

Bulletin for May 2008.

www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com

Committee Meeting. Held on the third Tuesday of the month (17th June) at the Bribie Island Bowls Club on Welsby Parade Bongaree & commencing at 1 pm.

Cultural Meeting. Held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (27th May) 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 (31st May) at the Church of Christ hall on the corner of Foley St & Fifth Ave Bongaree. The meeting begins at 1.30 pm.

Diary Dates.

- May 17-18 Aranbeem Orchids 2008 open day weekend sale – special prices. From 9 am. Each day.
May 17 South Burnett orchid growers show at the Uniting Church hall, Alford St Kingaroy. 10am to 3pm.
May 23 Leave Woorim at 6 am for bus trip to Coffs Harbour.
May 24-25 Australia's Open Garden Scheme are holding a Plant Fair at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. Info on www.opengarden.org.au
Jun 6 A Night with Lawrie Smith at Bribie Island Baptist Church, cnr Cotterill Ave & Bestman Ave. Lawrie is the landscape artist of Expo 88 & the Roma St Parklands. Starting time is 7pm.
Jun 7 Don & Margaret Neldner's 50th wedding anniversary celebration at Bribie RSL. Ring Val to book.
Jun 7-8 Cacti & Succulents show at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens auditorium.
Jun 21 STOCQ meeting at RSL club North St Yandina. 9am is morning tea. Guest speaker is Wayne Harris – 'Orchids of Borneo & surrounds'. Ph 5441 7201
Jun 28-29 North Moreton Qld Orchid Council Charity Orchid Spectacular in aid of Breastscreen Qld at Mt Coot-tha auditorium. PH 33534851
Jul 10 BIOS Free barbecue at Caboolture Centenary Lakes at noon to meet Gladstone OS members.
Jul 11-13 Caboolture OS show Set up on 10th. We display
Jul 11-13 Qld Home Garden Expo at the Nambour showgrounds. Ph 5441 4655. Gates open 8am daily.
Aug 2-3 Maroochydore OS show at Millwell Rd community hall, Millwell Rd East, Maroochydore. We display at this show
Aug 23-24 ANOS Kabi Group Aussie Native Orchid show at the Lion's hall, Lawnton Showgrounds
Aug 30-31 Logan & District OS show at Logan Central Community Centre cnr Jacaranda Ave & Wembley Rd Logan Central.
Aug 30-31 North Brisbane OS spring show at Mt Coot-tha auditorium ph 3353 4851
Sep 5-6 Nambour OS show at the Uniting Church on Coronation Drive. Set up 4th. We display.
Sep 4-6 Childers & Isis OS show
Sep 12-13 Noosa District O & F society show at CWA hall Cooroy Set up on the 11th from 2.30 pm. This is a benching show. We support this show.
Sep 18-20 Maryborough District OS show
Sep 25-29 West Australian Orchid Spectacular (see Showtime)
Sep 26-27 Glasshouse Country OS show at Beerwah community hall. Set up from 2pm on 25th. We display.
Oct 11-12 BIOS spring show "Orchid Bonanza" at student centre, Bribie Island SHS First Ave Bongaree.
Oct 10-12 Hervey Bay OS show.
OCT 18-19 Boonah OS show & incorporating the 2nd Qld Sarcophilus festival at Boonah High School in Macquarie St.
Nov 7-9 Pumicestone & District OFS show at Ningi community hall on Bribie Island Rd. We display.
Dec 16 **BIOS Christmas party ay Bribie RSL.**

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

Judy's Jottings

Good news! Our land for our home has finally been surveyed. Next time you're passing, take a note of the white & blue stakes with pink ribbons blowing in the breeze. (Next door to the Indoor Bowls centre) At last our library is now housed at Tom's church hall for all to access. My thanks to Val, Diann, & the boys Merv, Ken & Ian for taking time out to move it.

Orchid shows are now on in earnest.

Support our bus trips!! Thursday the 17th April saw the 'gang' set up a display at the Sunshine Coast Orchid show at Caloundra. Boy! Am I envious of the grand champion *Cirr. Rothchildianum*. I was so excited when my small plant got one flower spike - only to die on me before it opened.

Our 'no frills' trip to Ipswich (April 19th) & the one to Gympie (May 3rd) were most enjoyable & it was lovely to catch up with Vic & Judith Horton at Gympie. Keep in mind, this is our way of saying thank you for supporting 'Fantasy' & secondly, we want them to visit us for our 'October Orchid Bonanza'

Free BBQ!!! We've talked many times about having a free barbecue for our members. It's now a goer! Mark your calendar to be held at the Caboolture Centenary Lakes on Saturday 10th July at noon. This also coincides with the visit from the Gladstone OS members so let's make it a great time.....

Hope you are all enjoying in your gardens or with your orchids with this glorious weather we are having. Judy.

April Cultural Meeting.

Quite a lot of interesting news was announced at the meeting. When our 2 special Bribie orchids were on display a photo was taken for the history records. They were *Vasco*. Bribie Gold (our 29th anniversary orchid) & *Den*. Bribie Ten Ninety-seven (our 10th anniversary orchid.) Diann reported on our bus trips. I don't know how she did it but we even had a book sale to visit in Ipswich. on the 23rd May the bus leaves Bribie for Coffs Harbour. In July we visit the Brisbane Botanic Gardens for the John Oxley OS show & there's more. In July Gladstone OS will be visiting us so be ready to join in all the entertainment.

On Saturday 7th June the society will be helping Don & Margaret Neldner to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at the Bribie RSL. Please let Val Anderson know if you are attending.

A food handling course is being organized for interested members. Our secretary, Lynn or Tom Davis can give you more information.

Our guest speaker was Pat Lynch who is in charge of the Bribie ambulance station. His talk was extremely well received.

The raffle winners were: Vern Hopgood (fruit tray), Jan Donaldson & Joan Venz

Judges for the day were Mel Wheeler & John Hopgood. Scribe was Bev Hopgood.

Cattleya				
Exhibition	<i>Blc.</i> George King 'Serendipity'	J & B Hopgood	K Read	D & M Neldner
Novelty	Unknown	K & J Cheatham	M & V Anderson	M & L Hauck
Cluster	<i>C.</i> Portia	K & J Cheatham	M & V Anderson	J & B Hopgood
Species	<i>L. anceps</i>	J & B Hopgood		
Dendrobium				
Spatulata / inter.	<i>Den.</i> Jaydee Jim	R & M Mitchell	J & B Hopgood	
Any other	<i>Den.</i> Dal's Crystal	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner
Vandaceous				
Over 60 mms	<i>V.</i> Robert's Delight 'Midnight Special'	J & B Hopgood		
Under 60 mms	<i>Ascda.</i> Red Gem	M & V Anderson	J & B Hopgood	J & B Hopgood
Other	<i>Vasco.</i> Precious	J & B Hopgood	J & B Hopgood	
Phalaenopsis				
Species	<i>Phal.</i> <i>Equestris</i>	T & G Davis	T & G Davis	
Oncideae				

Any other	<i>Onc. Sharry Baby</i>	J & B Hopgood	D & M Neldner	K & J Cheatham
Other alliance	<i>Onc. ornithorhynchum</i>	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	
Miscellaneous				
Species	<i>Dendro. cobbianum</i>	J & B Hopgood	J & B Hopgood	M & V Anderson
Cymbidium				
Species	<i>Cym. Aloifolium</i>	M & V Anderson		
Aust. Natives				
Species	<i>Den. bigibbum</i> var. 'Superbum'	T & G Davis	T & G Davis	K & J Cheatham
Any terrestrial	<i>Pter. Nutans</i>	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	
Novice				
Any Cattleya	<i>Blc. Dream Trader</i>	J Stokes	B & M Elliott	B & M Elliott
Any other hybrid	<i>Den. Unknown</i>	J Stokes	B & M Elliott	J Stokes
Foliage				
Bromeliad	Tillandsia	D & M Neldner	M & V Anderson	M & V Anderson
Fern	<i>Nepheolepis Exalta</i>	M & V Anderson	D & M Neldner	
Foliage	<i>Dieffenbachia</i>	D & M Neldner		
Anthurium		D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner

Popular vote orchid went to V. Robert's Delight 'Midnight Special' owned by John & Bev Hopgood.

Popular vote foliage went to *Nepheolepis Exalta* owned by Merv & Val Anderson

Novice plant of the month was owned by John Stokes – *Den. Unknown*

Judges' choice was won by Roy & Merle Mitchell with *Den. Jaydee Jim*.

Notes from the Benches

Blc. Waikiki Gold x *Yellow Imp 'Burdekin'* = *Blc. Iona Gold*

New Growers' Meeting.

30 members attended with a warm welcome from Don & his usual good joke. Margaret presented Ian's talk on the care of orchids in autumn (notes follow on p. 3) Don then had item on "Describing & Identifying orchids."

The skiting plant results were – Novice – 1&2 B & M McKane with J Stokes third. Open winners were – L Hauck, J & S Knight & M & V Anderson. Raffle winners were – J Stokes, M Anderson, D Haupt, R Powell, D Neldner & T Davis. The guest speaker for the May meeting will be Fay Wheeler who will talk about *Paphiopedilums*.

Cultural Notes Autumn by Ian McLaren.

There can be no doubt that summer is well & truly over. There is now little likelihood of leaf burn so we can now remove any extra shading we applied during the hottest months; or we can reposition plants to let them get more light. Many plants will be preparing for their main flowering period & some will have already started. Ensure the growing conditions are focused on flower production & not just plant growth. In particular, lessen waterings & use fertilizer with lower levels of nitrogen.

The flowers that appear in the coming months make this a most rewarding time but it is also a busy time. As soon as the flower spikes appear consider what sort of support or staking the plant needs & later what is needed just to make the inflorescence show at its best. Be very careful about 2 things. Avoid water lodging in places where it can damage or rot emerging buds & open flowers. Because flowers will try to open towards the brightest source of light don't move them unnecessarily. If you do have to move the plant to stake it, put it back in the same orientation.

The other continuing job is repotting. Immediately after the flowering is over & before new growths become too large consider repotting. You do not want the roots sitting in broken down mix & rotting during the winter months.

There will still be some risk from aphids, mealy bugs & fungus. Check for aphids on developing blossoms & whether your plants need some **Confidor** (for aphids). **Two-in-One** (Killyptus & pyrethrum) (or metho for mealy bugs) & **Mangozeb or Fongarid** for fungus.

Cattleyas (& their hybrids with Brassavolas, Laelias & Sophronitis) Many of these will have started their autumn flowering. Water twice weekly & use weak, low nitrogen fertilizer. Make sure that water does not sit for long in developing flower spikes & try to avoid spraying chemicals on the flowers & buds. Repot after the flowering if your plant is starting to 'climb out' of the pot. Cattleyas "enjoy" repotting. Consider dividing the plant & potting the back bulbs.

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 twice weekly & use a weak balanced fertilizer. These plants usually start new growths well before the flowering & certainly before the flowering is over. Fortunately these plants do not mind being pot bound. If you do have to get a larger pot for the stability of a big plant, either bury the original pot in it or make sure you tie the whole plant down firmly in the pot.

Dendrobiums (Soft cane types & their hybrids.) These are used to a hot, wet, wet monsoon type summer so it is impossible to overwater or overfeed them in the summer months. Now that autumn is here they require completely different treatment.

Stop all feeding, & only water when necessary. Put them somewhere bright & dry for the next 6 months. They can be repotted now as they will not flower until spring. Most are deciduous so do not worry about leaf loss. If they get water & feed now, all you will get is lots of kiki. [Kiki = adventitious growth (Hawaiian for baby)]

Oncidiums (as well as Miltonias, Brassias & their hybrids) In Summer, the main requirements were not to let their leaves burn & to keep them moist. By now many of the Brassia hybrids will be flowering & the Oncidiums will be sending out new flower spikes. Fertilise with low nitrogen fertilizers for flower development rather than plant growth. After they have flowered, let them dry out a little & rest. Repot if necessary, because you think the potting mix is likely to have broken down or because the plant has out grown the pot. The Oncidium family usually sends out 2 new growths from every pseudobulb & so can be broken up regularly. Think \$\$\$ Excess plants could be sold at our next Easter show, when they are well established & sending out new flower spikes.

Vandas (& their related species & hybrids) Most of these grow with bare, exposed roots & so need to have moist air around them. They should be watered every second day & humidity levels can be kept up by extra light mistings or by damping down the floor below them. If you are lucky they will now be showing flower spikes. Give them high phosphorus fertilizer & pray. Watch out for the nasties such as aphids who love new growths. If everything goes well these are the most rewarding of all orchids.

Phalaenopsis These orchids are like Vandas in their growth habit, their big, fleshy, exposed roots & 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. If I may be excused a repetition & a contradiction, these are the most rewarding of all orchids.

Paphiopedilum (the Asian 'slipper orchid') These plants also lack pseudobulbs & so need regular watering, probably every third day. Again, water sitting in the crown of the plant can rot newly emerging flower bulbs.

My **Phragmipedium**, a South American 'slipper orchid' now is showing its 20th & 21st flowers, having started flowering in the last week of November. It grows in straight sphagnum moss, kept continually moist & sitting in a tray of water. The current plant will die off, & the two new plants will be allowed to grow in the same pot.

Ian McLaren

(Sarah added that the product ENVY can be sprayed on plants particularly young ones as protection against the cold).

An Apology.

I left out an important result from our Easter show. The champion specimen orchid of the show was *Mtssa*. Purple King proudly owned by John & Bev Hopgood. Sorry everyone for the omission.

Showtime.

At the Sunshine Coast OS show R & M Mitchell gained a first with their *Den*. Blue Sparkle while M & F Wheeler gained 2 x first, 2 x second & 1 x third. Our display gained 6th place. Congratulations to Sunshine Coast who won the society display.

Our next display show is in July when Caboolture OS hosts their show.

At the recent Pumicestone show these members won prizes. R & J Hopkins, M & V Anderson, D & M Neldner, I & F McLaren, J & B Hopgood, J Stokes & R & M Mitchell. Congratulations to you all & many thanks for benching plants.

Bus Trips.

The bus trip to Coffs Harbour is leaving Woorim at 6 am on the 23rd May in a smaller coach. A reminder from Diann to wear your society shirts & bring something for the rolling raffle.

Our next 'jet star' day trip is to the John Oxley OS show on July 19 at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. Cost \$20

A Morsel for the Novices.

An orchid collection is forever changing. Your interests do not remain the same. What you liked yesterday will not be your favourite tomorrow. As you build your collection, you will find your tastes become more refined & selective. Realise that you have just so much space, time, energy & money to spend to get the most satisfaction & pleasure from your orchids. If you have plants that you know are diseased or not doing well, get rid of them (I dare you!) Make sure every plant produces well & gives you the blooms you desire. If you have Cattleyas, count the leaves on a mature plant. How many of this total has flowered? You tell by the flower stubs in the axils. Most should have; otherwise that plant is a non blooming boarder. Do you have a plant that won't flower though you are determined to make it do so? Give it a fair trial under varying conditions. If it doesn't flower get rid of it. There are other plants waiting to take its place. Do you have a plant which flowers well for you but which has inferior flowers? You have divided it. Now you have a dozen plants of the same variety. Give some away to someone who is starting, or as gift plants. Make room for better quality. Keep upgrading your collection & you will get more pleasure from it.

Ernest Hetherington.

The rest of this article may be seen on our web site.

On the Grapevine.

Many happy returns to Bev Hopgood, Lynn Hauck & Amy Pecci'

When we celebrate Don & Margaret's 50th wedding this will be the 4th anniversary in the last year. We even had the 60th of Stan & Nancy & Roy celebrated his 90th birthday. I would say this is some sort of record for any society.

I see Vic & Judith Horton hosted Gympie's cultural meeting at their home. Nice photo in their bulletin.

Items for Sale.

Tom & Gwenda Davis have a steel framed shade house for sale. Ring 3408 1744 for more info.

Derek & Barbara Mason also have an orchid house for sale Size 1 metre wide x 2 metres high x 4 metres long., steel frame with shelves. Cost \$50. Ph 3410 0828

Committee News.

The committee reminds you that your membership fees are now overdue. Membership fees are \$15 per family or single & were due at the end of our orchid year which is the 30th April.

Page five of our bulletin concerns the coming election of our office bearers for the coming year. How can you help your Society?

That's all folks!