



### **VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOTS**

Three of our Wednesday morning Potty Potters — Heather Hislop, scribe Lorraine Bilbie and Rhonda Laarhoven. *A great social group who raise a lot of money from their plant sales.*

What a pretty picture these two volunteer friends make! And how lovely the Bromeliads look! ...  
*Bobby White & Gill Whyman.*



*This is the last newsletter for 2017. A big thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who keep the Gardens looking their best over the Christmas and New Year season.*



## **TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN BOTANIC GARDENS NEWSLETTER**

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**FRIENDSHIPS** ..When volunteers turn up for work at 8am on a Wednesday or Thursday morning, the motivation is often the enjoyment of creating something very beautiful for others to enjoy. But its not always the physical work involved. It is often the friendships forged over that morning cuppa, when at 9.45 the bell rings and all make their way to the main shed for a sit down, morning tea and a chit-chat.

*It is this warmth and mateship between the volunteers that makes working at the Gardens such a special place to be.*

*Chris Davison (Editor)*





**Rose Garden. Such beauty!**  
An eye catching display at the entrance to the Rose Garden. Always popular with visitors and passionately maintained by volunteer **Dawn Hooper.**



**Thank you Denby Browning for taking over the Newsletter for five issues. Denby is still a volunteer but pursuing work commitments for which we wish him well.**

The **Japanese Garden** is looking fresh after a new coat of paint for these two structures. On professional advice the more authentic colour “Nasturcian flower S07G8” (Dulux Weathershield) was used. **Looks good, Rob Howard (pictured).**



**Phil Dudman ... gardening writer and presenter, currently the Horticultural Editor of Gardening Australia magazine and host of Good Gardening on ABC North Coast radio.**

Phil was Garden Club guest speaker last month on “all things pruning”. This was followed by a walk-through at our Botanic Gardens and advice on the ailing Magnolia area. **Thanks Phil for the advice and the kind words about our Gardens!**



**Dendrobium aemulum** — Brush box orchid, White feather orchid.

**Nanette** and **Sonia** have created a brilliant display of orchids in our Ken Baker memorial orchid house and this year the flowers were spectacular. However, native orchids in their natural setting can take one by surprise.



The Brush box orchid (*Dendrobium aemulum*) put on a stunning display this year, hanging precariously from its home on the lower trunk of a Flooded gum (*Euc. Grandis*) which is growing down by the entrance to the service area. As the name suggests this orchid usually attaches to Brush box trees (*Lophostemon confertus*) which have moisture retaining bark but this little gem must have lost its way! The bark from flooded gum is anything but friendly to epiphytes with its tannin and allelopathic features that frighten off most other growth. This white orchid has beautiful spidery petals and a superb perfume.

**And talking of Flooded gums ...**December tis the season to be merry but not so much so for the volunteers who have to clean up the annual falling debris of the Flooded gum, one of the few Eucalypts that have this dispersal of their bark. The long strips of bark form sizable piles of debris on the area around the tree but with the right wind can also make a mess for some distance. Considering why they drop their bark can distract one from the mess to be cleaned up! Several possible reasons have been put forward. By shedding they remove all epiphytes, fungus and insect growth from the tree; the piles of bark are rich in tannin and other chemicals that discourage competitive species from growing and ‘stealing’ nutrients; and the piled bark encourages fire to burn around the base thus providing smoke that activates Eucalyptus seeds to grow. But the Flooded gum reproduces very easily without fire. *Interesting, but we still have those endless piles of bark to clean up!* **Brian Davison**

It was a big job but it is finished now!! Over 80 hydrangeas have been relocated for ease of maintenance and to make way for the new plantings of shade loving plants enhancing and in fitting with the entrance to the Sooty Owl Trail. **Great work by volunteers!**

