



ROBINA GARDEN CLUB INC.

Meeting of Thursday
October 30th - 2025
NEWSLETTER NO. 157

TODAY

GUEST SPEAKER

Nil – It is our Birthday

MONTHLY FEATURE

Foliage Display

OUR BIRTHDAY

Today we celebrate our club birthday – which aligns with the initial “let’s form a garden club here in Robina” meeting held back in October 1994. We have a birthday cake to help celebrate the occasion.

LONG SERVICE BADGES

During the meeting today we will be handing out LONG SERVICE BADGES to any member who has been with the club for 10, 15, 20 or 25 years. We do this each year just to say thankyou to those people for sticking with the club for so long and contributing to it.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Reminder that our X-Mas Party is on Friday December 12th at 12 p.m. here at the Carrara Community Centre. The cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. It will include a few nibbles with a main course of cold meats and salads buffet style then dessert with tea/coffee. It also includes a free \$10 gift per guest, the usual cent auction and lucky door prizes of Bunnings vouchers.

Pay in cash today or at the November meeting or by Direct Credit before 27/11/25. If doing direct credit name every person you are paying for clearly.

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

KANGAROO PAW

One of the more spectacular sights at the Gold Coast Botanical Gardens at this month's Home Visit was their patch of Kangaroo Paw in full flower. As is well known this West Australian native has spectacular tall flower spikes that last for weeks.



These plants grow naturally in not that good soil in a climate that has low humidity and relatively low rainfall. You need to reproduce those conditions in order to get a display as good as the one above. Look for the species called **Anigozanthos flavidus** as it copes with humidity better than some other species of kangaroo paws. That species is well suited to growing here on the Gold Coast. Some other species hate our humidity.

After flowering the plant stops growing while new leaf growth is generated by the underground rhizome, so you need to prune or divide to encourage more flowering. Beware that fine hairs on flowering stems can cause an allergic reaction in some people, so wear gloves and eye protection as a precaution.

Note that each clump comprises a collection of plantlets and each one can be separated off and either potted up or replanted in the garden. Remove all dead or dying foliage and trim around the base to reduce the size of the clump. Obviously remove all old flower stalks – using a 45 degree angle in order to minimize damage. If it is an older plant cut back all stems to about 15 cms (or 6 inches) above the soil line. Then divide the clump and re-plant the various newly created clumps. Water in well to give it a chance to recover.



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

ODDS AND ENDS

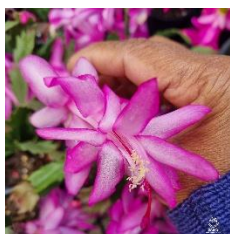
IS THIS A ZYGOCACTUS?

Flowering this month has been the plant pictured here. It comes in several colours including red, pink, white and mauve versions.



At first glance it appears to be a **zygocactus** (or Christmas Cactus) and was for a very long time classified as such. DNA testing however has proven that it is in fact a distinct species – first named as ***Hatiora gaetneri*** but now more often named as a ***Rhipsalidopsis gaetneri***. It has long been called the **EASTER CACTUS** as it flowers at Easter in the northern hemisphere.

It, like the zygo, is epiphytic and grows on trees or rock faces in its home of south east Brazil so needs little or no soil. Avoid full sun and do not over-water. Its main visual difference is that the flowers are 'round' whereas the real zygocactus (below) is more a 'claw' shape. Both plants can be pruned after flowering by pulling



off 'segments'. Normally that 'branch' then doubles so you get a more compact plant in the future.

WHAT TO DO NOW MY HIPPEASTRUM FLOWER HAS DIED.

One 'old wives tale' is that once a hippeastrum flower dies you should leave the stem there till it fully dies. **Most horticultural sources say the opposite.** These sources say to remove the flower stem back to as low as possible as it is not feeding the plant but is using energy as it dies. This not only tidies up the plant but helps reduce the chances of fungal infection in the rotting stem.



Do not over-water the bulb or it can rot. Make sure to continue to apply fertilizer as that promotes strong leaf growth and thus bulb growth for next season. It is vital not to remove any of the actual leaves (as these are feeding the bulb so it continues to enlarge and store energy for next spring after a winter 'sleep').



STINK BUGS

A very unwelcome guest around now are 'stink bugs' or ***Halyomorpha halys*** – which love citrus!!! Apart from the damage they do to your plant it is their pungent odour that really disturbs. This odour comes from their release of a spray full of **aldehydes** from glands at their rear end. *Trans-2-decenal* and *trans-2-octenal* compounds combine to produce the odorous long lasting 'spray' they direct towards any perceived threat. This 'liquid spray' can be harmful on bare skin and especially if it gets in your eyes. Several companies (include Yates as at right) now produce species specific sprays to kill them – and which do not harm other species. The key is to 'look them in the eye' and spray their front end so they don't spray you!



FINANCIAL REPORT – AS OF 1/10/2025

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	RESERVE	<i>Funds reserved for emergencies</i>			\$2,500.00	
	ADMINISTRATION	<i>Funded by the Annual Administration Fee.</i>			\$3,316.52	
	MEMBER’S REWARDS	<i>Afternoon Tea, Prizes, Awards, etc. Funded by the Raffles.</i>			\$1,767.11	
	AGM LUNCH	<i>Subsidized depending on funds. Funded by Bus Trips.</i>			\$1,991.30	
	CHRISTMAS PARTY	<i>Subsidized depending on funds. Funded by Cuttings Table.</i>			\$1,677.88	
----- TOTAL CASH FUNDS AVAILABLE -----					\$11,252.81	
2025 Income		\$10,166.49	2025 Expenses	\$8,544.99	2025 Surplus	\$1,621.50



No real surprise that with Spring arriving it was the Vase of Flowers, Hippeastrum/s, Single Bloom and Cut sections that shone this month. As a result, there were just 2 sections of 'black' with 3 or less entries. As last month there were nine different winners of the 11 prizes on offer. We're still seeking the 11/11 Holy Grail!

SEC 1 – HIPPEASTRUM/S (X6)

Trevor Hicks – a vase of both single and double 'hippies'.



SEC. 10

DECORATIVE DISPLAY (x3)

Trevor Hicks – a couple of sunflowers formed the basis for this basket display.



SEC. 4

FLOWERING PLANT (x7)

Trevor Hicks – this is one of the smaller flowering versions of *Epiphyllum*



SEC. 3

FOLIAGE ONLY PLANT/S (x6)

Barb Rose – One of the most interesting bromeliads we've had.



SEC. 5 –

A SINGLE BLOOM (x11)

Val Steffensen – Val believes this rose is called 'Whisky'.



STEWARDS PRIZE

Beryl Tucker – a great collection of cottage garden flowers.



SEC. 7 - A CUT (x 11)

Lesley Wilkinson – this is the *Petrea volubilis* or Sandpaper Vine.



SEC. 6 – PRODUCE (x3)

Jill Barber – a mix that includes a cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, etc.



SEC. 2

ORCHIDS (x8)

John Williams – this stunning orchid is dendrobium (hard cane) - 'Mouse Me'.

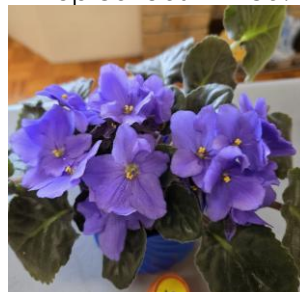


Our annual Benching Trophy will be awarded at our X-Mas Party. 1st = \$50, 2nd = \$30 plus 2 x \$10 special Encouragement Awards.

SEC 9

SMALL POT PLANT (x7)

Kathy Stewart – a beautiful African violet, *Saintpaulia ionantha*. They are native to tropical east Africa.



SEC. 8 – VASE OF FLOWERS (x8)

Maxine Cochrane – Queen Anne's Lace form the base of this huge display.



Light Relief... ???

Growing your own tomatoes really is the best way to devote 3 months of your life to saving \$2.17



KEEP YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR



AND KEEP GARDENING

Local gardener was told that after a vasectomy they wouldn't have kids anymore. Image his surprise when he got home and they were still there!



My wife just said
"we need to talk"
after I finish
cutting the grass

GROANABLE PUNS

- This garden is sow amazing, it's unbeleafable!
- You've got to be pollen my leg with that story!
- Thistle make you laugh!
- Lettuce turn over a new leaf this year!
- Just thyme for a little garden therapy.
- I'm vine with these terrible puns – what about you?

AS IT IS OUR BIRTHDAY HERE IS SOME LIGHT RELIEF TO KILL TIME WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR THE MEETING TO START.

Gardening

Word Search Puzzle



CLIPPERS	RAKE	SUNSHINE
COMPOST	SEEDS	TILLER
FLOWERS	SHEARS	TROWEL
GARDEN HOSE	SHOVEL	VEGETABLES
GLOVES	SNAILS	WATER
HERBS	SNIPS	WATERING CAN
HOE	SOIL	WEEDS
PLANTING	SPADE	WHEELBARROW

Free printable courtesy of PrintitFree.net

A QUICK TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ.

1. The root of a horseradish plant can be used to make a sauce.
2. A kumquat (or cumquat) is a shade of dark pink when ripe.
3. Corn comes originally from Mexico and surrounds.
4. A Bintje is a type of potato.
5. The tomato was initially called "the love apple".
6. Hippeastrum flowers always contain four separate blooms.
7. It is not possible to change the colour of flowers such as hydrangea by altering the type of soil they grow in.
8. A courgette and a zucchini are the same vegetable.
9. Capability Brown was the leading advocate of what became called the English Landscape Design movement.
10. Tomatoes usually take 60- 80 days to go from seed to harvest.
11. Bonsai as an art form originated in Japan.
12. Both apples and raspberries are in the rose family of plants.

ANSWERS True No's – 1,3,4,5,8,9,10,12. False No's. – 2, 6,7,11.

FLORAL ART

Since we changed the FLORAL ART section into the CREATIVE DISPLAY section we have had a very welcome increase in the number of entries. For those considering doing a floral art entry the following is advice adapted from the **QUEENSLAND FLORAL ART SOCIETY**. It includes sample entries photographed at their annual show held at Mt. Cootha a couple of months ago.

At its simplest floral art is a bit like making a cake – the ingredients you choose determines the type of cake (e.g. chocolate vs carrot) while the cook's skills determine whether the cake is actually good or not. In floral art the ingredients (or **elements** as they call them) are such things as texture, pattern and colour while the skills you use (in floral art terms **principles**) include such things as scale, harmony and proportion. No surprise that (like deciding what is a good cake or not) what 'artistic excellence actually is' is something however that varies from person to person. The Floral Art society argues however that in normal life anyone can recognize good floral art when they see it because it achieves 5 things - i.e. **Beauty, Simplicity, Expression, Harmony and Artistic Distinction**.



So if we look at sample 1 above are the ingredients well chosen and have they been combined well? Is it **simple** or are there too many different shapes? Are the colours **harmonious** or do they clash? And if your re-action is "I could never do that" does that mean it has **artistic distinction**? And in sample 2 at right do those two half circles of white mean it is balanced and **harmonious**? Or do all the different bits and pieces mean it is "fighting with itself". Also, is number 2 **simple** or so dense it is too hard to really see what it is really supposed to be? Is it actually **beautiful**? Compared to number 1 is it an example of **artistic distinction** or is your reaction that "I could do one as good as that!"?



Now look at the two examples in number 3. They too were both in the same section. Which do you think has more **artistic distinction** – if either? Are both **simple, harmonious** and **beautiful** in their own way? Does that slightly squashed pink rose at the bottom of the one on the left ruin that work? Is that enough to mean it is no longer **artistically distinctive**? Are the long thin 'reeds' both have artistically **expressive** or just unnecessary embellishments and over-done?



Now let us compare 4 and 5. Do the two white towers in 5 mean it is balanced and thus **harmonious** while the red on one side and green on the other in 4 mean that it is unbalanced so not harmonious? Which do you think is more **'artistically distinctive'**?



Finally, does number 6 work? Are all those different colours and different types of flowers a barrier to it being **'simple'**? Is it **harmonious**? Or does none of that matter. Do you still think it is actually **beautiful**?



CLUB NEWS

1. **69 MEMBERS** attended our September meeting with 4 visitors and 10 apologies.
2. As of 1/10 we had **120** financial **MEMBERS**.
3. As at 1/10 the balance in our AGM LUNCH account was \$1,991.30. Since then we have settled all outstanding incomes and expenditures (including \$1,310.00 for the hire of the bus) so that account is now settled for the year. It has an end of year balance of **\$724.90** to help pay for next year's AGM lunch. Not enough for another free lunch next year but certainly enough to ensure it can go ahead.
4. Thanks to **PAM WOOD** for her work in securing the cake(s) for today's expanded afternoon tea/birthday party.
5. Special **THANKS** to those who came out for our experimental Home Visit early this month to the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens. Just 13 attended but it was a lovely spot we found to meet and an enjoyable morning.
6. As noted elsewhere, today will see Long Service Badges awarded to people who have been with us for 10, 15, 20 or 25 years. As part of our **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS** here are some pieces of trivia –
 - Just three Past Presidents are still members i.e. Wendy Bruce (President 2007 and 2008), Trevor Hicks (2014 and 2015) and John Williams (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019).
 - We have just three financial members left who joined before the year 2000 i.e. Wendy Bruce (first up in 1995), Fay Edwards (1998) and Val Steffensen (1999)
 - Our early records are a bit piece meal but according to what we have, people still with the club **who have served on the Executive** in any capacity are –
 - Trevor Hicks – 14 years
 - Wendy Bruce – 9 years
 - Graham Wilkinson – 7 years
 - John Williams – 6 years
 - Denise Narramore – 6 years
 - Fay Edwards – 4 years
 - Pam Wood – 4 years
 - Chris Lund – 3 years
 - Val Hoy – 3 years
 - Daphne Sellwood – 3 years
 - Carmen Davis – 2 years
 - Gay Bavinton – 2 years
 - Michelle Mountford – 1 year.
 - Anne Andrew – 1 year.
 - Wayne Stratton – 1 year.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

NEXT HOME VISIT

WHEN? – Friday, 14th November
WHO? – Christine and Colin Lund
WHERE? – 22 Gardenia Drive BONOGIN
BRING? – a plate to share, chair, hat.

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 27th of November 2025
@ 12.00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER – Brian Klepzig
 Neutrog Fertilisers

NOVEMBER BENCHING MONTHLY FEATURE –

Desert Rose

- 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.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Gardening related events we've been sent information about. Full details of costs, location etc. on our web-site under the **LATEST NEWS** then **LATEST NOTICE** section.

1. 4-7 November – The AUSSIE BROMS show at Eaton's Hill Hotel.
2. 26/11 November – the Queensland Council of Garden Clubs Christmas Party and Biennial Awards.

Suggestion Box

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



NO WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

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



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.