

Dtps Bribie Q150 – The Story of an Unique Orchid

150 years ago in 1859, Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent to create the new colony of Queensland from what had previously been known as New South Wales, Australia.

Now 150 years later, Queenslanders are proudly celebrating their 150th Anniversary by staging a wonderful variety of events, festivals, art exhibitions and community projects just to name a few. These celebrations have been held statewide which is quite an achievement when the size and population distribution of Queensland is taken into consideration. Did you know that Queensland is nearly seven times the size of Great Britain? Or that we're home to more than 4 million people, while Great Britain, at a seventh of our size, is home to more than 60 million?

Bribie Island is a small piece of paradise 34 kms long and 8 kms wide and located approximately one hour's drive north of Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. It is surrounded by the Pumicestone Passage Marine Park to the western side of the island and Moreton Bay to the east. Over 80% of the island is National Park where there are 350 different species of birds, kangaroos, emus and dingoes.

Bribie Island Orchid Society is the local orchid society which was formed in 1987 and has 138 enthusiastic members who decided to join into the Q150 celebrations. To do this, they have staged two very successful shows, the Q150 Easter Orchid Show and the Q150 October Orchid Bonanza. (See the website at www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com)



However, the most notable event for 2009 was the propagation by Show Organiser Mel Wheeler when he developed a brand new orchid which was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society as "Doritaenopsis Bribie Q150". Mel achieved this by crossing Formosa Ruby with I-Hsin Lucky Girl and the result is a beautiful and truly unique orchid. It is a flamboyant shade of pink with a touch of white at the throat. Members were given a plant as a 'keepsake'.

This orchid has been presented to Her Excellency Penelope Wensley AO Governor of Queensland for inclusion in the Government House Gardens in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Also in attendance were Richard Symmonds (Horticulturalist of Government House Gardens), Lynnette Hauck (Bribie Island Orchid Society Secretary), Mel Wheeler (Bribie Island Orchid Society Show Organiser and propagator of Dtps Bribie Q150) and Stuart McCosker (Her Excellency's husband). Presentation took place at 11.00am Friday 24th September at Government House, Brisbane. Her Excellency was thrilled with the gift and looks forward to seeing it bloom for many years to come as a living reminder of a special part of Queensland's history.



Another of these beautiful plants was presented at Parliament House, Brisbane on Tuesday 6th October by State Member and Patron of Bribie Island Orchid Society, Carryn Sullivan to The Honourable Anna Bligh Premier of Queensland. President Judith Carleton, Secretary Lynnette Hauck and propagator of this unique orchid, Mel Wheeler also attended. The Premier said she has a love of orchids and will place this flowering beauty on her desk. "What a great way to remember Queensland's birthday year," Ms Bligh said. "I thank the Bribie Island Orchid Society for coming up with such a clever way of celebrating Queensland's 150th Anniversary".

As we Queenslanders celebrate our birthday year, we celebrate our people, our places and our stories. Bribie Island Orchid Society members feel very proud to have developed this orchid for Queensland's 150th Anniversary and to be able to leave a living legacy for future generations. Our thanks must go to Queensland Government Premier's Department, Q150 Community Funding Program (CFP) for the grant for our Q150 celebrations.

Lynnette Hauck (Bribie Island Orchid Society Secretary)