

Bulletin for March, 2008.
www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com

Committee Meeting. Held on the second Tuesday of the month (8th April) at the Bribie Island Bowls Club on Welsby Parade Bongaree & commencing at 1 pm.

At the Management Meeting on 11th March 2008, Margaret Neldner moved that the Annual General Meeting be moved from May to June each year. This was seconded by Maureen Elliott and carried by the Committee members. This item will be discussed at the March Cultural Meeting on 25th March 2008 and will be ratified if accepted by members.

Cultural Meeting. Held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (25th March) at the Ningi community hall on Bribie Island Rd. The meeting begins at 1.30 pm.

New Growers' Meeting. Held on the last Saturday of the month (29th March) at the Church of Christ hall on the corner of Foley St & Fifth Ave Bongaree. The meeting begins at 1.30 pm.

Diary Dates.

- Mar 14-16 Queensland OS autumn 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 15-16 Southport & District OS present an Orchid Spectacular & Trade Fair at The Oasis shopping centre Broadbeach. Ph. 5573 4236.
- 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
- Apr 19-20 Boyne & Tannum Foliage & Orchid society inaugural show at Tannum Sands High School. Set up 4-7 pm. on Friday 18th April.
- May 3-4 Qld Herb Society annual show called 'herb awareness weekend' at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens auditorium. Ring Debbie 5426 8299.
- 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 10th.
- 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 Marybyngong OS at Werribee in Victoria 8th-13th Sept '09

In a democracy it's your vote that counts, in feudalism it's your Count that votes.

Jude's Jottings.

Wow - what a great day was had by all who went on the latest bus trip starting at the International Orchid Trade Fair and finishing at Doug and Kath Wanka's home and the opportunity for everyone to purchase lots and lots of lovely orchid plants. Our congratulations must go to our Bus Trip Organiser, Diann Sirett on a super day out. Everyone is still talking about it. Well done, Diann.

The Easter Show is only a week away - have you got your plants all clean, tidy and labeled ready for benching??? Remember that you can sell any surplus plants on the Plant Sales Table. See Merv Anderson for sales tags and information. Don't forget workers are needed in all areas so just offer your assistance. Come and see me and we will find a job for you. It will be appreciated. Just a reminder, please wear your Club T-shirt and name badge.

Raffle sales are going well for the Easter Rabbit and eggs for the Show and my thanks go to those members who gave their time selling tickets and handing out show information flyers.

See you Thursday for set-up for the Easter Show.
Judy.

February Cultural Meeting.

Our Patron, Mayor Joy Leishman, attended as one of her last official duties. She was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her services to our society. Councillor Gary Parsons also attended & was also presented with a certificate of appreciation. Our guest speaker was David Percival Speaking & showing us the beautiful environment of Bribie Island with its unique bird life & scenic lagoons. The fruit tray raffle was won by F McLaren while other winners were B Pritchard & D Haupt. The exhibitor's draw went to J & B Hopgood. Judges were Mel, Tom & John.

Cattleya				
Exhibition	<i>Lc.</i> Longriver Compton	R & J Hopkins	D & M Neldner	S Maller
Mini / compact	<i>Pot.</i> CRB's Success	R & J Hopkins		
Novelty	<i>Ctna.</i> Brandi	D & M Neldner	J & B Hopgood	M & L Hauck
Cluster	<i>Ctna.</i> Dash of Port	W & J Corney		
Dendrobium				
Spatulata / inter	<i>Den.</i> Burma Green	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	J & B Hopgood
Any other	<i>Den.</i> Dal's Pennies x Dal's Guy	D & M Neldner		
Vandaceous				
Over 60 mms	<i>Ascda.</i> Muang Thong	J 7 B Hopgood		
Phalaenopsis				
Any type	<i>Phal.</i> Mad lips	M & L Hauck	D & M Neldner	J & B Hopgood
Oncidiae				
Species	<i>Milt.</i> Moreliana	D & M Neldner		
Any other	<i>Onc.</i> Sharry Baby	M & V Anderson		
Alliance	<i>Dgmra.</i> Winter Wonderland	R & J Hopkins	M & V Anderson	I & F McLaren
Miscellaneous				
Species	<i>Dend. macranthum</i>	J & B Hopgood	G Cooper	
Aust. natives				
Any terrestrial	<i>Spa. Plicata</i>	D & M		

		Neldner		
Novice				
Any Cattleya	<i>Blc. Hawaiian Rusty</i>	D Haupt		
Any species	<i>Milt. Spectabilis</i>	J Stokes	K & J Carleton	
Foliage				
Foliage	Dieffenbachia	D & M Neldner	S Maller	
Fern	Adiantum	D & M Neldner		
Bromeliad	Tillandsia	M & V Anderson	S Maller	M & V Anderson
Anthurium	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	

Popular vote - orchid-

Popular vote – foliage – Anthurium owned by D & M Neldner

Novice of the month was John Stokes owner of *Milt. spectabilis*

Judges' choice was *Dend. macranthum* owned by John & Bev Hopgood

Notes from the Benches.

C. Penny Kuroda x *Blc. Toshie Aoki* = *Blc. Hawaiian Rusty*

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

New Growers' Meeting for February.

Despite the extreme heat (approx. 40 C) 20 brave members and 2 visitors attended the meeting on 23rd Feb. There were 13 apologies. We were unable to use the airconditioned church because of a funeral so we met in the hall. Thank you Maureen for your thoughtfulness in providing iced water on our arrival. Lawrie Smith, Landscape Architect, kept us spellbound as he took us to the world renowned Butchart Botanical Gardens on Vancouver Is. Canada and then the Kew Gardens of London and the new huge igloos providing an exotic climate in Wales.

The piece-de-resistance was his visual description of the planning and development of the whole South Bank area for the 1988 Expo. including working with the many international exhibitors so as to present their displays with appropriate landscaping, etc. He described some of the problems encountered at the last minute, but also the wonderful results overall.

Lawrie was also responsible for the planning of the Roma St Precinct, several Botanical Gardens, including Mackay, and has organized successful exhibitions of Australian plants and flowers at Chelsea and also at the Japanese Floral Festival. These latter projects were not shown in his 45 minute presentation.

Prizes for the raffle winners included orchids and other plants. The first three winners were Daphne Lloyd, Maureen's granddaughter Tayler and John Stokes. The raffle brought in \$60 The next meeting will be held in the Church of Christ Hall on 29th March with Sarah Knight giving a talk on Catasetums.

Thank you Don Neldner for your summary of the meeting.

BIOS Show.

- Mel is looking for sponsors for the many classes on the show schedule. Cost is \$20 per class.
- Merv Anderson has the sales tags if you want to sell plants on our plant sales table. (Plants must be clean, free of pests & diseases & well established in the pot.)
- Setting up at the indoor Bowls centre is from about 3.30 pm. Judging begins at 7 pm.
- Rose Clyne from the craft stall is requesting items for sale, in particular novelty items, also good sellers are cakes, jams & sweets

Bits & Pieces.

1. Each month the society receives bulletins & newsletters from many societies. These are held by our librarian & well worth a read. A stand out among them is the bulletin of the Qld Bromeliad Society, "Bromeliaceae". If you are into broms, this is a must.
2. During March check plants & housing regularly for chewing insects, slugs, snails, mealy bugs & scale. Treat if necessary. Check for rots & fungus & spray if necessary.
3. Regular fertilizing while plants are in active growth should help achieve strong, healthy plants. Air circulating around pots & plants can help minimize fungus & rots.
(2 & 3 Orchids Australia for Feb '08.)
4. IV International Photography Exhibition in Serbia. It is called "Orchid Obsession" & the National Park Fruska Gora is calling for photographic entries. The deadline is May 10, 2008. Previous exhibitions ("Wonders of the dragonflies world", "Through the spider's web" & "Butterflies & moths") may be viewed on www.naturefg.com/pages/exhibitions.htm
5. Editor : I have all the information here if anyone is interested. That web site is well worth a look.
6. Diann has a weekend bus trip to Coffs Harbour planned for later in the year so watch this space for more information. If you can't wait until next month please ring Diann on 34081130.
7. How many of us have brushed against something with a ball point pen leaving a line of blue ink behind. Or, like my darling hubby who used to wear white business shirts in his previous life have a pen leak in your pocket. I can't tell you how many business shirts I have saved in years gone by especially his favourite Pierre Cardin shirt. How I hear you ask? Spray the ink with hair spray, YES hair spray the cheaper the better. It will melt the ink. Sometimes you need to rinse and reapply many times but it really works. (This little gem came from Lynn).

When an actress saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.

Benching your Show Plants.

Preparing plants for the show bench begins the minute you bring home your new plant, not the week before the show. The following suggestions may serve as a help & a reminder.

Please refer to BIOS inc. Model Rules, Conditions & Bylaws, Nov 2002. Show rules & conditions of entry.

- You must own a plant at least 6 months. If owned for a shorter time then it may be benched with a tag saying 'For display only' or Not for judging.'

At home.

- Stake, tie & train your plants as they grow.
- Use a stake to train a Cattleya pseudobulb to grow upright & therefore the inflorescence will have a good upright start in life. (also canes on Dendrobiums & Vandaceous types.)
- Staking must conform to QOS rules.
- Stakes must not be too high. We don't want the judge to lose an eye.
- Stakes should be unobtrusive & must not detract from the plant.
- Ties should be neat & blend in with the plant.
- Have even light all round & above the plant to get even flowering. (Not all growing to one light source.)
- When flowers are forming use wedges of styrene to space the flowers evenly.
- Protect the flowers as they emerge from water & weather damage.
- Do not allow pests or diseases to infest your orchids. (The judges & other plant owners don't like to see ants running along the show benches.)

The day before,

- The outside of the pot must be clean. (Either replace the pot or place the pot in a new & larger one.)
- The potting mix should be clean (no weeds,)
- If a flower breaks off, leave it on top of the pot.
- The plant & pot must be able to stand firmly on the show bench.
- Clean the leaves by washing with milk & water. Do not use leaf shine. (This also applies to Anthuriums.)
- When handling & preparing your plants always have clean hands & sterilize all tools.
- Trim dead or damaged leaves by cutting them to the shape of the leaf.

On the day.

- Transport to show – a lot of care is needed not to damage the plant or the flowers. (An upturned box is a handy carrier. Cut holes in the box to fit the pot.)
- A minimum of 50% of the buds on the inflorescence have to be open to be eligible for judging.
- If you are not sure where to place your plant ask an official.
- Place your plant on the show bench to show the flowers to the best advantage to the judges.
- Be very careful of other entrants' plants.
- Have labels & pot numbers where they can be clearly seen by the judges & the public.
- Have clean & neat printing on the label.
- Don't have flowers hidden by the foliage.
- Don't judge your own plant at home, let the judges do it at the show.

References.

1. BIOS show schedule & conditions of entry.
2. Preparation of plants for show by Jim McKinney.
3. How to prepare your plants for showing by Athol Bennett in 'Les Orchidaes' March '04.
4. Show bench rules by Joan Male & Lester Ratcliffe in 'Les Orchidaes June '95.
5. Bloom displaying by Ken Balke from 'Orchids Australia'.

Those who jump off a paris bridge are in Seine.

On the Grapevine.

We know all our March birthday members will have a wonderful time, Best wishes to Judy Carleton, Gwenda Davis, Joan Harrison, Vic Horton, Judith Cheatham, Jackie O'Connor & Maureen Elliott.

Control of Viruses

The control of virus disease is essential in orchid growing. To achieve this it is necessary that the grower becomes aware of the seriousness of the disease, is aware of its modes of spread and adopts handling techniques that limit the possibility of its transfer.

Virus infection in Orchids is virtually always due to one of two viruses: Cymbidium Mosaic Virus and/ or Odontoglossum Ring Spot Virus. These viruses affect all genera with the signs of infection being more obvious in some and at certain stages in the growing cycle. Almost invariably virus affected plants result from the purchase of an infected plant, the division of a virus affected plant or the careless use of cutting instruments where infected sap is introduced to a previously clean plant.

When purchasing a plant it is essential that you view it carefully having familiarised yourself with the diagnostic signs of virus infection. Deal with reputable traders and if you see a suspicious mark, ask their advice. Beware of backbulbs especially if these do not have substantial leads, as the signs will not be obvious. The older the plant the more likely it is to be virus affected because it has been handled before. To the new grower, the offer of a backbulb or division from an untrained orchid grower is a common source for the introduction of infection.

Constantly view your collection critically and occasionally invite a fellow grower to look over your plants. They may see something that you miss. Be aware when signs are likely to be most obvious eg. with the new growth in cymbidiums and during flowering with cattleyas. When a new plant is brought into the collection it may be prudent to quarantine it, although with virus disease this may involve a period of up to a year. If a virused plant is found it should be destroyed unless there is a very good reason for retaining it, as the disease is incurable. Only with a valuable breeding plant or valuable unique clone is an attempt to rid the infection by meristem culture justified. Do not give it to another grower whoever they are as this only perpetuates the problem.

Since spread is almost always by direct contact, and usually via cutting instruments, a safe technique for handling plants must be developed. The two most effective agents against viruses are alkaline solutions and heat. Mentholated spirits, hypochlorite, formalin may be used. However the best agent is trisodium orthophosphate marketed as Triclenium. This is readily obtainable from hardware stores, is inexpensive and relatively safe to use. Potassium hydroxide (caustic potash) and sodium hydroxide

(caustic soda) are more effective but too dangerous and never forget that you are more valuable than your orchid. Triclenium is used as a 10% or saturated solution and the cutting instruments should be heated to blue heat.

A satisfactory approach to control any spread via cutting instruments involves

1. Use only long bladed knives not secateurs. Knives can be used to cut any part of the plant and can be readily flamed whereas secateurs cannot. Two carving knives will suffice so that one can be soaking while the other is being used.
2. After use...
 - Pass the knife through a container of detergent to remove vegetable matter and compost, which denatures the Triclenium, paying particular attention to the junction of handle and blade, as this is the difficult area to flame.
 - When clean transfer it to the Triclenium and shake the solution up into the handle, and leave for 20 minutes if possible.
 - Prior to use, flame the blade to blue heat. This has a direct sterilizing effect. Also in drying the blade, the Triclenium becomes more concentrated.

Other potential vehicles for the spread of virus include...

1. Your hands. Hot soapy water provides the most feasible approach and regular washing while repotting is desirable.
2. The potting area. Here, a regular wash down with Triclenium should be given, especially at the end of the day or when there is any suspicion that an infected plant may have been handled.
3. Pots and potting compost. If these are reused care should be taken. The potting compost would be difficult to sterilize, however pots and should be first washed in detergent and then soaked in Triclenium.
4. Insects whilst not proven to transfer infection should be eradicated at the first sign.

Virus infection can and must be controlled. Become aware of its diagnostic signs, keep a constant vigil and practice techniques that minimize its spread. You can control it in your collection and therefore orchid growers can be encouraged to adopt such an approach and we can take it a step towards its eventual eradication.

Dr Julian Coker

That's all folks!