



ROBINA GARDEN CLUB INC.

Meeting of Thursday
September 25th - 2025
NEWSLETTER NO. 156

TODAY

GUEST SPEAKER

Alex Blewman

How to Grow/Train Desert Roses

MONTHLY FEATURE

Hippaestrum/s

REDLANDS BUS TRIP

All 57 seats are booked with a waiting list (as of printing) of 4 people. Cancellations before 25/9 will be refunded and one of those on the waiting list offered your spot. No refunds after 25/9 unless someone takes your spot. See last page for reminder details.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Start Booking/Paying today for our Christmas Party. It is confirmed for **Friday, December 12** here at the Carrara Community Centre. The cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. No limit on numbers. A couple of surprises but meal is nibbles on arrival, main course of salads/cold meats and dessert plus tea/coffee. Each attendee gets a Christmas Gift plus the usual 10 draw cent auction and lucky square boards. See posters at front for the full details. **Pay before November 27** (also last date for non-refundable cancellations).

OCTOBER HOME VISIT

President Denise has arranged for small group tours of the **ROSSITER GARDEN** at the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens during our Home Visit on October 10. No need to book but bring your thermos that day as well as a plate to share.

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

PROPAGATING CORDYLINES

October is a good time to propagate **CORDYLINES**, one of the most popular foliage plants in local gardens. Native to SE Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii they are found naturally in moist tropical forests, swamps and mountainous areas. There are some 15 main species and hundreds of cultivars.

Their leaves, the reasons people grow them, can get very tatty in too much sun and wind so October is a good time to prune. As the photo at right shows this can be quite severe and yet the plant will grow back.



If you want to propagate one method is by seed. Just gather fresh seeds from mature plants during their flowering season – autumn or early spring. Put seeds into a well-drained potting mix then cover with a plastic wrap or lid. Place in a warm spot away from direct sun. Water lightly once they germinate. Roots emerge after about two weeks under the soil with an actual sprout after about six weeks. Increase sun exposure over time. It will take about six months for it to become a mature plant.

A second method is to subdivide a mature plant from your yard. It will need to have more than one central stem. As in the photo at right just remove the soil then with clean sharp scissors cut the root ball into parts. All you need to do is check each stem has some roots at its base. Then follow same procedure as above – pot into a rich well-drained mix, put in indirect light, do not over-water then wait till roots stabilise.



Taking cuttings also works. These can have a couple of leaves left attached or be 'naked'. Then either suspend in water (changed often) or put directly into a good potting mix that is kept moist but not wet in indirect light. These cuttings will in both cases develop roots from one of the nodes visible in the photo at left.

Plant out when the roots look substantial enough. **This is arguably the easiest method.**



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

CLIVIAS

As well as Cordylines this time of year is heading into a good time to subdivide your **CLIVIAS** – **once they have finished flowering**. This plant was first described horticulturally in September 1815 in its native habitat in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. By 1828 they were being grown at Kew Gardens where they were named **Clivia nobilis** after Lady Charlotte Clive, the Duchess of Northumberland. In the 1850's, also in South Africa, another species called **Clivia miniata** was discovered, and it is this species that most of the spectacular flowering plants we generally call Clivia are derived. They come in a variety of colours with various shades of 'orange' being the most common. There are also many yellow forms (photo right), which many people incorrectly assume are 'new' varieties developed in nurseries. In fact, the first yellow flowering species were identified in the wild around 1888. White flowering versions also date back to the 1800's though breeding in recent decades has improved the 'whiteness'. The most recent species (**Clivia robusta** or Swamp Clivia) was discovered only in 2004.



Once the flowering is finished and you decide to sub-divide/propagate one of your prize examples remember our Gardening Hint/Tip from a couple of years ago. Namely, that **clivia plants need at least 12 to 14 leaves before they have the necessary energy and size to begin flowering**. In other words, you **NEED TO BE PATIENT** once you create a new plant – especially if you've grown it from seed! Also note that they will not flower if they are not getting enough sun – which needs to be filtered or early morning and not direct middle of the day 'heat sun'. They like it in the shade which is why most are grown at the base of trees and shrubs where they profit from the protection offered by over-hanging foliage while still getting some daylight. The leaves scorch easily if they get too much direct sunlight.



If you want to subdivide a clivia growing in a pot do so when its roots have filled the pot and are emerging from the weep holes at the base. If in the ground subdivided at any time the clump is getting a big too big for its location. First, water the plant in situ to soften the soil and prepare the plant. Remove all old flower stalks and any dead foliage. In the cool of the afternoon empty the pot or dig up the whole plant and divided into sections using a sharp and clean saw or large knife. *(They are tough enough however that the 'strong arm' method shown top left works just as well!)*. Look for any offsets that you will find at the base of the plant. When cutting away bits of the plant be careful not to damage the roots – this can cause a wound that is susceptible to disease and rot. Inspect the clump you have and remove any bits that look unhealthy or damaged – including any dead roots. Then just pot up or re-plant into a loose soil mix that you have enriched with a balanced fertilizer. **(May is best month to fertilise for next spring flowers)**. Water in gently making sure you do not make it too wet. Once planted a clivia can go several weeks without water. Remember they do not like 'wet feet' and are susceptible to root rot if the soil stays too wet too long.



FINANCIAL REPORT – AS OF 1/9/2025

RESERVE	<i>Funds reserved for emergencies</i>	\$2,500.00
ADMINISTRATION	<i>Funded by the Annual Administration Fee.</i>	\$3,470.32
MEMBER'S REWARDS	<i>Afternoon Tea, Prizes, Awards, etc. Funded by the Raffles.</i>	\$1,711.56
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>	\$1,197.08
----- TOTAL CASH FUNDS AVAILABLE -----		\$10,870.26

2024 Income

\$9,325.74

2024 Expenses

\$8,086.79

2024 Surplus

\$1,238.95

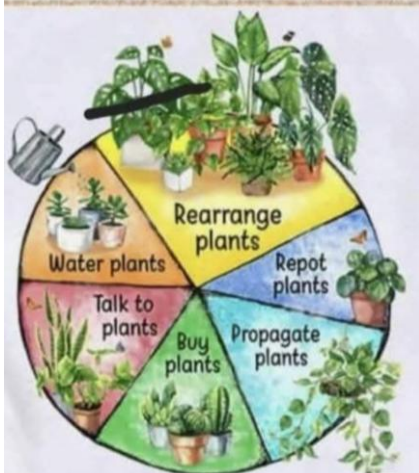
A little smile ... ???



My new garden bed!



THINGS I DO
IN MY SPARE TIME



Santa Claus announced that he's giving everyone the same gardening tool for Christmas. Hoe! Hoe! Hoe!

Poor butterfly wasn't allowed into the dance. It was a moth ball

TRIVIA CORNER - TULIPMANIA

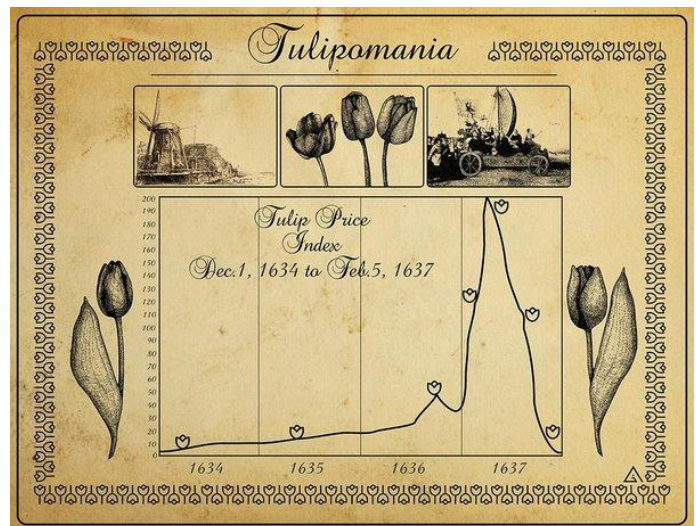
BITCOIN has apparently hit another record price. For historians this perhaps raises some negative memories of what is often known as **The Tulip Mania of 1636-1637**. This event is generally considered to be the first recorded **financial bubble** – much like that of the 'Roaring 20's' share market rise that was the precursor to the Great Depression or the lending practices of the 1990's that led



to the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. In the early 1600's it was a tulip 'bubble'. Tulips were first introduced to Europe from Turkey in 1554 when a Sultan sent bulbs and seeds to Vienna. Shortly after in 1554 these seeds were sent to Amsterdam, then a center of trade.

With their intensely colorful petals, tulips were unlike any other flower popular in Europe at that time and having tulips growing in one's garden became an important status symbol. Being in very short supply tulips had by 1600 become a 'must have' (much like the latest iPhone is now - except Apple produce millions of those!). A highly organized investment market for bulbs developed but demand had rapidly outstripped supply. In 1636 the 'mania' for tulips reached its peak. Already pricey tulip bulbs experienced a twentyfold price explosion in just a single month. Fortunes were made and the 'rush' was on. By the peak of tulip mania in February of 1637, **a single tulip bulb was worth about ten times a craftsman's annual income**. Soon serious investors, speculators, the financially uninformed and deceived combined to push prices to incredible heights before it all came crashing down.

The bubble abruptly "popped" in the winter of 1636-37 when a single default on a tulip bulb contract by a buyer in Haarlem panicked investors. Like the



Share Market Crash of 1929 sellers rushed to get what they could and the tulip bulb market violently imploded as sellers overwhelmed the market and buyers virtually disappeared altogether. Bulbs that had been worth 'thousands' were now almost impossible to sell. Fortunes were lost in an instant. Like the inflated real estate markets of 1970's Japan that crashed in the early 1980's and pushed the Japanese economy into recession or near zero growth for decades, the economy of the Netherlands also collapsed and took decades to recover. **Thus the historians lament – "will we never learn!"** (This article is for post-2020 members. Others will remember a version was published in 2012 then again in 2020).

Iris – Which is Which and does it Matter?

On the coast at this time of the year one spring flowering plant that attracts a lot of attention are several types of Iris. In the simplest terms there are two types – bulbs (usually called **Dutch Iris**) and tuberous rhizome types. This article will mention just a few of the different rhizome types.

Among the most commonly mentioned Iris are the Japanese, Louisiana, Bearded and Siberian types. They all have a rhizome which should be planted just below the surface with only its top being visible. They like an acidic soil (pH from 6 to 7) that is rich in humus. They also all like full sun (i.e. 6 to 8 hours a day) to flower at their best. They will grow in shaded areas but without so many flowers. They are dormant in winter before springing back to life in early spring – when as in the photo below they can be dug up and divided quite easily. It is best to do that every 2 to 3 years when you should add compost and/or fertilizer to boost them along. They do not like getting too dry so keep moist. Both the Louisiana and Japanese varieties especially grow on shallow boggy soil on the edge of a pond.



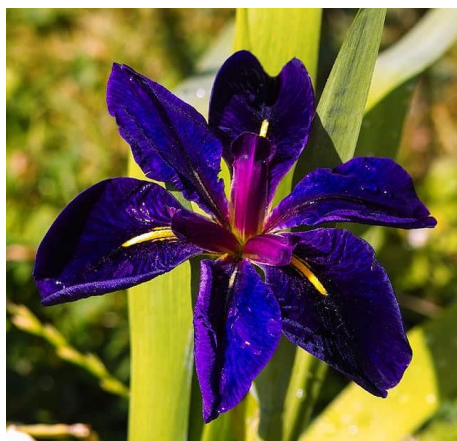
They come in various colours from yellow and white to beet red and several versions of pink but most argue that the best colours are the blues and dark purples. The flowers come up on a stalk that can be up to one metre high. Once flowering is finished cut off the dead stalk but leave the leaves as they help the plant store energy for next season. Dead leaves can be taken off when the plant is dormant in winter.



So exactly how do you tell them apart? **THAT'S HARD!** Perhaps the easiest to recognize are what are called **Bearded Iris** or commonly 'German Iris'. These are complex flowers with a 'beard' in their centre. They tolerate a bit drier conditions but don't seem to thrive as well here on the coast. Most common here are the **Japanese Iris (*Iris ensata*)** (top left) which usually has just one bloom on top of its stalk.

The **Louisiana Iris** (of which *Iris hegagona* is perhaps the most common - Bottom left) tends to get multiple blooms on the same stem and is arguably more spectacular (especially the deep blues).

Another type, the **Siberian Iris** (bottom right) sits up more.



CLEAR AS MUD! The different types are so close as to be almost indistinguishable. Cross breeding and DNA splicing has made things worse. Is it worth knowing when they all grow much the same? **I would suggest just to get one/buy one only when it is in flower. Don't worry about what species it is. Just go for the colour/size of the bloom.**



BENCHING WINNERS AUGUST 2025

56 entries in August was another good display with the Single Bloom (x 11 entries) and Orchids, Flowering Plant/s and the Cut of Multiple Blooms all with 9 entries. There were 3 sections of 'black' with 3 or less entries. There were nine different winners of the 11 prizes on offer – the sort of numbers we seek!

SEC 1 – BEGONIA (X5)

Di Lloyd – this begonia is called 'Russett Queen' for obvious reasons.



SEC. 10

DECORATIVE DISPLAY (x2)

Marie Sampson – a great group of yellow roses are key to this display.



SEC. 4

FLOWERING PLANT (x9)

Trevor Hicks – this typical rhipsalis is known for its weeping habit.



SEC. 3

FOLIAGE ONLY PLANT/S (x2)

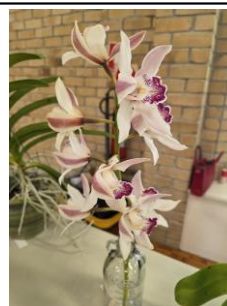
Lesley Wilkinson – Vreisas bromeliads like this are renowned for their striped foliage.



SEC. 5 –

A SINGLE BLOOM (x11)

Val Stephenson – another great example of how good roses can be.



STEWARD'S PRIZE

Denise Narramore – Cymbidium orchids are difficult to grow and especially to flower here (they like the cold to set flowers) but Denise had managed it.

SEC. 2

ORCHIDS (x9)

Ian Lee – this stunningly coloured Vanda orchid is called 'Pachara Delight Blue'.



SEC. 6 – PRODUCE (x2)

Jill Barber – a mix that includes different tomatoes, lettuce, mint and so on.



SEC. 7 – A CUT (x9)

Lesley Wilkinson – this lace cap Hydrangea is one of many types now available.



SEC 9

SMALL POT PLANT (x7)

Trevor Hicks – an unusual almost heat shaped cacti.



SEC. 8 – VASE OF FLOWERS (x6)

Beryl Tucker – a mix that includes daisies and azalea.



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

CLUB NEWS

1. **71 MEMBERS** attended our August Meeting with no visitors and four apologies.
2. As of 1/9/25 we had **120 financial MEMBERS**.
3. **BUS TRIP DETAILS – REMINDER**. The trip is on Thursday, October 2nd. Leaving the Burleigh Tavern at 8 a.m. and then the Carrara Community Centre at 8.30 a.m. Back by around 4/5 p.m. Lunch is at the Victoria Point Shopping Centre. **Bring bags/boxes with your name clearly marked for buys.**
4. Our October Meeting has no guest speaker as such as it is our **BIRTHDAY PARTY**. That involves a bigger than normal afternoon tea and the awarding of LONG SERVICE BADGES to members who have been in the club for 10, 15, 20 or 25 years.
5. Thanks again to **COLIN CASHMAN** for offering his books at the last meeting. In the age of instantaneous 'google' searches and 'YouTube' videos quality 'coffee table' books like those are getting rarer and rarer so it was great to be given the chance to add one or two to our collections.
6. A reminder that a **BENCHING RULES SUMMARY** is now on display on the Benching Table. One question that arose since the recent re-view of those rules was whether our club demands that the vase of flowers, single bloom and multiple bloom/cut entries have to be in a clear glass vase. Some clubs do demand that – usually those that employ professional judges. If they have, for example, a 'Vase of Flowers Maximum of 6 Stems' section the judge needs to be able to count the stems. They also argue they need to level the playing field by every entrant having plain clear vases. We have no such demands. We just want to see the best you have displayed as best you can. So, in all those sections **you can use any sort of vase you like.**
7. One eager beaver has already asked about our **FEES** for 2026. **Who knows?** That is decided at the end of the year once we know how much money we have left or how short we are. That is done after December.
8. Our **BENCHING SECTIONS** usually change just a bit each year and that too is done at the end of the year for the 2026 Benching. Any specific Monthly Feature you'd like to see?

Suggestion Box

No submissions last month.



COMING UP NEXT MONTH

NEXT HOME VISIT

WHEN? – Friday, October 10

WHERE? – Gold Coast Botanic Gardens
Meet at the main carpark at the gardens.

BRING? – a plate to share, chair, hat plus just for this meeting your own Thermos.

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 30th of October 2025
@ 12.00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER –

None. It is our Birthday Party.

OCTOBER BENCHING MONTHLY FEATURE –

Foliage Display

- A collection of different types of foliage from your own garden.
- Can be presented in any way you wish – in a vase, on a tray, etc. etc.
- The leaves can be manipulated to enhance their presentation e.g. stapled into shape, trimmed, polished with milk, etc. 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. PICNIC IN THE PARK at New Farm Park on 1 Oct.
2. TWIN TOWNS GARDEN CLUB FRIENDSHIP DAY on 13 Oct.
3. BUDERIM GARDEN FESTIVAL on 17-19 Oct.
4. BEGONIAS AND MORE SHOW on 25 Oct.
5. AUSSIE BROMS SALE on 4th to 7th of November.

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
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