



TODAY

GUEST SPEAKER

Chloe Weeks – Roses

MONTHLY FEATURE

Garden in a Pot

A.G.M.

Reminder that our A.G.M. replaces our next general meeting on June 25th. Nominations for a place on the Executive or as one of our Volunteer Workers are available still from the Secretary. They are due back by **Friday, 12th of June**. As per our Model Rules all nominations so far received are displayed at the front desk for your information. Last minute nominations are permissible on the day from the floor. The Volunteer Nominations forms are considered by the new Executive and people notified in July of which positions they are needed for. Reminder that as we are having just a High Tea we have time to put **BENCHING** back into the day so their will be benching in June. See last page for new Monthly Feature.

HIGH TEA

As noted several times already our normal afternoon tea is being replaced with a much larger **HIGH TEA**. It is **FREE** but open only to financial members. A couple of people have now offered to augment the event with something they have prepared. Thanks in advance. If you would also like to do that just let our Secretary know so we do not double/triple up when we purchase things.

REFUNDS

Helen Brennan and Catherine Goodacre please see the Treasurer for a refund on the bus trip.

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

PLANT OF THE MONTH

SYZYGIUM 'HINTERLAND GOLD'

Most of us know the SYZYGIUM family of plants very well indeed. There are in fact over 1,200 different varieties of this evergreen shrub to small tree known commonly as 'Lilly Pilly'. Perhaps the most famous - *Syzygium aromaticum* or clove.



One of its best uses is as a hedging plant as it prunes very well. The resulting hedge is dense so a good screen and wind break while any new growth has those lovely golden shoots.



Less well known is that this variety is also called the BUSH CHERRY because of its lovely purple/pink berries roughly the same size as a blueberry. They have a surprising 'hard foam' type texture with a tangy flavour that is easy to eat fresh from the tree. They are a great snack. They make excellent jams and jellies because they have a high pectin content so preserve well. They are turned in sauces to accompany meats and to add to pies, tarts and other pastry desserts. They provide a burst of flavour that is unfamiliar but welcome. They're the one in 'Lilly Pilly Gin'.



If you are a sweet tooth they'll be a bit tart but otherwise it is a great fruit.
(P.S. Not all Lilly Pilly are edible!! Make sure it is this variety)



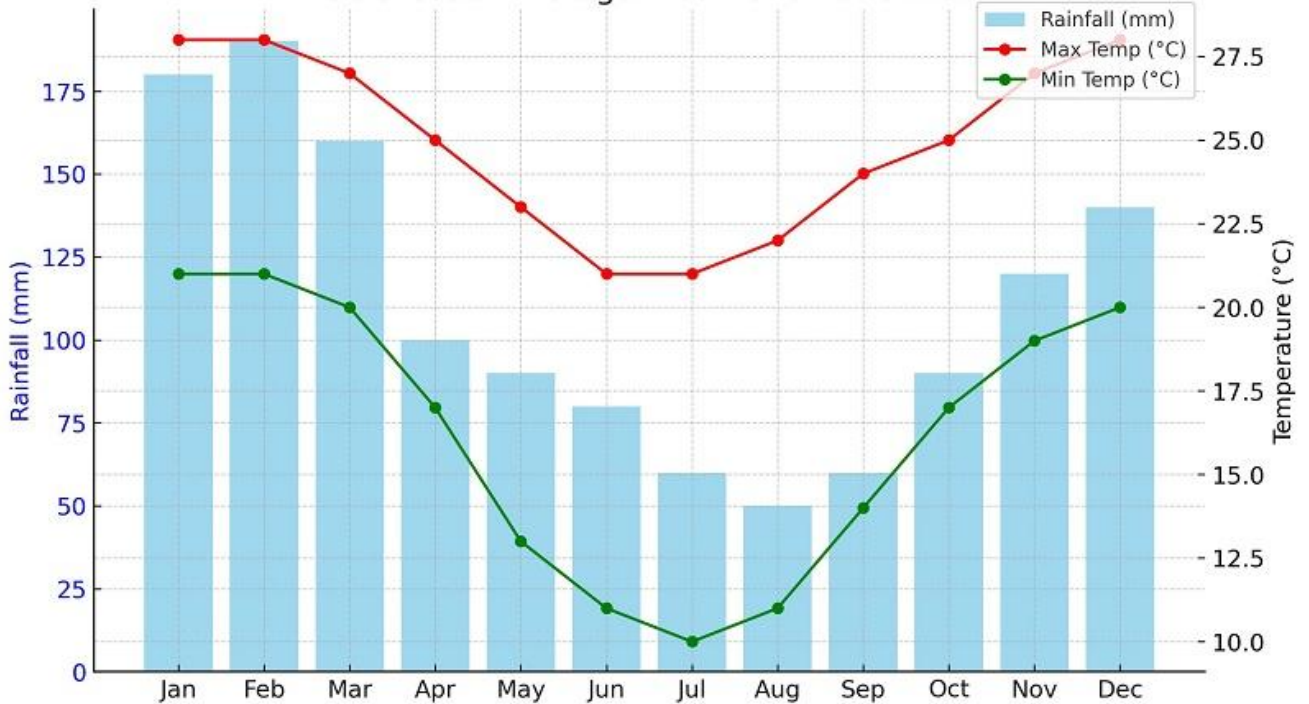
This newsletter is being printed at the office of the Honourable LEON REBELLO M.P. Federal Member for McPherson. Contact Leon at – Leon.Rebello.MP@aph.gov.au

With our Thanks.

IS THIS NORMAL?

Earlier this year we had a bit over ten weeks solid without any rain while over the last week or so we've had rainfall drops of two to three 'inches' for what seemed like day after day. It is no wonder that those new to the coast were asking "is this normal?". (P.S. Stats below are for the GC Airport).

Gold Coast Average Weather and Rainfall



As the graph above shows the last couple of weeks are far from normal. As you can see our average May rainfall should be about 85-90 mm for the month. Our actual rainfall this May however has been –



This chart shows that we had 5 inches (or 127 mm) on May 21 alone. Our rainfall was about average for every day from May 6 to May 17 but over those four days from May 18 to May 21 the total was roughly 500 mm which is close to double what the normal average is for that period. The obvious point to make is that **'averages'** are not called **'averages'** for nothing. Take May 20 as an example. Back in 2009 the total was 64 mm for the day but every May between 2012 and 2016 inclusive there was no rainfall at all on May 20. So, is 120 plus mm this May 20 normal? The simple answer is no. However, as you notice above this May 7 to May 11 were a bit below average and this heavy rainfall week will over a couple of decades have little effect on **"the average"**. It is all of course just a part of the difference between **'the weather'** (measurements over a short period like a day and just for that day) and **'the climate'** (measurements over decades averaged out to give an over-all picture of what might be expected).

	FINANCIAL REPORT – AS OF 1/5/2026				
	RESERVE	<i>Funds reserved for emergencies</i>			+ \$2,500.00
	ADMINISTRATION	<i>Funded by the Annual Administration Fee.</i>			+ \$4,209.65
	MEMBER’S REWARDS	<i>Afternoon Tea, Prizes, Awards, etc. Funded by the Raffles.</i>			+ \$1,563.23
	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>			+ \$1,213.78
	-----	TOTAL CASH FUNDS AVAILABLE			+ \$10, 121.56
2026 Income	\$5,252.96	2026 Expenses	\$2,576.45	2026 Surplus	\$2,676.51



We had 54 entries for this month – one up on last month. 2 of the 10 sections were 'black' meaning they had 3 or less entries – 2 less than last month. Arguably the best sections were the Vase of Flowers and the Produce – which though it had just 3 entries, all three were of exceptionally high standard.

SEC. 3 - FOLIAGE ONLY PLANT/S (x5)

Trevor Hicks – another *Caladium* so far refusing to die back for winter.



SEC 9 - SMALL POT (x6)

Trevor Hicks – this member of the rush family is *Juncus effusus spiralis* or 'spiral rush'.



SEC. 4 FLOWERING PLANT (x1)

Trevor Hicks – The not imaginatively named 'Pigs Tail' - *Anthurium scherzerianum*.



SEC. 2 - ORCHIDS (x4)

Laurie Baxter – this Vanda orchid is the spectacular *Rasri Gold x Tubium Velvet*.



SEC. 6 - PRODUCE (x3)

Ian Lee – a huge variety of edibles including passionfruit, avocado, lemons, monstera, etc. etc.



STEWARDS PRIZE

Maxine Cochrane – This is not a zinnia but a *Tithonia rotundifolia* or 'The Mexican Sun Flower'



SEC. 7 - A CUT (x 9)

Trevor Hicks – a *Hippeastrum* that has no idea it should not flower now!



SEC. 5 – BLOOM (x8)

John Williams – just one of the great *gerbera* that John has in his garden.



SEC. 1 – ROSES/HIBISCUS X 5

Lesley Wilkinson – a cutting of a small but very healthy looking orange hibiscus.



SEC. 10 DECORATIVE DISPLAY (x6)

Trevor Hicks – celebrating Mother's Day with shades of mauve and pink.



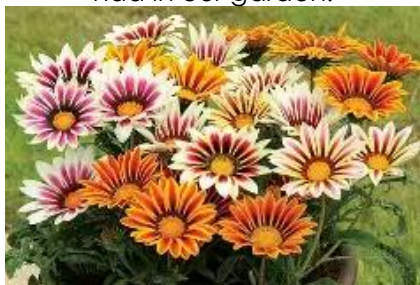
SEC. 8 – VASE OF FLOWERS (x5)

Josie Capra – a colourful blend of gingers, broms and heliconias creating a fine display.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Earlier this year nurseries (e.g. Bunnings) came under heavy criticism for selling a plant that many of us either have or have had in our garden.



That plant was the **GAZANIA**.

This native of southern Africa is part of the **Asteraceae** family. It is a low growing clumping plant up to 20-30 cms high at most (around gerbera size) with

glossy green leaves and a wide range of very colourful daisy like flowers in yellow, orange, red, pink, cream and white. They make an excellent ground cover and many councils used them in their parks and on roadsides. They are drought tolerant and spread easily via their seeds and via 'suckers'.

You can cut them back to virtually ground level and they will come back healthier and with a fresher look. It is their durability and ease of seeding that has meant that all six state governments have now

declared it a weed. It has invaded roadsides, parks and importantly agricultural land where it is not wanted. Its waxy leaves resist herbicides, and it can cover large areas easily. It has a tough root system (thus its drought resistance) and is hard to eradicate once there.

What do you do if you have any? Remove it if you are concerned but otherwise dead head the flowers before they seed and control. In most domestic gardens if you look after them they can be OK.



FOR THOSE WHO AVOID CHEMICALS

POWDERY MILDEW



40% MILK SPRAY - Make a mix that has 40% whole milk and 60% water. Spray in the morning sun both top and bottom of the leaves as much as possible. Proteins create a hostile surface for spores.

BLACK SPOT



BAKING SODA SPRAY - 1 tablespoon of baking soda plus 4 litres of water. Add a splash of dishwashing liquid for 'grip'. This raises the leaf surface pH above what the fungus will tolerate.

DAMPING OFF



GROUND CINNAMON - Sprinkle on the soil surface around seedlings. Cinnamaldehyde kills fungal spores on contact.

APHIDS AND SOFT-BELLIED INSECTS



NEEM OIL SPRAY - 1 tablespoon neem plus 4 litres of water and a splash of dishwashing liquid.

WEAK SEEDLINGS



CHAMOMILE TEA - brew a strong brew, cool totally and water in. It is a gentle natural antifungal treatment.

LATE BLIGHT



Fruit and vegetable growers who say they are "organic and spray free" do use liquid copper (c. \$21 for 1 Litre). It is acceptable as copper is natural.



COPPER SPRAY AS A PREVENTATIVE – Copper when applied as a liquid spray is a preventative only. It needs to go on before infection. Do not over-spray or the copper will accumulate in the soil.

NEW FROM OLD VIA WATER.

There is probably not a member in the club who has not at some time struck a new plant via a cutting suspended in water. The chart below lists some plants that you can strike this way – and perhaps it includes one or two you have not yet tried. The chart was compiled in Europe but works still – though both fuchsia and clematis are not plants that we can grow well. Remember to replace the water every day if you can and place in bright light but not direct sun or the glass over-heats the water.



CLUB NEWS

1. **83 MEMBERS** attended our April meeting with 6 visitors (plus 10 apologies).
2. As of 3/5 we have **111 Financial Members** of which 11 are new members.
3. Our takings at the last meeting were –
 Raffle = \$285.00
 Cuttings Table = \$147.60
 Sales Table = \$31.30 (March Takings)
4. After failing to get the numbers for our last bus trip we asked for ideas of places you would like to go. Three that came in and which the Executive discussed were –
NAMBOUR GARDEN SHOW. Involves about 5 hours in the bus (inc. comfort stops) for about 3-4 hours at the show. With entry fees will cost \$50-60. In the past we've just not got the numbers. It is really a 2 day trip.
TOOWOOMBA CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS. Also about 5 hours (with comfort stops) for 3-4 hours visiting the gardens. Again with entry fees about \$50-60 and another one that is better over 2 days. Past numbers too small.
SPRINGTIME ON THE MOUNTAIN. We tried last year and with cancellations just 20 people went – it was a financial disaster! Too many members go up themselves each year to visit places they are familiar with. Also, with entries cost is again \$50-60.
OTHERS. If you have any ideas without major entry fees or with less travel time let us know. We are exploring some options.
5. No one has submitted a **LOOKING FOR** request for over six months now. It is the section usually on the bottom right of this page. It's been put on hold therefore, but the request slips are still with the Secretary and if you submit one it'll be back in.
6. Another **THANKS** to President Denise. She has secured another \$50 of free Bunnings Vouchers. They require a new submission every three months so thanks Denise for your efforts. One goes in with each raffle.
7. We have re-newed our yearly subscription to the **QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS.** It is just \$30 a year and keeps us in touch with issues that concern all garden clubs as they arise.

Any direct debits to
Bank of Queensland
BSB 124-394

Acc. No. 10368149
Name yourself clearly!



COMING UP NEXT MONTH

NEXT HOME VISIT

WHEN? – Friday, 12th June at 10 a.m.

WHERE ? – Kathy Stewart's home at 27 Wallaby Drive, Mudgeeraba.

(thanks for replacing a cancellation!).

BRING? – a plate to share, hat, chair.

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 25th of June 2026

@ 12.00 p.m.

It is of course our A.G.M. That will come first followed by our free Hight Tea. As noted before with less time needed for that (as compared to a full lunch) and no guest speaker we have time to put an unplanned **BENCHING BACK IN.** No monthly feature is listed in our Calendar so just for fun and 'something completely different' the Monthly Feature will be -

SOME THING OLD

- Any thing that is easy to bring in that has age or history attached.
- An historical photo, a family antique or collectable, etc. etc.
- Please add a little caption so people know why it is being shown
- E.g. "This tea pot was a wedding present for my grandma in 1923".

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

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

1. Botanical Bazaar at Country Paradise Parklands. Saturday 1st August.
2. Springtime on the Mountains on 25 to 27th of September. Tickets on-line.
3. Maleny Garden Club Spring Fair at the Showgrounds on 3rd of October.
4. Begonias and More at the Belmont Shooting Range on 24th of October.
5. The Tropic Plant Spectacular at the Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium 21/11.

Suggestion Box

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



None submitted in April.

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

President Denise @ 0412 668 193. Secretary Val @ 0416 222 539. Treasurer Trevor @ 0434 251 858.