

Aloe, aloe, this accountant figures he's happy in the red



Michael Dent among his new blooms ● **Picture: Mike Batterham**

by Jack Campbell
BRIGHT red aloe flowers are blossoming in their thousands at Mt Tamborine.

This is blooming good news for Aloe-Aloe Horticulture Nursery owner Michael Dent, who has a new variety called Aloe Always Red which will be launched at the Brisbane Gardening Australia Expo from April 17 to 19.

With more than 100,000 plants from many varieties, the Aloe Always Red has been bred to weather the harsh Australian climate while being

capable of flowering for 10 months of the year.

After five years of propagating the plants, Mr Dent said the business had overcome many challenges.

"I guess in any business there are continually challenges. I mean, we've had a lot of challenges but we're very proud to get Always Red to this stage," he said.

Mr Dent, who migrated to Australia 21 years ago from South Africa, decided to put aside his job as a chartered accountant to take on a new project.

"For us it was a big

process," he said. "We sought out plants from around the world that we thought were compatible with the Australian climate.

"It was a long process of getting them into Australia ... assessed in terms of health and with aloes being an endangered species, they still had to get quite a number of permits from authorities."

Mr Dent said his role as owner of a horticultural business was a passion that had him feeling excited as he tackled each day.

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