

***Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc.***  
**Established in April, 1987**  
**A History of our Society**

The first get together was held at the home of Ken & Betty Scaife after an item, written by Ken, appeared in the local paper looking for interested growers to form a society. The following is an extract from a local paper in April, 1987.

"The newly formed orchid society on Bribie Island met with great success at its inaugural meeting last week. Organizer, Ken Scaife, welcomed everyone & a very productive meeting was held. Elected to office were president – Ken Scaife, vice president – Vic Ward, secretary – Jim Anderson, treasurer – Pam Board, librarian – Val Yaxley, hostesses & providores were Betty Scaife & Mavis Krebs." A letter was also received from Jim Male from Caboolture Orchid Society with helpful suggestions on forming the new group.

Congeau House, Banya Street in Bongaree became the meeting place on the fourth Wednesday of the month for the new society & in May 1987 the first Bulletin was issued. Island members received their Bulletin by hand from Ken & Betty who always loved a cuppa & a chat. (I wonder how long it took to deliver all the Bulletins.)

By November 1987 the new society had already had a bus trip to the north coast to Tom McCosker's orchid collection at Glasshouse & Robinson's Orchid Nursery at Woombye. The October orchid shows in 1987-88 were held at the RSL on Bribie & run by Caboolture OS. Jim Male said that Caboolture had their show on the island simply because there was no hall available or suitable in Caboolture. Caboolture OS handed over control of the show to our society & after that the annual shows were held at Congeau House until 1991.

Sheila Wilson, our local Shire Councillor & our Patron, presented a shield for a perpetual trophy to be for the best orchid by a Bribie grower. In 1991 Renton's Mitre 10 in First Avenue, presented a trophy for the best Cattleya grown by a Bribie member.

Mini shows were held just prior to the annual meetings as part of the cultural meetings. Members were divided into teams (A, B, C & D) to mount table displays. From that beginning the Easter show at Ningi hall evolved.

Throughout the years the society usually had two bus trips per year. We have been everywhere – Brisbane, Boonah, Beaudesert, Borumba Dam, Toowoomba, Pomona, Redlands & Cleveland area, Harvey Bay, Cold Coast, Mt Mee, Canungra, Nambour & Noosa were some of our destinations. A highlight was a bus trip to Southbank to visit the fourteenth Australian Orchid Conference in September 1997. The STOCQ obtained a third place in the display for their class; Bribie members took part in this display & gained quite a few individual prizes. Through the years some societies had visited us & were right royally entertained by visiting some of our members' orchid collections & sampling our members' cooking. The first of many visitors was the Ipswich OS at the instigation of Audrey & Ron Chant.

During the period from September 1988 to 1992 displays were mounted for the Red Cross Chelsea Flower Show held at Bribie RSL. From 1989 to 1992, prior to Mothers' Day, a display was held at Renton's Mitre 10 on First Avenue, Bongaree. Raffle tickets & small flower arrangements, made by Jenny Donaldson, were sold. For many years Jim Addison donated the American Orchid Society bulletin to the society. This continued until the American dollar made the magazines & their postage too costly.

July '88 - A display produced by Bribie Island Orchid Society at Caboolture OS annual show gained second place. Thanks were given in the minutes of our meeting to Vic & Marg Ward & Pam Board who arranged this display.

May '89 - From Ken Scaife's annual report as president, he stated that displays were held for the Red Cross, Stamp Club & Community Arts Centre.

Sept '90 - A certificate of registration as an association was issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1990. In other words we had Inc. tacked on to the society name.

April '92 - The society bonus saver account was opened.

Oct. '92 - The annual show was held for the first time at the Indoor Bowls Centre on Bribie Island.

May '93 - Vic Ward won a competition to design our society badge. The metal badge went on sale in May 1994.

May '93 - P.O. Box 127 was used for the first time.

May '94 - Ken Scaife was presented with the Queensland Orchid Society Award of Service "In recognition of his efforts in instigating the formation of our society & his continuing support."

March '95 - The cultural meeting was held for the first time at the Ningi Community hall on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We are still meeting there today.

March '95 - The fix-it gang came into being. They called themselves the "hackers, stackers & packers" They formed to help members in difficulty with their orchids because of illness or some other disability.

March '95 - The first new growers' meeting was held at the home of Syl & Raye Lewis & conducted by Merv Venz.

April '95 - The first Easter show at Ningi hall was held in conjunction with the Hibiscus society.

May '95 - Vic Ward was awarded the Queensland Orchid Society Award of Service "for his outstanding work in our society." Marg Ward was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the society.

August '95 - Audrey Chant made our show aprons ready for the October show. These were worn at the shows to identify officials & by Audrey's 'kitchen angels'.

April '96 - Col & Ailsa Heggie supplied plants from *Den. bigibbum* 'Bribie Special' to be presented with a suitably inscribed plaque as the society's contribution to "Australia Remembers". The plants were presented to the RSL in Caboolture, the Ningi Community hall & the Community Arts Centre on Bribie Island. Col & Ailsa's orchid won many awards including quite a few different show champions.

April '96 - Floral Art classes commenced at the Community Arts Centre in conjunction with the Bribie Garden Club. Our teacher was Raye Lewis. From 1996 to 1999 floral art was benched & judged at all our cultural meetings. At the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary show in October 1997 there were 22 entries. Floral Art commenced again in 2003 with tutor Ruth Sampson. Once again floral art was benched at the cultural meetings.

Feb '97 - Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc. hosted the Sub Tropical Orchid Council of Queensland meeting at the Ningi hall.

May '97 - Our society's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon was held at the Bribie Island Golf Club.

May '97 - At the annual meeting Queensland Orchid Society awards were presented to Jim Addison & Merle Mitchell. Jim's award was 'for recognition of his success in developing methods unique to Queensland of propagation & cultivation of Paphiopedilum orchids.'

Merle's award was 'for recognition of her method of orchid culture whereby she consistently produces blooms of exhibition quality.'

Life membership was conferred on Vic & Marg Ward. Each member received an anniversary booklet containing information & a short history of the society. Each member was also given an orchid specially registered to commemorate our anniversary, *Den. Bribie Ten Ninety-Seven*. Val Cassidy proudly named one of the parents of our anniversary plant. It was registered as *Den. Bribie Bright Beauty*.

Nov '97 - The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Cookbook went on sale.

Sept '98 - The first night meeting was held at the Ningi hall.

Oct '98 - Audrey Chant's first craft stall was held at the annual show. At each show it has become more popular & successful.

Nov '98 - Bribie Island OS won the Reg Heyer shield for being top point scorers in the STOCQ show display competition. The following year we tied for first with Bundaberg OS.

Each year the show organizer & his helpers enter displays in our district orchid shows. For many years our show organizer was Vic Ward. After Vic retired from active duty Dianne Smith took the position.

Today Mel Wheeler holds this position. This band of dedicated workers travels to the Sunshine Coast, Caloundra, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Nambour, Noosa, Glasshouse Country & Pumicestone. These societies are all members of the Sub Tropical Orchid Council of Queensland.

The wooden society plaque used in all the displays was designed & made by Vic Ward. Small wooden trophies (used at our shows) were also designed & made by Vic & were in the shape of Bribie Island. This tradition was carried on by Merv Venz.

May '99 - The Queensland Orchid Society Award of Service was presented to Val Yaxley 'for her enthusiastic participation in the society's administration & development.

Jun 99 – At the cultural meeting Ken & Betty Scaife were presented with a life membership award. They received life membership badges & a society plate to commemorate the occasion.

Oct '01 - Our society was launched on the world wide internet at [www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com](http://www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com)

May '02 - The Queensland Orchid Society Award of Service was presented to Merv Venz for "exceptional service for the past seven years to the Bribie Island Orchid Society." Life membership was bestowed upon Len & Val Yaxley & Merv & Joan Venz.

June '02 - An extremely successful "Mountains to Coast" Orchid Expo organised by Caboolture, Glasshouse Country & Bribie Island Orchid Societies was held at the Caboolture Civic Centre.

Oct '02 - Our fifteenth anniversary show was held at the Indoor Bowls Centre on Bribie Island. It was our most successful both financially & culturally. The new society shirts were worn for the first time.

May '03 - A Queensland Orchid Society Award of Service was presented to Lynn Hauck for "Extensive work on the society's constitution & by-laws, also responsible for setting up the society web site. Lynn is a real asset to the society.

May '04 - At the AGM Tom & Gwenda Davis, Roy & Merle Mitchell were made life members of the society. Merv & Val Anderson received the Queensland Orchid Society Award of Service "In recognition of their dedication & enthusiastic support of the society." Tom & Gwenda Davis received an Orchids Queensland Award Certificate stating "In recognition of their continuous & outstanding service to the administration & development of the society. Val Yaxley was presented with a beautiful bunch of flowers. This was the first year since our society began that Val has not served on the committee in some position. A record that will not be broken.

The May AGM for 2005 saw Ron Chant receive a life membership while Don & Margaret Neldner were presented with an Orchids Queensland Award "In recognition of their enthusiastic service to the Bribie Island Orchid Society, & their dedicated stewardship of the finances of the society."

At the AGM for 2006 Mel & Fay Wheeler received life membership of the society. This was a very popular choice & a well deserved one.

2007 was our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and in February our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cook Book again prepared by Joan Venz went on sale.

June 2007 – At the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual General Meeting all members were given a key ring with a live orchid set in resin as a keepsake of this special occasion. An orchid "Asda Bribie Gold" which was especially developed by our Show Organiser Mel Wheeler to commemorate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was presented to all members.

June 2007 – The Sub Tropical Orchid Council of Queensland's Triennial Orchidfest "Island Orchid Fantasy" was hosted by our Society at the Bribie Island State High School. This was the largest and most successful event our Society has staged.

June 2007 – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner was held at the Bribie RSL Club with over 150 folk attending.

June 2007 A QOS Award of Service was presented to John Hopgood "for valued service and commitment as Treasurer of our Society" a QOS Award was presented to Ian McLaren "for valued services as President" and a QOS Award Mel Wheeler "for his dedication and efficiency as Show Organiser of our Society

An Orchids Queensland was presented to Secretary Lynn Hauck "In recognition of her commitment and dedication to Island Orchid Fantasy".

October 2007 – Our Patron Mayor Cr John Leishman presented Joan Venz with an Orchid Queensland Award of Service "In grateful appreciation for your many years of dedication and commitment to our Society as well as Editor of the monthly Bulletin Newsletter" at our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Orchid Show. This show was held at the Indoor Bowls Club Hall, First Ave, Bribie Island. A special Anniversary Afternoon Tea, attended by some of our foundation members as well as our current folk was highlighted with the cutting of a special 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake by Patron Mayor Cr Joy Leishman and our President Judith Carleton.

In 2008, we received a grant towards the staging of the two shows from the Moreton Bay Regional Council. During the year, members raised funds to support students from Bribie Island State High School who spent their September holidays working in an orphanage in Cambodia. This is the first time our society has been involved and the members were very happy with the interaction between the young students and themselves.

Several social outings and Christmas Lunch organised.

The lease for the land at 156 First Avenue, Bribie Island was signed in July 2008.

In October Jon Sullivan MP presented Merv and Val Anderson with an Australian Government "Recognitions Award Celebrating the International Day of Older Persons".

2009 was Queensland's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the society members joined in the celebrations by holding themed shows at Easter and October. Both shows are now held in the Student Centre, Bribie Island State High School as this is the only venue large enough to stage the events.

A new orchid called Dtps Bribie Q150 was propagated by Mel Wheeler and one of these orchids was presented to the Queensland Governor Ms Penelope Wensley and another to the Queensland Premier Hon Anna Bligh. Both shows were great successes with Heritage displays and memorabilia incorporated into the orchid displays.

In May 2009 Diann Sirett was presented by President Judith Carleton with a Queensland Orchid Society Award of Service "in recognition of her enthusiastic support of the Society".

June 2009 at the AGM, our new Patron Carryn Sullivan MP was welcomed and presented Merv and Val Anderson were with Life Membership Awards for service to the Society. Several members were elevated from Novice to Open.

Development Approval was received for our clubhouse February 2009.

Building Approval was received in July 2009. Our home is now one step closer.

We participated in the Senior's Expo in September to raise our profile in the community.

December 2009 our website at [www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com](http://www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com) was archived by the Pandora Office at the National Archives in Canberra.

10 February 2010 the contract on Stage 1 - building the outside shell of the clubhouse was signed by the Secretary and the land was cleared of the tree growing on the site.

Malcolm and Lynn Hauck were presented with Life Membership at the Easter Show.

The land was levelled in April and the slab poured. The kit arrived late April.

Construction commenced in May with the outside shell completed end of May.

In May our Treasurer Ian McLaren was presented with the Westpac Bank "We Treasure the Treasurer" award which is an Australia wide competition. Ian received a Trophy and the Society was given \$5000 which was used towards the cost of building our home.

At the AGM in June, Secretary Lynn Hauck was presented with the inaugural Sheila Wilson Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Service by a Club Member to the Society. This perpetual trophy, along with 10 miniatures was donated by Foundation Member Pam Board.

The clubhouse lining was installed in June and the toilet steel frames erected.

Patron Carryn Sullivan MP presented a Premier's Department, Queensland Government Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Commitment to the Community to Malcolm and Lynn Hauck in June 2010.

During June/July the toilets were partitioned from the main area of the hall. Basic kitchen cupboards were installed.

The front portico, ramp and side entrances were built in August.

At the July Cultural meeting, our home was named "The Orchid House" by the members.

Attendees at the First Meeting in 'The Orchid House' 156A First Avenue, Bribie Island held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010 were Secretary Lynn Hauck, Pam Board, Selby Simpson, Patron Carryn Sullivan MP, Florence McLaren, Lisa Barrett Westpac Bank, Diann Sirett, Margaret & Don Neldner, Ron Powell, President Ian McLaren, Jeanette Saviane, Del Haupt, Carolyn Macqueen, Judy Carleton, June McKinnon, Jenny Sawaryn, Joan Venz, Dries Walterfang, Gwenda Davis, Daphne & Bob Lloyd, Gwendella Cooper, Merv Anderson, Wal Corney, Fay Wheeler, Jean Corney, Maureen Elliott, Allan Budge, Stephanie Maller, Ro Clyne, John Atkins, John Hopgood, Pauline Webster, Mel Wheeler, Val Anderson, Beverley Hopgood, Ken Webster, Treasurer John Stokes, Tom Davis. Everyone was thrilled to finally have all our equipment, library and other bits and pieces in one location instead of distributed at various member's homes.

During the next eight months, various trades folk and members worked on fitting out the clubhouse.

The Bribie RSL donated carpet for the centre of the floor and Bribie Island Hotel donated chairs and tables to seat 100 people.

January 2011 the new servery in the kitchen was installed as piece by piece our 'home' came together. The Society has been most fortunate to receive financial support from the Gambling Community Benefits Grants and also Moreton Bay Regional Council Grants for "Improvement to Community Facilities".

In February 2011 Wayde Potter of Adept Building Approvals made a final inspection of our clubhouse and we now have accreditation.

2011 February was the first time the New Grower's Meeting changed from the last Saturday each month to the second Saturday of the month. The Cultural Meetings are still held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February "The Orchid House" was passed as meeting all the requirements of Moreton Bay Regional Council.

The Official Opening of "The Orchid House" was celebrated on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 with members – past and present – visitors from other societies from as far south as Tweed Heads District Orchid Society to Maryborough Orchid Society in the north and all regions in between as well as members from other community groups in our region. Invitees were also from the many and varied businesses who have supported us with our project during the past 10 years. Our Patron Carryn Sullivan MP representing The Honourable Anna Bligh Premier of Queensland and Councillor Gary Parsons from Moreton Bay Regional Council enjoyed the afternoon with the 137 folk who attended. President Ian McLaren presented Mervyn Anderson, John Hopgood and Mel Wheeler with plaques of Appreciation for their Dedication to the building of the clubhouse. Presentations were also made to our Patron Carryn Sullivan MP and Councillor Gary Parsons by President Ian McLaren. Our Patron cut the "Our Home" cake and the celebration finished with Afternoon Tea and time well spent chatting with our guests. It was a very special time for some of our past members who were able to catch up with current members as well as folk they had not seen for years. Although it has been around 10 years from start to finish, we are very proud of our new clubhouse and thank all those members who have contributed in so many ways. Thanks must also go to the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefits Fund and Moreton Bay Regional Council for funding which we received. Both organisations have been invaluable to us in our endeavours. We finally now have a "home". To our knowledge we are one of only two orchid societies in Australia to have their own clubhouse. We could not have achieved this without the hard work of our members, support of local businesses and funding grants from Gambling Community Benefits Fund and Moreton Bay Regional Council.

The Longman Award for Community Participation was presented to Beverley Hopgood by Wyatt Roy in May.

Our group celebrated Queensland Week 2011 with an Orchid and Gardening Expo on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June. Gardening groups, commercial orchid vendors and other related organisations were invited to participate. It was a great success with all enjoying the displays and stalls.

At our AGM in June, several awards were presented. Along with the certificates for growers with the most points throughout the year to several of our members, John and Beverley Hopgood were awarded the Grower of the Year Trophy. Don and Margaret Neldner were presented with Life Memberships for their dedication to the Society. The Sheila Wilson Memorial Trophy was awarded to Val Anderson for outstanding service to the society by foundation member and sponsor of the award, Pam Board. Judith Carleton was presented with an Orchids Queensland Award for service. Patron Carryn Sullivan MP presented an Honour Board with the names of the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers from the foundation of the Society in 1987. The board now hangs proudly at the front entrance of the clubhouse.

During 2011, many of the members have donated items to The Orchid House and, where possible, have plaques with names and dates engraved on them as a reminder of the generosity and ongoing support of these folk.

Our shows at Easter and October continue to grow attracting visitors from near and far. The benched displays fill the Student Centre, Bribie Island State High School with fragrance, colour and a wonderful variety of orchids and foliage. We have participated in displays at Bribie Island Library, Pacific Harbour Marina Markets, Senior's Week and the Church of Christ Spring Fair. Members have also been guest speakers at various other groups.

	<b>PATRONS</b>		<b>PRESIDENTS</b>
1988 – 1990	Cr Sheila Wilson	1987 – 1990	Ken Scaife
1990 – 1996	Morrie Clench	1990 – 1992	Tom Donovan
1996 – 2000	Tom Donovan	1992 – 1994	Joan Harrison
2000 – 2002	Vic Ward	1994 – 2000	Merv Venz
2002 – 2009	Mayor Joy Leishman	2001 – 2004	Tom Davis
2009 -	Carryn Sullivan MP	2004 – 2007	Ian McLaren
		2007 – 2010	Judith Carleton
		2010-	Ian McLaren

**SECRETARIES**

1987 - 1992	Jim Addison
1993 - 1994	Jacque Hansen
1994 - 1999	George Bourne
1999 - 2000	Nerida Phythian/Val Yaxley
2000 - 2001	Val Yaxley
2001 -	Lynnette Hauck

**TREASURERS**

1987 - 1990	Pam Board
1990 - 1994	Val Yaxley
1994 - 2000	Syl Lewis
2000 - 2005	Don Neldner
2005 - 2007	John Hopgood
2007 - 2010	Ian McLaren
2010 -	John Stokes

**LIFE MEMBERS**

1997	Vic & Marge Ward	1999	Ken & Betty Scaife
2002	Merv & Joan Venz	2002	Len & Val Yaxley
2004	Tom & Gwenda Davis	2004	Roy & Merle Mitchell
2005	Ron Chant	2006	Mel & Fay Wheeler
2009	Merv & Val Anderson	2010	Malcolm & Lynnette Hauck
2011	Don & Margaret Neldner		