



**ROBINA GARDEN CLUB INC.**

**BALLINA BUS TRIP  
14/5/24**

## Ballina Bus Trip

Our bus trip down to the Ballina district on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May saw one of our best responses since COVID. After having to cancel our last planned trip for lack of numbers it was a great relief (especially for our Bus Trip Organiser Pam Wood) to see over 40 people make it on the day. Special thanks to all of you for supporting the trip. Your support of the raffle held on the day means we can add extra 'goodies' to our June Lunch.



The Kingscliffe Nursery were probably equally happy as their yearly bonus seems to be secure after having seen the number of plants that moved from their displays into the storage depot on the bus. For those who didn't make the trip it is well worth a drive down to that nursery at Cudgen.



For the nautically inclined the Maritime Museum at Ballina was a real treat – especially one of the balsa rafts from the Las Balsas expedition of 1973. 12 men made the 13,840 km journey from Ecuador under just wind power.



They took tins of food of course but they rusted in time and spoiled so had to be jettisoned. Thus, they had to rely on what they could catch. They were aiming for Mooloolaba but strong currents took them south to Ballina. They landed (all alive!) there after 178 days at sea by which time their rafts were in a very bad state. An enormous feat of courage and modern adventure.