



ROBINA GARDEN CLUB INC.

Meeting of Thursday
February 29th - 2024
NEWSLETTER NO. 138

TODAY

GUEST SPEAKER

The Orchid Den.

MONTHLY FEATURE

Coleus

2024 ADMINISTRATION FEE

Our **2024 ADMINISTRATION FEE** of \$25 per person should be paid by the end of this month – via cash today or by direct credit. If not paid a reminder will be forwarded and if still unpaid by the end of April that person is removed from our Membership List and their membership thus ends.

CHRISTMAS PARTY REFUND

Those who have not yet collected the X-Mas Lunch Refund of \$20 do so today from the Treasurer. There are 16 people still to collect their refund. See the list at front desk.

SALES TABLE - 2024

Thanks to Sales Table vendors who co-operated so well with the new system last month. A reminder to every-one else that **purchases can be no later than the end of afternoon tea** to give the staff time to collate the sales. **Sellers, please do not come to collect your income till after the meeting is finished.** The staff need time to separate out your payments.

2024 CALENDAR

Don't forget to grab a copy of the 2024 Calendar from the front desk. (One copy per member please!)

Reminder that our April meeting is 1 week early on the 18th of April to avoid Anzac Day.

TREVOR HICKS – EDITOR.

Euphorbias

Euphorbia is one of the largest and most diverse genera of flowering plants. In England especially they are commonly called **SPURGE** which comes from the old English (and before that old French) word **espurge** (to purge) due to the fact the plant's sap was used as a purgative. The one common thing Euphorbias of any kind have is a poisonous white latex like sap.



Avoid at all costs getting that sap on your fingers and then into your eyes – it is extremely painful! Doctor and hospital painful!

Euphorbias range from tiny annual plants to large and long-lived trees.

In fact, there are roughly 2000 different types of Euphorbia. The most common examples are **poinsettias** (which at Christmas in Europe and North America especially are sold in the millions as a Christmas tradition – after which most die as those locals expect!). A tradition some retailers are clearly trying to develop here in Australia.



The various 'crown of thorn' plants (**Euphorbia milii**) we see so many of on the coast (below) are those that appear often on local median strips and round-abouts. Most are both drought and heat tolerant and don't mind being ignored.

Another unique characteristic is that each flower is either male or female – with just a **stamen** for the males and a **pistil** for the females. There are no flower petals as such. The red, yellow and cream 'flowers' we notice are in fact modified leaves or bracts designed to attract pollinators.

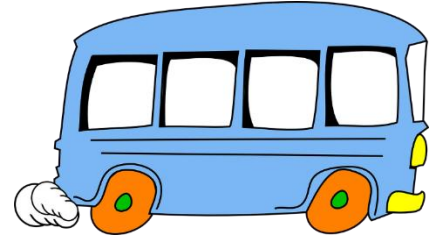


This newsletter is being printed by the office of the Honourable KAREN ANDREWS M.P. Federal Member for McPherson. Contact Karen at – karen.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au

With our Thanks.

Expressions of Interest

Ballina Bus Trip



WHEN – Tuesday, 14/5/24.

COST - \$35-45 (depends on final numbers)

WHERE TO?

(DRAFT ITINERARY)



2. BLACK ROCK GARDEN CENTRE - TYAGARAH

1. KINGSLIFFE NURSERY @ CUDGEN

Morning Tea Provided.

3. LUNCH – MAIN STREET BALLINA

Bus Trip Co-Ordinator Pam Wood will give more details on this proposed trip today. It goes south so avoids the worst of the M1 traffic.

4. MARITIME MUSEUM - BALLINA

Price will include morning tea plus admission to the Museum.



If we get enough interest today Pam will go ahead with final planning – including the final price we need to charge to cover the hire of the bus and Museum admission.

FINANCIAL REPORT – AS OF 1/2/2024



RESERVE	<i>Funds reserved for emergencies</i>	\$2,500.00
ADMINISTRATION	<i>Funded by the Annual Administration Fee.</i>	\$3,732.58
MEMBER'S REWARDS	<i>Afternoon Tea, Prizes, Awards, etc. Funded by the Raffles.</i>	\$1,006.85
AGM LUNCH	<i>Subsidized depending on funds. Funded by Bus Trips.</i>	\$ 736.56
CHRISTMAS PARTY	<i>Subsidized depending on funds. Funded by Cuttings Table.</i>	\$ 510.56
-----	TOTAL CASH FUNDS AVAILABLE -----	\$8,486.55

2024 Income	\$2,489.98	2024 Expenses	\$492.20	2024 Surplus	\$1,997.78
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If only

A PRE-MEETING READ
By Trevor Hicks

Our *'that would be a nice garden to visit if only I could'* today is to another famous Japanese garden – **UENO PARK** in TOKYO. This park covers some 54 hectares in central Tokyo and is the most visited open space in the city. It is very much a 'park' though it does contain large garden like areas. It is most visited during the Cherry Blossom festival when huge groups collect at dusk to enjoy an evening together in the moonlight under the flowering cherry trees. Some ten million visitors a year flock to visit the park and its sights.

Ueno Park (上野公園, *Ueno Kōen*) was established in 1873 on lands formerly belonging to a local temple. After the Meiji Restoration of 1868 the Japanese were obsessed with borrowing 'the best' of western civilization and among the things they borrowed were western style 'public parks'.

Ueno Koren was among the first such parks in Japan with, as the photo at right shows, its wide walking 'tracks' and groves of exotic and local native trees. It is reminiscent of *Kew Gardens* in London or the *Vondelpark* in Amsterdam. Once there however it is very distinctly Japanese – especially during the Cherry Blossom Festival.



All year round however it attracts visitors not just because of its park like areas but also as it is home to a number of major museums, The Tokyo National Museum of 1872 (below), the National Museum of Nature and Science and the National Museum of Western Art (1959) are just three of the most famous.



For locals however the park is attractive mainly because of its huge size and variety. It has some 8,800 different major trees, including magnificent autumn colouring **Ginkgo biloba**, as well as some 24,800 shrubs of various types. There is also **Shinobazu Pond**, a small lake of some 16 hectares, with its huge lotus beds and marshland area. Large open grassed areas attract large groups playing soccer or just enjoying a picnic in the sun.



It is also a 'living museum' with a number of popular temples and a cemetery where people attach 'prayers' to lines. The priests later burn these – taking that wish/prayer up to the gods for their careful consideration.



The peak time for visitors however is during the Cherry Blossom Festival. As noted last month this is in April but the blossoms last for only two weeks at most and due to the vagaries of the seasons that two weeks can vary year to year – making it a bit pot luck for foreign visitors. It is not unusual to go thousands of miles to Japan and to the Cherry Blossom Festival only to find you are too early or late!



Locals of course have no such fears. As also noted last month locals go to great lengths to ensure they get the best spots under the best of the flowering cherry trees. Thus the two young men at left, sent out early in the day, are from a local office and have marked the 'company spot' with a tarpaulin. The 'boss' and most of the staff arrive late in the day after work – by which time two even more bored young men may even miss out on much of the fun! Late in the day the crowds start to build up (below) before the streets in the park become packed with people. (below that.)

Being a 'festival' means that the park is full of stalls selling all sorts of bric a brac from balloons to stuffed toys, banners and so on.



Inevitably there are several 'food court' style lanes full of stalls selling a huge variety of dishes. Where else in the world do you get 'fish on a stick' as a handy snack?



Euno Park with its extensive 'gardens', its museums and its temples is at any time of the year one of the great places to visit in the world. When the cherry blossoms are out and the place packed with people it becomes one of the world's greatest cultural events.





Benching Winners January 2024

While the Cut, Single Bloom, Foliage Plant/s and Flowering Plant/s sections were strong in January others were weaker so giving a big advantage to regular entrants. We had seven different winners including first timer Tony Sharry. Do not forget only people who enter can get to win \$5!

SECTION 2 - ORCHIDS

Wendy Clare – this South American rainforest species is ***Epidendrum cochleatum***. There are a bit over 1500 types of *Epidendrum* orchids.



SECTION 1 – FERN/S

Trevor Hicks – this larger leaf specimen suits a hanging pot.



SECTION 3 – FOLIAGE ONLY PLANT/S

Pam Woods – This ***Alocasia Polly*** is one of many 'elephant ear' varieties. Alocasias are mainly from South America.



SECTION 4 – FLOWERING PLANT/S

Tony Sharry – these easy to care for ***Aechmea prima*** Broms are among the world's favourite houseplants.



SECTION 5 – A SINGLE BLOOM

Wendy Bruce – Wendy did well not to bruise this ***Magnolia Little Gem***. They brown very easily.



SECTION 6 – PRODUCE

Anita Fowler – another great mix of eggplant, zucchini, spinach etc.



STEWARDS PRIZE

Trevor Hicks – this ***Dahlia*** is called 'Café Au Lait'



SECTION 7 – A CUT OF MULTIPLE BLOOMS

Wendy Bruce – This is 'Yellow Leopard' one of the best ***Canna Lilly*** types.



SECTION 8 – VASE OF FLOWERS

Maxine Cochrane – a great mix with the standout the ***Rotheca myricoides***



SECTION 10 - FLORAL ART

Trevor Hicks – a tribute to **Australia Day** – with Roses, Anthurium & Peace Lily.



SECTION 9 – SMALL POT PLANT/S

Trevor Hicks – a ***Caladium*** – one of hundreds now available.



CLUB NEWS

1. **87 MEMBERS** attended the January meeting.
2. As of 25/2/24 we had 88 **FINANCIAL MEMBERS** paid up for 2024. That includes new members. That leaves the rest of our 133 x 2024 members to pay.
3. **INCOME** at the last meeting was –
Raffle - \$ 287.20
Cuttings Table - \$ 61.50
Sales Table - \$ 15.50
4. **2024 BENCHING COMPETITION.** See Karen Hayes for a copy of the 2024 rules if you intend to enter exhibits. Last meeting was a perfect example of how to be a winner – four sections of 10 had 3 or less entries so even not so good entries have a great chance of getting \$5. **IT COULD BE YOU.**
5. **SALES TABLE HELPERS** A couple of our helpers are the Sales Table have had to drop out. If you could help just once or twice in the year that would be great. Please approach **DI ENGLEFIELD** at the Sales Table. It's an easy job!
6. **GOOD NEWS** resulting from our being able to negotiate back to a 12 p.m. starting time. It meant we saved a half hour booking fee so our rent is now \$115 instead of \$130. Thanks to **JELENA at the Carrara C.C.** for being so good to us. (Bad news is that once the air-conditioning kicks in the added costs will probably need to be passed on with a resulting rent increase to occur if groups abuse its use).
7. The **OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING** have advised us of changes to the **MODEL RULES** that govern our operations. They include changes to dispute resolution procedures and more clarity on how any payments to Executive Committee members are reported. Our current procedures meet the new regulations. In regard to that second change, a reminder that the Treasurer brings to each meeting the documentation of what money went where and why – including any and all re-imbursments to members of the Executive.

Looking For -



No requests made via our request forms and the suggestion box at the last meeting.

The 'LOOKING FOR' request forms are at the front desk. Put into the Suggestion Box for publication in the next newsletter.

Suggestion Box



Suggestion submissions are in the box at the front desk. Ask the Secretary for help.

It was suggested benchers in the Floral Art and Vase of Flowers sections might like to sell those displays to those who could use them. The Executive know that several exhibitors quite often 'give away' such displays already but are happy for someone who wants them to approach the owners and come to some sort of person to person arrangement.

2023 BENCHING COMPETITION RESULTS

One member pointed out that those who did not attend the Christmas Party would have missed who got 2023 Benching Prizes.

Trevor Hicks was Champion followed by **Maxine Cochrane** in second place with Encouragement Awards going to **Carmen Davis** and **Michelle Mountford**. If you want your own points total see Karen Hayes.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28th of March, 2024
@ 12.00 p.m.

Monthly Feature **Guest Speaker**
Bromeliad Drew Maywald - Broms

NEXT HOME VISIT

When? – 10 a.m. Friday, 8th March.
Where ? – Jack Moir @ 3 Tiaro Crescent, Helensvale. 4212.
Bring ? – a mug/cup, chair and a plate to share at the morning tea.
Tea/Coffee/Milk/Sugar supplied.



Any direct debits to
Bank of Queensland
BSB 124-015
Acc. No. 10368149
Name yourself clearly!

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

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