

# Bribie Island Orchid Society Bulletin

## June Bulletin 2009

<b>PO Box 127 Bribie Island Q 4507</b>		
<a href="http://www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com">www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com</a>		
Patron:	Joy Leishman	
President:	Judith Carleton	3410 0789
Secretary:	Lynnette Hauck	3410 1919
Treasurer:	Ian McLaren	3408 9698
Asst. Editor:	John Stokes	3408 9228

### **Committee Meeting**

This will be held on the first Tuesday in of the month (July 7th) at the Bribie Island Bowls Club on Welsby Parade, Bongaree. The meeting commences at 1 pm. Just a reminder - any financial member may attend the Committee Meetings

### **Cultural Meeting**

Held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (June 23rd) at the Ningi Community Hall on Bribie Island Rd. The meeting begins at 1.30 pm. This will be the AGM. At the following meeting (28<sup>th</sup> July) the guest speaker will be Dean Stibbe from Files Stibbe Lawyers who will speak about wills/power of attorney and other personal documentation.

### **New Growers' Meeting**

Held on the last Saturday of the month (June 27th) at the Church of Christ hall on the cnr of Foley Street & Fifth Ave. The meeting begins at 1.30 pm.

### **Date Claimers**

More details closer to the event.

Jun 27	STOCQ meeting Ningi Hall
Jul 10-12	Caboolture OS show. Set up 9 <sup>th</sup>
Aug 8-9	Maroochydore OS show at community centre in Millwell Rd. Set up 7 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Aug 29</b>	<b>Bus Trip-Logan and District Orchid Show</b>
Sep 4-5	Nambour OS show in Uniting Church hall Donaldson Rd
Sep 8-13	18 <sup>th</sup> Aust Orchid Council Conference and Show, Werribee
Sep 18-19	Noosa OFS show at RSL hall in Maple St Cooroy
Sep 17-19	Maryborough District OS show. Set up 16 <sup>th</sup> .
Oct 2-3	Glasshouse Country OS show at community hall Peachester Rd, Beerwah. Set up 1 <sup>st</sup> .
<b>Oct 10 -11</b>	<b>Bribie Island OS "Bribie Orchid Bonanza" at Bribie Island SHS. Set up 9<sup>th</sup>.</b>
<b>Oct 17-18</b>	<b>Bus Trip - Boonah Orchid Show</b>

### **Planned Bus Trips for 2009**

**Saturday, 29th August** a Bus Trip to **Logan and District Orchid Show** with a special invitation and discount to New Growers. We will leave Woorim at 7am with our first stop to be at the Pine Rivers Orchid Show at The Deception Bay Shopping Centre before proceeding on to the Logan and District Orchid show where we will have morning tea as soon as we get there. Afterwards, we will proceed to the Logan Sporting Club for lunch. After lunch, a visit to a member's green house there before returning home to Bribie Island. The all-inclusive cost is \$30, and \$25 to all New Growers. Please make bookings with Judith Carleton on 34100789 and payments to Ian Mc Laren as I (Diann Sirett) will be away until 29th July.

**October 17th & 18th** a bus trip to **Boonah Orchid Show**. This will be an over-night trip. Prices & details in a future newsletter.

**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:**

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Bribie Island Orchid Society will be held on Tuesday 23rd June 2009 at the Ningi Community Hall, Bribie Island Road, Ningi at 1.30pm. All members are invited to attend. The election will follow the procedures as stated in the Constitution.

All positions are declared vacant and nominations are invited for the positions of:

Patron	New Grower's Coordinator
President	Librarian
Vice President	Property Officer
Secretary	Hosts/Hostesses
Treasurer	Social Organiser
Bulletin Editor	Delegates
Publicity Officer	Management Committee
Show Organiser	Assistant Secretary
Catering Committee	Assistant Treasurer
Scribe	Assistant New Grower's
Labeller	Honorary Auditor

Nomination Forms & Proxy Forms will be available at our meetings or from the Secretary. All Nomination and Proxy Forms should have been with the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009. Nominations will only be taken from the floor at the Annual General Meeting if the Secretary has received no previous nomination.

**Membership Renewal is now due. Payment of \$15 can be made to the Treasurer, Ian McLaren. Members MUST BE FINANCIAL to be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting in June.**

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**Nomination Form for Office Bearers 2009/10**

I, \_\_\_\_\_(Name) hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_(Name) for the position of \_\_\_\_\_(Position) with the Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc for 2009/10.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

I, \_\_\_\_\_(Name) second this nomination. Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

I, \_\_\_\_\_(Name) accept this nomination. Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

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**Proxy Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) being a member of the Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc, hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the AGM of the Society, to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

This form is to be used: \* In favour of the resolution

\* Against the resolution

\* Strike out whichever is not desired. (Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he/she thinks fit.)

### **Special Events**

- ❖ **6-7 June 2009**, Maleny Garden Club's "Gardening on the Edge" Recommended by Lyn. Contact Jan Maguire if interested (Tel-54999010 or email [jcmaguire@aapt.net.au](mailto:jcmaguire@aapt.net.au))
- ❖ **18-26 July 2009**, Orchid Tour of Singapore and Malaysia (incl visits to orchid shows, growers and botanical gardens). Contact Ron Glew for more information (5495 6078 or 0419 649 795 or email [ronjg@hotmail.net.au](mailto:ronjg@hotmail.net.au)).
- ❖ **First 2 weeks August**, Thailand Tour-these tours are very popular and numbers are limited so contact Ross at Aranbeem soon if interested.
- ❖ **8-13 Sept 2009**, AOC conference & show at Werribee Events & Leisure Centre (west of Melbourne.) Hosted by Marybynong OS.
- ❖ **26 Sept-6 Oct 2009**, 'An Orchid Lovers Tour of Borneo', hosted by Wayne Harris. Organised by Go See Tours. Cost from \$3300.
- ❖ **Queen's birthday weekend in June, 2010** is the STOCQ "Golden Orchidfest" hosted by Sunshine Coast, OS Caloundra Inc. at the Kawana Lakes Community Centre.

### **Committee News**

We learnt at the last meeting that Carryn Sullivan has accepted our nomination as Patron.

The approval process for our new home is making steady progress with Development Approval now received and it is believed Building Approval is not far off. The Committee members handling this have had to deal with a myriad of issues and are to be commended for their efforts.

The Committee adopted a suggestion from Mel that we have an in-house class at our October Show for Q150 orchids. If every member has managed to flower their plant by then it should be an impressive display.

Mel also hinted that everyone attending the AGM may get another plant so if you ever needed more incentive to attend that should do the trick!

The current committee was advised of nominations to date for the new committee. There are still some positions with no nominees but we are hopeful that by the AGM all positions will have at least one nomination

### **New Growers' Meeting**

In the absence of Don and Margaret Tom conducted the meeting ably assisted by Ian McLaren. Ian brought along two orchids which were in need of repotting – one a dendrobium in a mesh pot and the other a large specimen of Brassia Eternal Wind He generously donated 4 offcuts of the latter for raffle prizes and the winners of these were then asked to assist in their repotting. The other raffle prizes were a fruit tray,two fresh crabs (courtesy of Judy) and about 10 other orchid plants donated by members.

Judging was conducted by Judy and Ian.with first place going to J&J Stokes for a Calanthe William Murray, second to Ian McLaren for a Dendrobium and third to Jeannete Saviane for her Oncidium ornithorhynchum. There were no orchids benched by new growers.

**Please please** anyone who still has one of the sheets handed out by Fred Kleimeyer bring it to the next meeting as we expect him to be there to collect them.

## **May Cultural Meeting**

**Guest Speaker** was **Paul Hodges** from Bribie High School who gave us an update on the orphanage project in Cambodia and plans for this year's trip. Two of the students who will be going to Cambodia this year were also in attendance. The Society again offered its support for this work.

At the Meeting, President Judy Carleton presented Diann Sirett with an Orchids Queensland Award of Service "In recognition of her enthusiastic support of the Society". This Queensland Award is only presented annually and members must have a long and continuous involvement in the society to be considered eligible. The Management Committee and Members congratulated Diann and thanked her for her endeavours.

## **Benching Results**

<b>Cattleya</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> (Plant Name)</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
Exhibition	<u>Pot.</u> Heavenly Jewel	M&V Anderson	J&B Hopgood	I&F McLaren
Miniature/compact	<u>Slc.</u> Teachers Pet	M&V Anderson	K&J Carlton	
Novelty	<u>Bl.</u> Golden Glory	I&F McLaren	M&V Anderson	J.Saviane
Cluster	<u>Ctna.</u> Why Not Lee	T&S Harden	J&J Stokes	I&F McLaren
<b>Dendrobium</b>				
Spatulata/intermediate	<u>Den.</u> Touch of Gold	J&B Hopgood	M&V Anderson	I&F McLaren
Any other	<u>Den.</u> Dal's Dazzler	I&F McLaren	J. Saviane	J&J Stokes
<b>Vandaceous</b>				
Over 60mm	<u>Ascda.</u> Yip Sum Wah	J&B Hopgood	J&B Hopgood	
Under 60mm	<u>Ascda.</u> Marlyn Farwell	J&B Hopgood		
Any other	<u>Vasco.</u> Prapawan	J&J Stokes	J&B Hopgood	
<b>Oncidium</b>				
Species	<u>Onc. maculatum</u>	J. Saviane	J. Saviane	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
Hybrid	<u>Bulb.</u> Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'	A. Linsen-Perez	J&J Stokes	J&J Stokes
Species	<u>Comparettia falcata</u>	A. Linsen-Perez	J&B Hopgood	J&J Stokes
<b>Aust Natives</b>				
Species	<u>Den. biggibum</u>	J&J Stokes		
Dockrillea	<u>Den. rigidum</u>	A. Linsen-Perez		
<b>Novice</b>				
Any type Cat.	<u>C.</u> unknown	L. Binnie		
Hybrid any other	<u>Den.</u> superbians	A&A Budge		
<b>Foliage</b>				
Bromeliad	Tillandsia	M&V Anderson	J. Saviane	J. Saviane
Fern	Nephrolepis exalta	M&V Anderson		
Foliage other	Aglaonema	M&V Anderson	D. Haupt	J. Saviane

- ❖ **Popular vote** – Den. Jaydee Jim (M&V Anderson)
- ❖ **Judges' choice** – Den. Touch of Gold (J&B Hopgood)
- ❖ **Novice of the month** – Lorna Binnie
- ❖ **Judges were:** Mel Wheeler, Agnes Linsen-Perez, Tom Watson
- ❖ **Raffle** was won by Lorna Binnie

## **Cultivation Notes**

### **Roots glorious roots**

You've probably heard it all before but the following extracts from an article on the Royal Horticultural Society website by Deborah Dillon-Townes sure made me rethink my potting habits. Methinks I've been putting more emphasis on moisture retention and less on oxygenation of the roots. Seems they have to be in balance.

"The health of its roots can make or break an orchid, thereby determining whether it blooms or not. Healthy orchids begin with healthy roots.

### **Epiphytic orchids**

To understand epiphytes, you must understand their roots. The white outer layer of epiphytic roots consists of the velamen, a structure of empty, dead cells that absorbs water quickly, like a sponge, each time it rains in the tropics. These roots have the ability to flatten, as in phalaenopsis, and attach the orchid firmly through tiny filaments to tree bark, rocks or, in captivity, pots.

In the rainforest where many epiphytic orchids originate, this network of exposed roots is responsible for anchoring the orchid, absorbing water and humidity, and the intake of soluble nutrients in the form of decaying organic matter along with animal and bird faeces. Thus one of the crucial keys to growing orchids in captivity is allowing the roots constant access to oxygen.

### **Access to oxygen**

One thing to keep in mind is that we grow orchids in pots for our own convenience, not for the best interest of the orchid. Pots contain the orchid for display and make it mobile. Potting also helps to keep the roots hydrated because there is rarely sufficient humidity in our homes or even in many greenhouses to keep roots from drying out. However, one consequence of potting is restriction of the roots' access to vital oxygen. And therein lies the problem. Moisture and oxygen are the two vital components in maintaining the health of orchid roots. By containing roots in pots, we sacrifice abundant oxygen for the sake of moisture. We try to compensate for this by using a chunky potting mix containing bark, charcoal, perlite or lava rock that creates air pockets, which allow a limited supply of oxygen to reach the roots. Eventually, the bark will decompose and, with frequent watering and warm temperatures, that will happen sooner rather than later.

We attempt to remedy that situation by repotting the orchid periodically, but the standard recommendation to repot only every two years is often a death sentence to epiphytic roots imprisoned in a decaying mix. In reality, the potting mix begins breaking down almost immediately under continuous moisture. The smaller pieces of bark rot first, and as the bark decomposes, it collapses and fills in the air spaces in the pot from the centre outward, decreasing the oxygen available to roots. Plastic pots (which do not permit air exchange through its sides) accelerate this process, because the microbes responsible for decay are anaerobic and thrive in the absence of oxygen.

### **Mounted orchids**

The most natural way to grow orchids, albeit the trickiest, is on mounts. Some orchids, such as angraecums and aerangis, need to be grown on mounts because their roots are so sensitive to rot that they do not do well in pots. Others, such as Broughtonia sanguinea and Cattleya walkeriana and its hybrids, seem to do better mounted, although they can be grown potted. To grow mounted orchids in a humid greenhouse, dispense with a sphagnum moss pad and water or mist every couple of days. One word of caution: if the ambient humidity is high enough, it certainly is possible to over-water a mounted orchid contrary to popular opinion."

### **Choice and size of pot**

An important factor that will affect the health of an orchid's roots is the choice of pots, including type of material and size. In order to make an appropriate choice, you must first determine what kind of 'waterer' you are, and under what conditions you grow. If you tend to over-water, or there is high ambient humidity in your growing area, clay pots are a good choice because they enable more oxygen to get to the roots. If, however, you are a reluctant waterer or grow in a dry atmosphere, plastic pots will help to conserve moisture. By growing in a plastic pot, an orchid receives its major oxygen supply where air enters the mix from above. The roots closest to the surface of the pot, therefore, are the primary beneficiaries and tend to stay healthiest the longest.

This is why one cannot usually look at the drier mix and white roots on the top of a pot to determine whether an orchid needs repotting. The roots deeper down, with limited access to oxygen, could be succumbing to rot unbeknown to the grower. Indeed, the only live roots may be the ones that you can see on the surface. Clay pots, on the other hand, allow oxygen to penetrate and pass through all of its surfaces. The size of the pot is important as well. A pot of any material that is too large for the root system of the orchid will contain excess potting medium that will not dry out quickly enough to let in oxygen, thus dooming roots to rot. When in doubt about proper pot size, it is safer to contain roots snugly in the smallest pot that will accommodate them. Many orchids seem to grow and bloom better when pot-bound, including dendrobiums, oncidiums and cattleyas.

### **Judy's Jottings**

Didn't think much happened this month to write about but surprisingly there's always something going on. Of course I could always write about the rain.

A good array of blooms were benched at the Pumicestone Orchid Show. Certainly a lot of cattleyas and dendrobiums on show. With many judges not turning up, we students had more interaction with senior judges in our group.

Florence and Ian McLaren, Gwendella Cooper, Lyn Hauck and I attended the inaugural Longman Awards to see our own Ro Clyne presented with her award and pin.

At the big morning tea held by the Handicraft Club to raise money for Cancer Research, Lyn Diann and I manned our "Orchid Table". We were very pleased with our sales.

By now most of you have received your Q150 Orchid Calendar. Our thanks to Carryn Sullivan and her elves who selected and produced this from photos and write-up our Secretary sent over. Apologies to any member whose name was missed. Please note the time the speech was delivered in Parliament!

See you all at the AGM. Have you been nominated? New blood on the Committee is always welcome.

### **Internet sites for Month**

Orchid photos galore! "Webshots" have no fewer than 232,826 orchid photos on their website at

<http://www.webshots.com/search?query=orchids&new=1&source=chromeheader>

But you don't have to trawl through all of them to find what you want. You can search by variety or name.

### **And not only but also**

News from **Alex Wrigley** is that he has started treatment for his cancer and intends to carry on his business as usual. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him again soon at one of the forthcoming shows.

### **Finally, On the Grapevine**

June birthdays known to us are Allan Sirett, Don and Margaret Neldner, Jeanette Saviane, and Merv Venz.. Best wishes to all the birthday people Have a great day from us all.

At least three of our lucky member couples will be enjoying an overseas holiday this month. They are Merv and Val, Janet and Graham, and Di and Allan. We wish them Bon Voyage and safe travelling.

*Contact Asst. Editor John (phone 3408 9228 or email [stokes@sillyfrog.com](mailto:stokes@sillyfrog.com)) for more information on any of above items.*

***That's all, folks.***