

Bulletin for November 2008.
www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com

Committee meeting. Held on the second Tuesday of the month (9th Dec.) at the Bribie Island Bowls Club on Welsby Parade Bongaree & commencing at 1 pm.

Cultural meeting. Held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (25th Nov.) at the Ningi community hall on Bribie Island Rd. The meeting begins at 1.30 pm. The guest speaker will be Kirk Lambe telling us about the High School Cambodia trip.

New Growers' meeting. Held on the last Saturday of the month (29th Nov) at the Church of Christ hall on the corner of Foley St & Fifth Ave. This is our Christmas meeting. (See new growers' notes.)

Diary Dates.

- Nov 15 **BIOS bus trip** to celebrate "Red November" on the Granite Belt. (see bus trips)
- Nov 19 Bribie Island Climate Change Adaptation meeting at the Recreation hall 156 First Ave Bongaree. From 5.30pm to 8pm. RSVP & info Simon Brown 0400 910 683 or Diane Oxenford 3410 0757.
- Nov 22 STOCQ meeting to be held by Sunshine Coast OS Caloundra Inc. at the CCSA hall, Nutley St Caloundra. Guest speaker is John Woolf & his subject is "Oncidium Alliance Orchids".
- Dec 16 **BIOS Christmas party at Bribie RSL commencing at noon.** Cost is \$20 for members & \$25 for non members. Please give names to Val Anderson & money to the treasurer. (See p. 5)

Sept – Oct 2009 An Orchid Lovers Tour of Borneo & hosted by Wayne Harris.
 Contact editor Joan for leaflets on both these items.

A good sermon has a good beginning & a good ending, & they should be as close together as possible.

Jude's Jottings.

I wish to thank all our members for all their hard work & support throughout the year. This has made our society the great, friendly place we all love. Of course we'll be bigger & better in the new year. May you all have a wonderful Christmas celebration with your families & friends & may your orchids get lots of TLC and prize winning blooms.
 Judy Carleton, President.

October Cultural Meeting.

Once again a beautiful display of orchids & foliage which kept the judges extremely busy. Amongst the correspondence was our first lease invoice & as Lynn said "no home yet but we are paying the bills already." A letter arrived from Ballina OS thanking us for our friendly hospitality at the show. Various invites were received for society Christmas parties. Different members will attend these parties. A special mention was made about Daphne Lloyd's plant stall at the show. Her bright, chirpy personality was a hit with all our visitors & her plant sales swelled our society coffers. Our guest speakers were Patrick & Pamela from Beerurrum Rd Gardeners (Ph. 5497 4805) who do garden makeovers, maintenance & design & sell Eco Organic Products. A bit more info is further on in the bulletin. The fruit tray raffle was won by G Davis & our visitors won second prize. J Watson drew the exhibitor's prize. Judges for the day were Tom Davis & Mel Wheeler with student judges John Stokes & Judy Carleton. Bev Hopgood was the scribe.

Cattleya				
Exhibition	C. Unknown	D & M Neldner	J & J Stokes	D & M Neldner
Epidendrum	Epi. Joseph Lii 'Orange Glow'	K Read	K Read	K Read
Novelty	Slc. Bloodshot	D & M Neldner	J & J Stokes	
Cluster	Iwan. Apple Blossom	J & B Hopgood	J & B Hopgood	D & M Neldner
Dendrobium				
Spatulata & inter.	Den. Gerald McGraith x Elva Ann	D & M Neldner	D & M Ne3ldner	D & M Neldner

Any other	<i>Den. Golden Aya x Dal's Glory</i>	W & J Corney	I & F McLaren	I & F McLaren
Vandaceous				
Under 60 mms	<i>Ascda. Veraphrandhu x Yip Sum Wah</i>	J & B Hopgood	J & B Hopgood	D & M Neldner
Any other	<i>Arach. Special Red</i>	J & J Stokes		
Phalaenopsis				
Any type	<i>Phal. Taisuco Crane</i>	M & F Wheeler	M & F Wheeler	J & B Hopgood
Species	<i>Phal. equestris</i>	T & G Davis	T & G Davis	D & M Neldner
Paphiopedilum				
Any other	<i>Paph. Susan Booth</i>	M & F Wheeler	M & F Wheeler	
Oncidium				
Any other	<i>Tolu. Jairak Rainbow</i>	J & B Hopgood		
Other Oncidia alliance	<i>Colm. Space Race</i>	D & M Neldner	I & F McLaren	
Miscellaneous				
Species	<i>Prosthechea baculus</i>	K & J Carleton	M & L Hauck	J & J Stokes
Cymbidium				
Any	<i>Cym. Lamorack</i>	W & J Corney	D & M Neldner	
Aust. natives				
Species	<i>Den. densiflorum</i>	W & J Corney	D & M Neldner	W & J Corney
Any hybrid	<i>Den. Hilda Poxon</i>	J & B Hopgood		
Any Sarcocylus	<i>Sarco. Enid</i>	M & F Wheeler	J & J Stokes	J & B Hopgood
Novice				
Any type Cattleya	<i>Epi. Bees' Knees x gracilis</i>	J Saviane	J & G Watson	
Any other type hybrid	<i>Den. Dee Dee Pink x Botha White</i>	G & J Watson	G & J Watson	
Species	<i>Brs. Cordata</i>	J Saviane		
Native	<i>Spiranthe sinensis</i>	R Clyne		
Foliage				
Ferns	Adiantum	D & M Neldner		
Foliage	Dieffenbachia	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	
Anthurium	Pink Pearl	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner	D & M Neldner

Popular vote - orchid was won by M & F Wheeler with *Phal. Taisuco Crane*

Popular vote - foliage was won by the *Caladium* owned by D & M Neldner

Novice of the month was J Saviane with *Epi. Bees' Knees x gracilis*

Judges' choice was awarded to M & F Wheeler with *Phal. Taisuco Crane*

On the sixth day God created the platypus, & God said "Let's see the evolutionists try to figure out this one."

Notes from the benches.

Spiranthes sinensis. The name was first used for the genus by Louis Claude Richards in 1817 & refers to the spirally arranged flowers in the inflorescence (Greek - *speira*, spiral, twisted *anthos*, a flower).

Species of *Spiranthes* are generally very easy to grow & the native species is no exception. Plants can be grown in a pot of well-drained, humus rich mixture & should be kept moist throughout the year. Seedlings are easy to raise by sprinkling seeds around the parent plants.

The common name is ladies tresses & grows widely in our area in our lawns (I saw a big colony last year along the edges of the road at Sandstone Point. Unfortunately the road edges were mowed this year before they had a chance to grow.) The grow all down the east coast of Australia & South Australia. This distinctive species is easily recognized by the spirally arranged inflorescences of pink & white flowers. Sometimes all white flowers are found.

If you are after an adult plant in your lawn be very careful to dig down & get all the tubers attached to the main stem.

New Growers' Report.

At the October meeting an attendance of 28 were enlightened to the variety of orchids with fragrant perfumes. Many orchids attract their pollinating agents with colourful flowers, but a large number also achieve a similar result with aromas of varying pleasantness. Bev Hopgood prepared the talk and Sarah Knight presented it. Thanks to both. Ian McLaren continued his valued Cultural Notes for Spring and Summer.

Our Christmas breakup meeting on November 29th will feature the usual Rolling Raffle. Kindly bring along suitable gifts for the raffle and enjoy the fun. It is always nice to win something, even if it is not an orchid. See you there.

Don and Margaret Neldner

Beerburrum Rd Gardeners.

For larger flowers & more colour, less disease & insect pests, longer flower or vase life, greener leaves & less spraying then use a regular application of Aminigro @ 5 ml, Eco-cweed @ 1gm & Eco-oil @ 2 ½ ml per litre of water. (All in together.) Done every 2 or 3 weeks will help you achieve these aims.

Eco-oil for the control of mites, aphids, scales & mealy bugs.

Eco-rose for the control of powdery mildew, downy mildew, Botrytis & black spot.

Aminigro, Eco-cweed & Eco-oil for balanced health, increased growth, stronger immune systems & greater flowering & root growth of your orchids.

(ED. I have leaflets with all information at the cultural meetings.)

Showtime.

At the recent Glasshouse Country OS show our display was placed third behind Glasshouse & Caboolture Congratulations to the other societies & to our members.

Our members gained 4 x first, 6 x second & 4 x third.

The Pumicestone show last week end saw our society get third place in the table display while 9 prizes went to our members. (I am short of space so no names mentioned.)

Bits & Pieces.

Most orchids are in active growth now, so will benefit from regular watering & fertilizing to optimize new growth. Overcrowding can result in spindly & sickly new growths which can start to rot.

Orchids Australia, Oct. '08

Vandaceous tips to remember – The best fertilizing programme in the world will not compensate for poor growing conditions. When Vandaceous orchids are poorly grown or carelessly handled, they will fall victim to insects & disease, however with reasonable attention given to their basic needs, their troubles will be few.

Brighton Orchid Nursery.

Inhaling perlite dust is no different to inhaling smoke, cement dust, bulldust or asbestos fibre dust. It goes straight into your lungs & coughing is the first reaction. The eyes are also vulnerable. It can cause problems & a breathing mask should always be used when handling dry, dusty materials. To be safe always keep perlite moist to reduce risk. Protect the eyes. If dust affects your eyes wash them with plenty of water & if pain persists visit your doctor to remove any larger grains present. Do not take risks.

Dr. Tsambourakis in Orchids Australia, Oct '08.

Some history. The first tropical orchid grown in Europe was *Bletia veracunda*, introduced from the Bahamas in 1731, flowering the following summer.

The first book on orchid growing, "Remarks on the Management of Orchidaceous Plants" by J C Lyons, was privately printed in 1843, for distribution among friends.

An orchid, *Cymbidium*, is conventionalized in the family crest of the former royal house of Manchukuo & appears on the stamps of that country.

Handbook on Orchid Culture by American Orchid Society. 1968.

The Catering Committee.

Another very successful orchid show has come & gone along with a bit of stress. The kitchen started off in the art room which was not very practical – no hot water & large troughs for sinks but we managed Friday night's dinner from there then we moved over to the small kitchen which was bright, clean with

hot water & fridges. Here's the good news girls, we will be working completely from this kitchen for future shows so not nearly so much leg work.

Many thanks to all who donated salad items for Friday night's dinner & Saturday's lunch & to all those who baked so we were able to put 2 pieces of cake to each of over 600 plates.....that's a lot of cake.

To the kitchen girls a huge thank you for a job well done & I hope we all work together again at our Easter show.

Val Anderson & the Catering Committee.

Lost.

The show catering committee has lost one of its good knives. It is a carving knife with Dkinox stamped on it followed by a kangaroo. It also has on it Made in Germany & Solinger. If it got among your things by mistake please hand it to Val, Bev, Diann or Gwendella. They would be very grateful.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts'.

BusTrips.

The visit to Redlands OS show included a visit to Burbank Orchid Nursery, another very successful bus trip organized by Diann.

Proposed Itinerary for trip to Stanthorpe Saturday 15th November 2008

- 6.00am Leave 8th Avenue, Woorim
Pick up Bus Stop, First Avenue opposite Library
Mower Centre, Verdoni Street
Bus Stop at Ningi Shopping Centre
Fruit Shop opposite Alyward Road
- 9.30am McDonalds Warwick for quick pit stop and coffee (15 minutes)
- 10.30am Arrive Crystal Ridge Lavenders for Morning Tea and a look around the lavender farm and giftshop (30minutes) 10 Daniell's Lane, Stanthorpe 07 4681 1256 between Applethorpe and Stanthorpe on left hand side going in to Stanthorpe
Approaching from Warwick -Turn off New England Highway into High Street, turn left into Amosfield Road, travel two kilometres, turn right into Daniell's Lane. Approaching from Tenterfield, turn off New England Highway into Wallangarra Road. Travel through town centre up High street; turn right into Amosfield Road, travel two kilometres then right into Daniell's Lane.
- 1.00am Poppy Farm, 113 Mt Stirling Road, Glen Aplin 07 4683 4227 past Stanthorpe, Severnlea
Look through Poppy Fields cost \$5 each (60 minutes)
- 12.00noon Mt Stirling Olives, 200 Collins Road, Glen Aplin 07 4683 4270 Look around olive farm (30 min)
- 1.00pm Ballandean Winery, Sundown Road, Ballandean 07 4684 1226 for a Winery Tour and lunch in the Barrel Room Cafe and possibly a wine tasting session. Example of the menu and prices are Carbonara \$12.50, Bolognese \$12.50, Cabernet Beef Pie \$15.00 Soup of the Day \$8.00 etc. (2 hours)
- 3.00pm Bramble Patch Berry Gardens, Townsend Road, Glen Aplin 07 4683 4205 - best seasonal berries, jams, sauces, coulis and fortified wines, plus delicious waffles, berry baskets and berry ice creams. (It is berry good!!) (30 minutes)

Leave Stanthorpe for home at approximately 3.30pm

As you are aware, the \$35 only covers your bus fare. There are other costs on the day but these are for you to decide upon.

All of the places we are visiting have gift shops which have lots of goodies to bring home.

All wines purchased must be shared with Diann and Lynn on the bus on the return journey so please bring glasses!!!!!! Ha.....

Cultural Notes – Summer by Ian McLaren.

Now that Summer is on the way we are entering what is probably the busiest period of the orchid growing year, just when everything else is demanding attention too. Not many plants are coming into flower, but there are a few: *Cymbidium madidum*, some *Epidendrums* and *Encyclias*, some *Coelogynes*, *Oncidium sphacelatum*, the splendid *Calanthe triplicata* or Christmas Orchid, and soon the magnificent *Stanhopeas*. This year we have had unusual weather conditions so you may even have late flowerings of soft cane *Dendrobiums*.

However all plants are going into their main growth period and need regular, and probably more frequent, water and a higher Nitrogen fertiliser. With the longer, hotter days and higher light levels there is a possibility of leaf burn so you must consider extra shading or repositioning plants to give them less severe light. However while keeping up the humidity try to do it early in the day and keep water out of the tops of new growths and the papery sheaths that persist on many *Cattleyas* and some *Dendrobiums*. There is an exception to the 'early' watering. Most *Cymbidiums* want to experience a drop in temperature from day to night. They will not develop new flower spikes for next year if there are persistent hot summer nights. Water late to keep them cool in the evenings.

While attending to all this do not forget that this is when much of your repotting should be done when the flowering is over and before there are too many tender new shoots.

In summer watch out for chewing pests and for fungus problems. You have to take precautions here as by the time you see the signs it is too late. Use snail baits and **Two-in-One** [Killyptus & Pyrethrum] for insects, and **Mancozeb** or **Fongarid** (for fungus).

Cattleyas (and their hybrids with *Brassavolas*, *Laelias* and *Sophronitis*) Most of these have finished flowering and have new shoots. Many of these plants will be scorched by full sun on hot afternoons, so require more shade. Repotting is probably the main task, especially if your plant is starting to "climb out" of the pot. *Cattleyas* "enjoy" repotting. Consider dividing the plant and potting the back bulbs.

Dendrobiums (Hard cane types, Australian natives & their hybrids, including Intermediate types). These plants love this time of the year. Give them plenty of light but do not let them overheat as they will do in our common black plastic pots

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 in the summer months. Depending on the sort of summer we have you may have to shade them.

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

In Summer, the main requirements are not to let their leaves burn and to keep them moist. Most hybrids have already but *Oncidium sphacelatum* will have sent up its 4 foot long flower spikes ready to flower in November. Give them some support as they may have up to 200 flowers. Fertilise with high nitrogen fertilisers for new plant growth.

Repot if necessary, probably because the plant has out grown the pot. Most of them were not designed to live in pots. Be adventurous and try mounting them but remember they will then need more frequent watering.

Vandas (and their related species and hybrids)

These plants need humidity so 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.

A few may already be showing flower spikes. Give them high phosphorus fertiliser alternated with the high nitrogen one you are using on everything else.

Phalaenopsis

Like the *Vandas* they must not be left to dry out, nor should they be left with water in the crown of the plant. During the summer months they also appreciate a high nitrogen fertiliser. If they are developing a 'trunk' they may have to be repotted lower in a pot.

Paphiopedilum (The Asian 'slipper orchid')

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. Remove old dead leaves.

Phragmipedium, (South American 'slipper orchid'). There have been 'phrags' at each of the recent shows in our region. Mine has not even started to show a spike. It grows in straight sphagnum moss, kept continually moist and sitting in a tray of water.

Ian McLaren 21 - 10 - 08.

On the Grapevine.

A couple of golden oldies & a younger guardian angel have birthdays this month. Happy birthday to Merv Anderson, Joan Venz & Ron Powell

Melva Whiting is still tripping around & is now in W.A. & having a whale of a time.

Committee News.

- Our treasurer has envelopes available for members to use when handing in money. They have on the front of them Event – bus trip, dinner, etc. Date, Cost, Name/s, Total payment enclosed. This will make the treasurer's job a lot easier.
- In future all our shows will be held at the high school.
- Our Christmas dinner is again at the Bribie RSL. Besides being a wonderful venue we are able to have a private room & the hiring fee is waived.

Members are invited to attend the Society Christmas Lunch being held in the Auditorium at the Bribie RSL Club on Tuesday 16th December 2008. There will be a two course lunch of Roast Pork or Turkey with vegetables followed by individual Christmas Puddings with Custard or Fruit Salad with Cream. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. We will be having our rolling raffle so all members are requested to bring along a small gift (or two or more) wrapped in Christmas paper to be raffled. I realize plants can't be wrapped but a bit of pretty paper around the pot will make it look 'Christmassy'.

Can you please give your names to Val Anderson or Beverley Hopgood and your money to Treasurer Ian McLaren as soon as possible? The tables will be set up to seat 8 persons so if you want to get a group together, please feel free to do so. Just let Val or Bev know when you call to put your names down. Also, if you have any special 'diet needs', please let the ladies know so we can notify the chef. Final numbers are required by the RSL by Monday 8th December 2008.

So get out your 'glad rags' and prepare to have a great time celebrating this wonderful time of year with all your friends from the Society. We will have visitors from other societies, so could you please remember to wear your name badges.

For further details, please telephone Val Anderson on 3408 7706.

This is the last bulletin for the year so may I thank Diann for her help in organizing the delivery of the bulletins each month. All her helpers who deliver to different areas, another big thankyou. Next year the bulletins will all be posted by snail mail or Email.

With warm wishes for your happiness at Christmas & throughout the year.

Joan Venz Editor. That's all folks !