



MEETING REPORT for MAY 2026



Some very heavy rain on the morning of our meeting of Thursday, 28th of May saw our numbers the lowest for the year. 65 people did make it however (with 58 members and 7 visitors) despite a record 16 apologies. Those who did attend however involved themselves fully in our usual activities.



Pam Wood's supplied afternoon tea went down well as usual and thanks to the smaller numbers some was left over (*at left*). The raffle took just \$194, the lowest of the year, thanks to the smaller numbers but considering those numbers that was a good result. \$84 on the Cuttings Tables was also OK while our 10% from the Sales Table (\$34) meant that they sold \$340 worth of plants for members. That is a very good turn-over. Needless to say, people took their usual high level of interest into voting for the benching with some really excellent submissions to see.



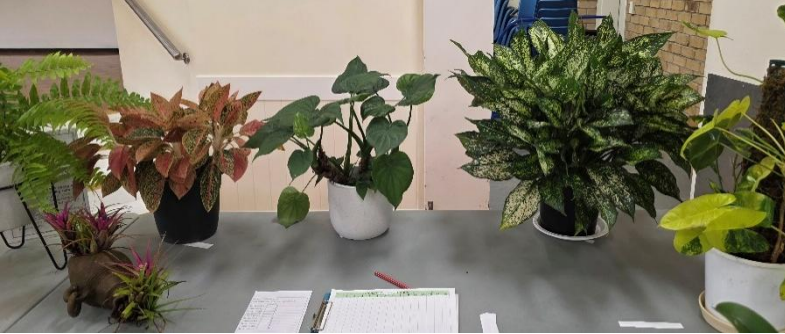
Three of the most noted were (*l. to r.*) Alison Risse's vase of 'Red Hot Pokers', Laurie Baxter's Vanda Tung Tung Diamond and Maxine Cochran's Thunbergia.



Among the **MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS** at the meeting were that, after our planned next home visit fell through, **KATHY STEWART** kindly offered at the meeting to step in. Thus, our next home visit will be to Kathy's at 27 Wallaby Drive, Mudgeeraba. Many thanks to Kathy for offering on such short notice. Another announcement was that some-one asked if they could sell fresh fruit and/or vegetables on our sales table. No one could see a reason why not. Though W.P.H.&S. says we cannot sell 'cooked' items fresh things are OK so bring in any you want.

In the Garden Hints section one of the items that caused some interest was that if you are having trouble with your Zygodactylus not flowering it could be because they have been exposed to too much 'night light'. Zygo need 12-16 of complete dark at night to stimulate flowers so if over the last couple of months they've been under house lights or street lights that can hold the flowering back.





With the rain having reduced our total attendance by around 15 our benching total was just 47 different entries – though we did get 9 different winners of the 11 prizes so that was a good result. The best sections were arguably the flowering plants (*top left*) – which, no surprise for this month, saw three different zygocactus. The foliage only plants (*bottom left*) saw a great example of a plant on a log while Laurie Baxter brought in two very good orchids. Only 1 'garden in a pot' was a shame.



GUEST SPEAKER – CHLOE WEEKS ON ROSES



Our Guest Speaker on the day was **CHLOE WEEKS** from the local Rose Society. Chloe apologized profusely for the fact that the heavy rain had decimated her roses and thus the 'poor quality' of her exhibits – as these samples at right show **one person's trash is very much another's treasure!**

As shown at left she demonstrated how to re-pot a 'bare rooted rose' such as those currently in the nurseries. As many of these come from cooler climates she said to soak them for around two days in a bucket with a Seasol mix to help refresh and revive them before planting out.

Earlier she had explained that the Rose Society identifies roses by three historical periods – traditional roses that are really the species as they developed in nature, then those that were developed by selective breeding and finally 'modern' roses. These date from the first Hybrid-Tea rose 'La France' bred by Jean-Baptiste Andre Guillot in France in 1867.

These flower with just one flower on each cane while even later developed floribunda roses have multiple blooms on each stem. It is these that people love because they form such a great display in a vase. Another famous type are the David Austen types – though most of these do less well here on the coast because they were bred especially for British climate conditions. Chloe noted that roses should be planted with a north facing setting where they get at least 6 hours full sun per day. Keep away from too much wind and leave 'space' around them so they can 'breathe'. A neutral (6.5 to 7.5) pH is ideal and in a good quality soil mix. She noted that it is a constant battle against things like 'black spot' but that does not effect the flowers so 'we live with it'.

