



ROBINA GARDEN CLUB INC.

Meeting of Thursday
June 25th - 2026
NEWSLETTER NO. 164

Welcome to our A.G.M.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE
2025-2026 YEAR

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
FOR 2026-2027 YEAR

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

MEET AND GREET

- **Meet and Greet** time together. Sit anywhere at the tables.
- **Benching** entries put in place.
- **Voting** on the Benching when announced by Karen.
- **Cent Auction** ticket sales.
 - \$450 worth of prizes.
 - 2 strips for \$5 i.e. 20 tickets.
 - 5 strips for \$10 (50 tickets)
 - Drawn at end of the day.
- **Numbered Lucky Square** sales.
 - 100 squares available.
 - \$2 per square.
 - \$50 first prize
 - \$30 second prize
 - \$20 third prize.
 - (Half those prizes if the 50 numbered square sells).

A.G.M.

- As we are required to do collect a Treasurer's Report as you enter.
- Reports by President & Treasurer.
- AGM Chaired by John Williams.
- Election of 2026-27 Executive.

AFTERNOON TEA

- We have catered for 80 people. Help yourself once invited.

CLOSE

- Draw of Lucky Squares.
- Draw of Cent Auction.
- Close.

Unless otherwise stated all items in this newsletter are written by **Trevor Hicks (Editor)**

PLANT OF THE MONTH - KALANCHOE

Appearing now in most nurseries is **Kalanchoe**. This plant is known for its long lasting brightly coloured flowers. Native to tropical Africa and Madagascar there are over 125 species.



The most common is **Kalanchoe blossfeldiana** which is commonly known as Christmas Kalanchoe, Window's Thrill or Flaming Katy. They have bright star shaped flowers in red, orange, pink, white and yellow. The flowers last for about eight weeks. Also common are **Kalanchoe thyrsiflora** and **Kalanchoe pumila** which are grown as all year plants because of their attractive foliage.

They thrive in bright, indirect sunlight so are great for indoors and small covered patio type situations. Place either east or west facing so they some early/late 'softer' sun then position north facing in winter.

They prefer temperature between **15-29°C** so grow well here. They hate cold winds so do not place in windy positions. As is obvious as a succulent their thick water storing leaves mean they require minimal watering. In fact, most people kill them by over-watering.



A well-drained pot is essential. For the same reason plant in a cactus or succulent mix that you add perlite or some other 'grit' to. They will respond to monthly fertilising with a normal balanced water-soluble fertiliser. Rotate the plant in its pot regularly to keep the shape compact. If it gets too 'leggy' you can prune to encourage a more compact shape. The cuttings can be easily propagated in either water or a propagation type mix. In conclusion they provide great colour for at least a month and are very easy to care for – provided you do not over-water.
Perfect for indoors and for small confined 'garden spaces'.



This newsletter is being printed by the office of the Honourable LEON REBELLO M.P.
Federal Member for McPherson. Contact Leon at – Leon.Rebello.MP@aph.gov.au

With our Thanks

You will remember that last month's Monthly Feature was a 'Garden in a Pot'. As you may also have noted we got only one entry!! What, if anything, do we do about that?

GARDEN IN A POT

First, our tradition is that if one of the monthly feature topics 'fails' more than a couple of times in a row we replace it with a new topic. That means 'Garden in a Pot' is on the chopping block depending on what happens next year. In the past we've had quite a few entries each month. The two below on the left for example are winning entries from **LESLEY WILKINSON** (2023 and 2024) while that on the right is last year's winner from **BERNICE CRISP**. They both show that creating such a garden is not impossible.



For now it is perhaps worthwhile to look at some other examples. In this case it is a collection of pot gardens at the Ross Evans Nursery just up the road from Harbourside. First thing to note is these are for sale for around \$250 each – NOT what we are trying to encourage. The three examples above prove you can create such a garden for a lot lot less than that! You could very easily argue also that the samples below are really 'gardens on steroids'. 'Over the top', 'garish', 'fussy', 'in your face' and 'messy' would all be reactions that would not be unfounded. They all include features like ceramic mushrooms, garden seating, ceramic 'houses' and so on that you can of course buy separately!



Instead, we can just use them as inspiration. Old rusty bits and pieces, bits of driftwood, a few pebbles from the side of a road and a few cheap plants are all you need. Lesley and Bernice have proven that!!



FINANCIAL REPORT – AS OF 1/6/2026

	RESERVE	<i>Funds reserved for emergencies</i>			\$2,500.00	
	ADMINISTRATION	<i>Funded by the Annual Administration Fee.</i>			\$3,710.10	
	MEMBER'S REWARDS	<i>Afternoon Tea, Prizes, Awards, etc. Funded by the Raffles.</i>			\$1,562.03	
	AGM LUNCH	<i>Subsidized depending on funds. Funded by Bus Trips.</i>			\$634.90	
	CHRISTMAS PARTY	<i>Subsidized depending on funds. Funded by Cuttings Table.</i>			\$1,350.78	
	----- TOTAL CASH FUNDS AVAILABLE -----				\$9,757.81	
2026 Income		\$5,720.10	2026 Expenses	\$3,407.34	2026 Surplus	\$2,312.76



We had 47 entries for this month – a good response considering the rain had reduced our attendance total. 4 of the 10 sections were 'black' meaning they had 3 or less entries. The strongest sections were the Flowering Plants and Foliage Plants. Shame that the Garden in a Pot (so strong in 2025) had just 1 entry.

SEC. 3 - FOLIAGE ONLY PLANT/S (x6)

Lesley Wilkinson – one of the more spectacular **Aglaonema** plants.



SEC 9 - SMALL POT (x7)

Trevor Hicks – why some **Caladiums** are still not dormant is a mystery? Any ideas?



SEC. 4 FLOWERING PLANT (x5)

Val Marsden – This delicate beauty is **Euphorbia 'Starblast Pink'**. It tolerates heat!



SEC. 2 - ORCHIDS (x5)

Laurie Baxter – this 2017 **Vanda** hybrid is called **Vanda Tung Tung Diamond**.



SEC. 6 - PRODUCE (x1)

Anita Fowler – another great collection from one of our very best 'Produce Queens'.



SEC. 8 – VASE OF FLOWERS (x3)

Maxine Cochran – a colourful blend of roses and salvia (inc. the large autumn flowering one).



SEC. 7 - A CUT (x 5)

Maxine Cochran – this stunning coloured **Thunbergia** is a bush that prunes very well.



SEC. 5 – BLOOM (x8)

John Williams – Proves again John has perhaps the best collection of **Gerbera** in the club.



SEC. 1 – GARDEN IN A POT X 1

Trevor Hicks – a single entry only was an easy choice. This cactus/succulent garden includes a Chinese bridge.



SEC. 10 DECORATIVE DISPLAY (x2)

Allison Risse – a vase dominated by a great group of **Red Hot Pokers (Kniphofia)**.



STEWARDS PRIZE

Beryl Tucker – a good example of one of Europe's favourite X-Mas gifts – a **Poinsettia**.



Our Trophy is awarded at our X-Mas Party. 1st = \$50, 2nd = \$30 + 2 x \$10 Encouragement Awards.

'No Biggie' - but this month No. 4 in one section got 2 votes when there was no No. 4 - ??? May not be too rude if you notice some-one doing this to kindly point it out.

Environmental News

At the end of WWII Japan had of course been heavily damaged by US bombing. Massive firestorms had not only killed thousands of people and wiped out a lot of cities, but those fires had spread into surrounding forests. More importantly, short of fuel, the Japanese had turned to wood as an energy source so huge areas had been cleared. After 1945 rapid erosion on the cleared hillsides became a massive problem so aiming for rapid reforestation, the government began tree plantings. Unfortunately, they chose to plant reams of only two different native, fast-growing evergreen species that could quickly reforest landscapes and provide wood for future use in construction.

One was the Japanese cedar, *sugi*, and the Japanese cypress, *hinoki*. This has proven an environmental problem of enormous importance. Every year in spring what looks like waves of smoke blowing off these forests covers cities.

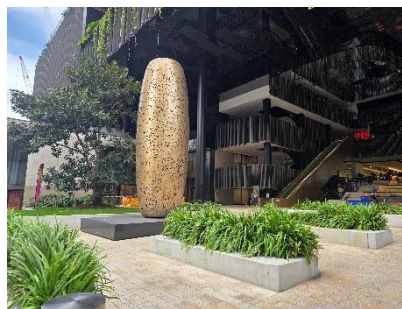


However, it is not in fact smoke but pollen. These two trees produce copious amounts of pollen. For over seventy years now Japanese people have been exposed to that pollen. The result? Hay fever (or **allergic rhinitis**) has now become a national crisis in Japan, with an estimated 43% of the population experiencing medium to severe symptoms. This compares to 26% in the UK and 12-18% in the US. Media every year in Japan in spring is flooded with warnings for people to prepare masks and allergy medicine. A large and expensive program to plant a much wider mix of trees and clear some of those forests is now thus underway.

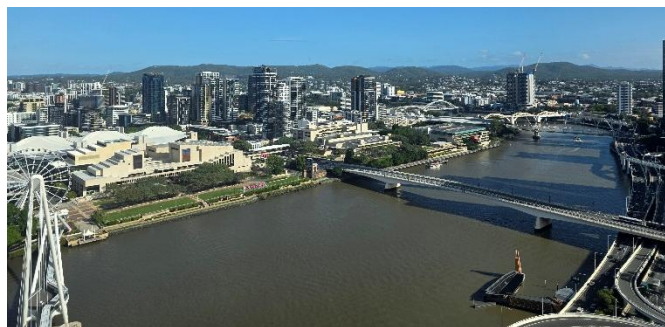
ROOFTOP GARDENS

One of the more obvious gardening trends of recent years has been the explosion of 'roof top' gardens. With the 'quarter acre block' house and garden of post war Australia rapidly becoming as common as 'spats' people have been trying to add greenery to our urban spaces. Roof top gardens seem especially common in many of the multi-story retirement and seniors' buildings that dot the coast.

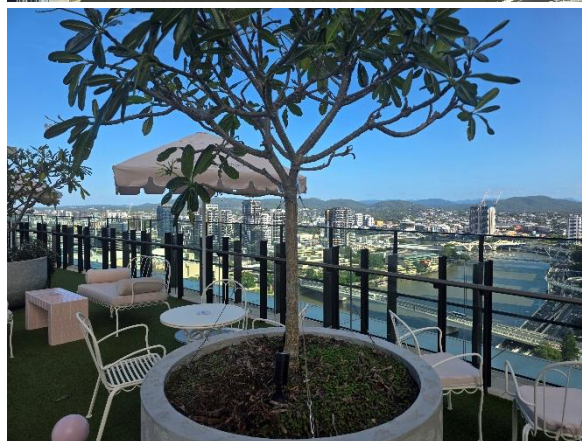
The largest roof top garden in the world is the Sejong Government Complex in South Korea. This covers some 80,000 sq meters or 11 soccer fields. To see how such a garden can look we don't need to go that far however.



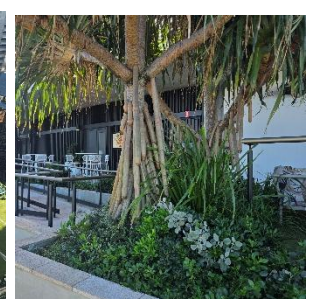
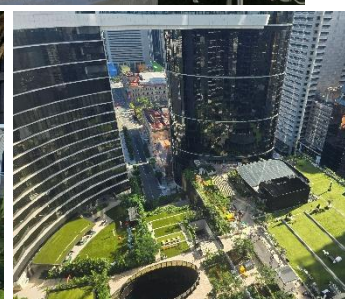
Instead, if you are going to spend a few hours in Brisbane have a look at the STAR CASINO building in George Street. It is free to go up the lift to the SKY DECK which is around 100 meters above the river below. The gardens at the entry (left) are not especially spectacular but they do hint at the amount of effort put into the gardens.



After a very quick trip up in the lift the major impact is of course the views across to South Bank and much of the city. They alone are worth a bit of time.



As for the 'gardens' they are very utilitarian – their main purpose is to decorate the various cafes on that deck. They certainly soften the area and help people relax. (Especially those who do not cope with the glass bottom walkway there!!!) If you have time go up and have a look. It is worth a half hour trip.



DESIGN HINTS FOR GARDENING ON PATIOS AND IN COURTYARDS

The theme of this newsletter has been about gardening where your space is limited – or even where you don't actually have a 'garden' or indeed any real amount of 'ground'. Obviously, many of these ideas involve spending quite a lot of money but the aim really is to adapt these concepts over time – a '*... that's my birthday present for myself*' here, a '*... that's my Christmas gift from my dear wife/ husband / kids*' there or just a '*Hang it! You can't take it with you!*' purchase any day of the year.



MIX DIFFERENT SIZED POTS

- Large pots make a bold statement.
- Medium pots look best in groups.
- Small pots are used as accents and highlights.
- An odd number of pots looks better than an even number.
- Layer the pots from big to small with smaller ones used as 'highlights'.

SEASONAL PLANTINGS

- Use permanent plants that flower at different times of the year for all year colour e.g. camellia vs marigolds
- Use smaller pots for annuals so every few months you can change

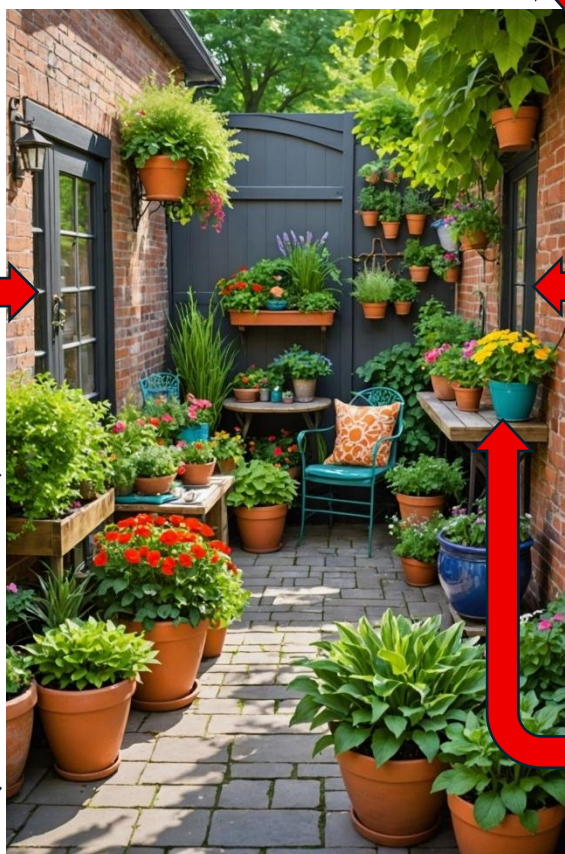
POT SELECTION IS VITAL

- Avoid plastic pots as they heat up too much.
- Put pots up on 'legs' so water drains better.
- Drill extra holes if only one to improve drainage.
- Use a very good light mix.



USE WALLS

- To give height to the garden.
- Stagger heights – especially of any hanging pots.
- Use a variety of different leaf shapes and sizes of plants.



COLOUR

- Single colour schemes provide unity OR
- Vary colours for a dramatic effect.
- Mix leaf shapes and colours for all year effect.

BE BOLD

- Counter intuitively very large pots in small spaces work very well.
- They provide scale and drama to the space.



CLUB NEWS

1. **58 MEMBERS** attended our last meeting with another 7 visitors (plus 12 apologies).
2. As of 1/6/26 we have **116 FINANCIAL MEMBERS**.
3. Our takings at the last meeting were –
 Raffle = \$194.00
 Cuttings Table = \$84.00
 Sales Table = \$34.00 (April)
 Sales Table = \$19.00 (May)
4. Val Marsden and Laurie Baxter have invited us to their garden at Pottsville for the 9th of October. They have a huge collection of orchids so the visit will come with a lot of advice about growing them. Given the distance the Executive have decided to make that our **BUS TRIP** Day. So far, the plan is to have the 'take a plate' morning tea there in the garden, then to the 'Enchanted Wood' Nursery at Ocean Shores. Then to the 'Aura' Nursery in Murwillumbah with an extended time to grab lunch in the town area. On the way home we'll have at least one more stop but this is still to be confirmed. Details on prices when we get final pricing for the bus.
5. Apologies for having forgotten to put in the newsletter in January one of our suggestions we give every year. It derives from a medical crisis some years ago when a member collapsed. They were unable to communicate so we had no idea who to contact – other than the ambulance of course. Ever since we have suggested therefore that you **ADAPT** on the reverse of your **NAME TAG** the following –

*Ring my daughter Cleo on 04 5555 2345
 My doctor is - Dr. Jones on 04 5555 5432
 I am allergic to Panadol and have a pace maker.*

This gives us information that could save your life in the case of emergency.

Any direct debits to
 Bank of Queensland
 BSB 124-394
 Acc. No. 10368149
Name yourself clearly!



NEXT HOME VISIT

WHERE? – Len Neilsen at 42 Kawana Crescent, ASHMORE.

WHEN? – Friday, July 10th. 10 a.m.
Bring a plate, hat and a chair.

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 30th of July 2026
 @ 12.00 p.m.**

GUEST SPEAKER

Brian Hearth on Chrysanthemums.

MONTHLY FEATURE FOR JULY

Anthurium

- 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.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Full detail in the Latest Notice on our web-site.

1. Gold Coast Botanic Bazaar. 1 August at the Country Paradise Parklands.
2. 25-27th of September. Springtime on the Mountains. \$25 for six gardens.
3. Maleny Garden Club Spring Fair. On 3rd of October at the showgrounds. \$2

Suggestion Box

Suggestion Box slips are at the front desk with the Secretary.



It was suggested that we buy magnet backed name tags similar to those of the Blue Pacific Garden Club.

Executive decided to keep current system. One because ours are year tags that show members are financial – and if coloured blue that it is their first year with us. Second, they are expensive! Third, given the numbers who lose their current badges, it would be even more so. Fourth, people lose the back magnet bit of the badges. Fifth, they're not as big and thus not as easy to read.

Keep up to date via our web-site at – www.robinagardenclub.org.au

We have no P.O. Box so contact us direct via e-mail at – info@robinagardenclub.org.au
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