hall we set up a number of tables for members to display items from their gardens.
- This is another major avenue for those new to the Gold Coast to see what grows well here – and to approach the owners for advice on how/where to grow that plant.
- Items are entered under 10 categories e.g. a 'foliage only plant', a 'monthly feature', a 'small pot plant/s'.
- Everyone at the meeting then casts a vote for which item they consider is the '**best example**' for that category for that day.
- The winner of each sections gets a \$5 prize awarded at the meeting.
- There is also a \$5 Stewards Prize for the item they think should have won but didn't!
- Winners also gain points towards an **Annual Trophy** presented at our Christmas Party. (\$50 for first, \$30 for second and \$10 each for two Encouragement awards.
- Entrants also get a ticket in their own '**exhibitors raffle**' (a \$10 prize) draw.



HOME GARDEN VISITS

- Each month members offer their garden for a Home Garden Visit.
- They are held on the second Friday of the month at 10 a.m.
- It includes morning tea – members **bring a plate to share** plus their own chair, hat and sunscreen.
- The club provides tea/coffee/milk/sugar and cups.
- A **Home Visit Report** about that garden is e-mailed out a few days later for those unable to attend that day
- **They are a powerful 'see and do' tool for those new to the Gold Coast. Seeing what plants grow well in this climate and, importantly, where and how home owners grow them is a very valuable outcome of these days.**



NEWSLETTER

- Members receive a free monthly Newsletter kindly printed for us by local federal member Karen Andrews
- It includes club news as well as garden hints and general interest items about gardening.
- Past and present Newsletters are also found on our web-site.
- **Visitors are most welcome to take a copy of any spare recent newsletters with them.**

