

BIOS Bulletin for February 2008.

www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com.au

Esme Irene Donovan.

Our members express their sincere sympathy to the family of Esme.

Esme passed away peacefully on the 7th January 2008 at the age of 87.

Esme & Tom (deceased) were inaugural members of our society. Esme & Tom were computer buffs & made quite a few of our earlier certificates for our shows.

More Sad News for the Orchid World.

Colin Hamilton passed away peacefully on 14th January 2008. Colin was a stalwart of the Rockhampton OS & was webmaster of the AOC. This work was recognized at the last World Orchid Conference as the best in the world.

David Banks has had a heart attack and is in intensive care.

Committee Meeting

Held at the Bribie Island Bowls Club, Welsby Parade on the second Tuesday of the month (11th March) at 1.30 pm.

Cultural Meeting

To be held at the Ningi community hall on Bribie Island Rd on the 26th Feb. & commencing at 1.30 pm.

New Growers' Meeting

Held at the Church of Christ hall on the corner of Fifth Ave & Foley St Bongaree on the last Saturday of the month (Feb 23rd) & beginning at 1.30 pm. The guest speaker will be Lawrie Smith. His subject being orchid displays & Botanical Gardens.

Diary Dates.

Feb 14 Colin Campbell (Gardening Australia) is coming to the Bribie library at 9.30 am. Details 34081388.

Feb 16 Caboolture OS hosts the annual meeting of STOCQ

Feb 16-17 Aspley OS show at the Mt Coot-tha auditorium.

Feb 24 Nambour & Noosa OS show "Orchid Lovers Day Out" at Yandina RSL. (see Showtime)

Feb 29/2 Mar Qld International Orchid Trade Fair at Pine Rivers PCYC Baker St Bray Park. (see Showtime)

Mar 14-16 Queensland OS open show at the auditorium at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. Setting up 13th Mar. from 3 pm. Judging at 8 pm. Good plant sales. Enquiries Ph. 33662214 or tomato@ihug.com.au.

Mar 21-22 BIOS show at the Indoor Bowls Centre on First Ave Bongaree. A benching show. (See Showtime)

Apr 5 Childers & Isis OS 25th anniversary show. Set up on the 4th.

Apr 5 Nambour OS autumn show at St Mary's church hall Village Green, Montville. Open 9.30 am. This is a closed show

Apr 16-18 Sunshine Coast OS show

May 3-4 Gympie Garden Expo hosted by Gympie Horticultural & Gympie District OS held at Gympie showgrounds. Ph. Norm Breen 5482 6270

May 3-4 Gympie & District OS show set up 2nd May.

May 8-10 Bundaberg OS show in Bundaberg Civic Centre. Set up on the 7th judging at 7pm.

May 9-11 Pumicestone District OFS at Ningi community hall on Bribie Island Rd.

May 17 South Burnett orchid growers show at Kingaroy.

Jun 21 STOCQ meeting at RSL club North St Yandina.

Jul 11-13 Caboolture OS show Set up on 7th.

Sep 5-6 Nambour OS show at the Uniting Church on Coronation Drive. Set up 4th.

Sep 4-6 Childers & Isis OS show

Sep 11-13 Noosa show.

Sep 18-20 Maryborough District OS show

Sep 25-29 West Australian Orchid Spectacular (see Showtime)

Oct 11-12 BIOS spring show at student centre, Bribie Island SHS First Ave Bongaree.
 Oct 10-12 Hervey Bay OS show.
 Nov 7-9 Pumicestone & District OFS show at Ningi community hall on Bribie Island Rd.

18th AOC Conference & Show hosted by the Marybynong OS at Werribee in Victoria 8th-13th Sept '09

Jude's Jottings

Rain, Rain, Rain - Yes it's heaven sent, but are you sick of it yet? I am, but then I'm allergic to water.....Of course we should be thankful we haven't experienced floods etc that other places have. And the mealy bug is thriving - darn - that means more work.

Unfortunately couldn't make it to the January New Growers' Meeting. (but had a terrific time with our visiting one year old Granddaughter)

Reports were, it was a very educational meeting for one and all. Thanks to Don, Margaret and Guest Speakers Merv and Ian, whilst Gwendella coped beautifully with afternoon teas in the absence of our Providore.

HANDY HINT: Buy yourself a folder in which to keep all those info sheets that are handed out.

Good news, our Secretary now has the new toys to play with. Yes, the new laptop, printer and data projector arrived safely with only a couple of items missing in the sealed boxes. All good things come to those who wait.

Time is slipping by, and the Easter Show is just around the corner. Time to get our thinking caps on - Floral Art for those ladies who participate. I've had one practice run for 'Silver Threads among the Gold'; must admit there's not much silver or gold amongst it. Perhaps you might have some different items or ideas for our Craft Stall which you can pass on to Ro Clyne. Our Providore will tell us just what she needs for the Kitchen.

See you all at the Cultural Meeting on Tuesday 26th February at the Ningi Community Hall.

Now to our 'home'.....

The cogs are definitely turning in the Caboolture Council region and the Application for Change to the Master plan for the Recreation Reserve on First Avenue was submitted to Council at their last meeting ever yesterday Tuesday 12th February 2008. We are hoping it has been approved as this is another step completed toward our home.

On Monday 21st February, the Working Party is meeting with Council staff to go through the Lease Agreement and if it meets with our approval, we will sign the forms and that will be the next step completed.

Sounding hopeful.....keep you posted next month.

January Cultural Meeting

Cattleya				
Exhibition	<i>B/c.</i> Sweet Anniversary	D & M Neldner		
Mini or compact	<i>Pot.</i> Redland Freedom 'Pale Face'	R & J Hopkins	D & M Neldner	W & J Corney
Novelty	<i>C.</i> Brabantiae	R & J Hopkins	M & V Anderson	D & M Neldner
Cluster	<i>C.</i> Netrasiri Jairugh	J & B Hopgood	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner
Dendrobium				
Spatulata / inter	<i>Den.</i> Walter Oumae x Burana Fancy	J & S Knight	J & B Hopgood	I & F McLaren
Vandaceous				
Ascda / Vanda over 60mms	<i>Ascda.</i> Ashley Lowe 'Tangerine'	J & B Hopgood	J & B Hopgood	
Under 60mms	<i>Vasco.</i> Asdornithee	W & J Corney	M & V Anderson	K & J Cheatham
Any other	<i>Vasco.</i> Pine Rivers	W & J Corney		
Species	<i>Rhy. retusa</i> 'Pink'	R & J Hopkins	A Pecci	

Phalaenopsis				
Species	<i>Dor. pulcherrima</i>	K Read		
Paphiopedilum				
Any other	<i>Phrag. Calurum</i>	I & F McLaren		
Miscellaneous				
Hybrid	<i>Coel. massangeana</i> x <i>gureodiana</i>	W & J Corney	J & B Hopgood	
Species	<i>Enc. alata</i>	J & S Knight	J & B Hopgood	M & V Anderson
Aust. natives				
Any hybrid	<i>Den. Superbiens</i>	I & F McLaren		
Novice				
Any Cattleya	<i>Epi. Imatophyllum</i>	K & J Carlton	K & J Carlton	K & J Carlton
Foliage				
Foliage	Caladium	M & V Anderson	D & M Neldner	A Pecci
Bromeliad	Tillandsia Diaguitensis	P Board	M & V Anderson	P Board
Fern		A Pecci	K & J Cheatham	
Anthurium	Anthurium Lady Pearl	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner

Popular vote - Orchid – *Rhy. retusa* 'Pink' owned by R & J Hopkins

Foliage – Anthurium Lady Pearl owned by D & M Neldner

Novice of the month was K & J Carlton

Judges' choice was *Rhy. retusa* 'Pink' proudly owned by Russ & Jan Hopkins

Notes from the Benches

Otr. Sip of Brandy x *Pot.* Free Spirit = Hasgw. Sip of Spirit

Hasgw. = Hasegawaara = Brassavola x Broughtonia x Cattleya x Laelia x Sophronitis

Showtime

1. West Australian Orchid Spectacular

Held from Friday 26th to Monday 29th Sept (public holiday) at the Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre. For further info. Contact Tony at waos@iinet.net.au. Sarah, our librarian, has info on this event.

2. Bus Trip to Qld International Orchid Trade Fair

To be held from Friday 29th Feb to Sunday 2nd March at the PCYC at Baker St Bray Park. Open from 9am with free admission. There are 27 vendors listed including leading Qld, interstate & international nurseries, specialist plant sellers, books & collectables. Our society is having a bus trip on the Sunday. Book now!

On Sunday 2nd March 2008 we will be running a bus trip to The Queensland International Orchid Fair at Pine Rivers PCYC at Bray Park. Stopping for lunch at a Leagues Club or RSL (to be determined) at each persons own expense. Afterwards, going to Doug & Kath Wanka's home to view their orchids and make purchases. The cost of the bus and morning tea is \$20.00. Entry to the fair is free. Pick-ups will be as normal leaving Eighth Ave, Woorim at 8.30am, Library at 8.35am, Wattle Street 8.37am, Mower Centre 8.40am, and Ningi Shopping Centre at 8.50am. We envisage returning to Bribie by about 4.00pm. Please gather up some friends and contact Diann Sirett by Phone 3408 1130 to reserve your seats. Payments can be made to Ian McLaren on Tuesday 26th February at the Meeting.

3.Orchid Lovers' Day Out

Hosted by Nambour & Noosa OS. on Feb 24. Venue is the RSL at North St Yandina. Entry is a donation of a gold coin. Morning Begins at 9.30 am with morning tea & then a talk by Murray Shergold on 'Orchid Mate' (everything you need to know about coconut husk fibre). In the afternoon Murray will speak on Madagascar with a data presentation on the land, it's people & plants. This will be followed on a presentation on Malayasia, including Borneo, Cameron Highlands, Johor, a 10 acre orchid show & a 200 acre orchid farm.

Plant sales from Easy Orchids & Orchidaceous Supplies.

4.BIOS Easter show.

Most importantly Mel, our show organizer, is looking for sponsors for each of the classes of orchids, foliage & floral art. Contact Mel or the treasurer. Each class is \$20. You may even nominate which class you would like to sponsor.

The floral art titles for the show are, in both Novice and Open:

“An Easter Arrangement using Orchids”

“Silver Threads among the Gold”

Floral Art Society of QLD rules apply.

Maureen, our provider, has requested home made cakes, biscuits or slices for the morning & afternoon teas. Maureen would also like some people to cook potatoes for Thursday tea. Please ring Maureen if you are able to do this. Another request is for trifle for the tea. Please ring Maureen for information Ph. 54295590.

New Growers' Meeting

Our first meeting for the year started with some of Don's jokes. I still love them. Merv Anderson issued notes & spoke about potting orchids. (Merv's potting tips) The notes are excellent & with illustrations. If you would like a copy please contact Merv (ph 3408 7706). Ian McLaren then spoke on the summer care of your orchids. His notes are included in this Bulletin.

The skiting plant winners were in the open class: - J & S Knight, K Read & J Cheatham. The novice winners were :- J Stokes (first & second) & D & B Mason. The raffle had 21 winners! so I'll just give the first 3. D Haupt, D Lloyd & K Read.

Just a reminder about the skiting plants. Open growers only have one plant for judging. Novice growers may bring the whole orchid house. If you have a plant which you think will be of interest to the group please bring that along too.

Cultural Notes - Mid-Summer

By Ian McLaren

February and March are active growing months so make sure the growing conditions encourage this fully. Unfortunately pests and some diseases also enjoy hot, moist conditions. Maintain shading, watering and feeding to benefit from this active growing period, but make an extra effort to ensure good **ventilation**. Ventilation does not only mean air movement around the stems and leaves. Your potting medium should be open enough that the roots can dry out between waterings. As well as removing any old or dead leaves and other material from the plants, remove any weeds or 'volunteer' ferns and foliage plants, etc.

Most of our commonly grown orchids will burn during our hot dry spells in summer, so usually we should provide extra shade and extra water, even just misting on days between waterings.. Weather such as we have had this January is less of a problem in this regard. However it has been great weather for aphids, mealy bugs and fungus. Check whether your plants need some **Confidor** (for aphids), **Two-in-One** [Killyptus & Pyrethrum] (or *metho*, for mealy bugs) and **Mancozeb** or **Fongarid** (for fungus).

Cattleyas (and their hybrids with *Brassavolas*, *Laelias* and *Sophronitis*) Many of these will be preparing for Autumn flowering.

As these began as true epiphytes they need occasional thorough soakings followed by drier spells but still with high humidity. Give a thorough soaking twice a week but be prepared for more if the humidity drops. Make sure that water does not sit for long in developing flower spikes.

Continue with weak, balanced fertiliser.

Dendrobiums (Hard cane types, Australian natives & their hybrids, including Intermediate types.)

These are used to a hot, wet, monsoon type summer with a winter drought. They come from open woodlands so need high light levels. Water them three times a week but allow them to dry out between waterings. Continue with weak balanced fertiliser.

Dendrobiums (Soft cane types & their hybrids}

These are used to a hot, wet, monsoon type summer so it is impossible to overwater or overfeed them at this stage. The deciduous forests they come from do not have high light levels in summer. However by Autumn they will require completely different treatment.

Oncidiums (As well as *Miltonias*, *Brassias* & their hybrids}

Generally these take less light than *Cattleyas* but the situation is complicated. Most of the hybrids will take the same light as *Cattleyas* but any hybrid with *Odontoglossum* will need cool conditions. In Summer the main requirement is not to let their leaves burn, and to keep them moist. By you should have finished any repotting and many of the Brassia hybrids will be sending out new flower spikes.

Vandas (and their related species and hybrids)

Most of these grow with bare, exposed roots and so need to have moist air around them. They *should* be watered every second day, and humidity levels can be kept up by extra, light mistings or by damping down the floor below them.

Phalaenopsis

These orchids are like the Vandas in their growth habit, their big fleshy, exposed roots and their lack of pseudobulbs. They must not be left to dry out, nor should they be left with water in the crown of the plant. Treat them as indoor plants but make sure they have good light.

Paphiopedilum

These plants also lack pseudobulbs and so need regular watering, probably every third day. Again, water sitting in the crown of the plant can rot newly emerging flower bulbs.

On the Grapevine

Big birthday wishes to Phil McMurdo, Sarah Knight, John McKeown & Lorna Binnie. Don't over celebrate.

John Knight is in hospital having some new joints put in. Best wishes from us all John.

Derek & Barbara are in Tasmania for a couple of months.

In a recent Orchids Qld raffle, Flo Johnson won second prize of a \$50 fuel voucher.

The computer swallowed Grandma. Yes honestly it's true!
 She pressed 'control' & 'enter' & disappeared from view.
 It devoured her completely; the thought just makes me squirm.
 She must have caught a virus or been eaten by a worm.
 I've searched through the recycle bin & files of every kind;
 I've even used the internet but nothing did I find.
 In desperation, I asked Google my searches to refine.
 The reply from him was negative, not a thing was found 'on line'.
 So, if inside your 'inbox' my Grandma you should see.
 Please 'copy, 'scan' & 'paste' her & send her back to me.

That's all folks.