

Q150 October Orchid Bonanza



On October 10th and 11th the Q150 October Orchid Bonanza was staged by the Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc. It was held at the local Bribie High School's Student Centre and was a great success.

One of the features of the show was the unveiling of Dtps Bribie Q150 orchid. This orchid was developed by the local grower Mel Wheeler, who has worked hard to get this great plant to flower at this time. This is the photo of Mel with the first flowering Bribie Q150 orchids taken in August.

A 'Silent Auction' was held over the show and as Dtps Bribie Q150 was the only item in the auction, it was of great interest to the public. To be the first private person to own one was a great incentive to bid and while there was one happy winner, Carolyn Macqueen, the others will have to wait until the orchid is released for sale in the future.



However, one happy winner was Margaret Neldner whose Dtps Bribie Q150 took out the Blue Ribbon for the best flowering orchid in the class especially for this beauty.

Plant sales from the attending nurseries were well patronised with many unusual plants on offer. Orchids, Bromeliads, African Violets, Anthuriums, Clivias and other varieties of plants along with pots, fertilisers and all the other necessary items for successful plant growing were soon finding their way to new homes.

Another highlight was the launching of the book "Orchids on Bribie Island - A History by Ron Powell 2009". This publication is the culmination of many years of research and recording of native orchids on the Island. While some of these orchids can still be found in small, protected areas, others exist now only in books.



In keeping with the Q150 "Then and Now" theme, many of the workers dressed in costumes of the times. Lynn, Judy and Diann took a few minutes from their busy schedules to have a photo taken in front of the table of Dtps Bribie Q150 orchids.

The Cake and Craft Table was, as usual, well represented with many handmade goodies for sale and the Q150 theme was carried through to the heirloom exhibition. Many of these 'nick nacks' have been handed down the family lines. It was interesting to hear folks remarking, "Oh Grandma had one of those" or "I remember these books". It was a wonderful display with items supplied from our member's collections and arranged by Florence McLaren.



But it was the orchids which were really what the show was all about. As usual, the high standard of orchids, foliage and floral art entries gave the judges an extremely difficult time deciding the winners of the many classes. Congratulations to all those orchid, foliage and floral art enthusiasts from our own Society as well as the members of other Societies who benched their plants to make such a beautiful display for all to enjoy.



President Judith Carleton said that while it was a lot of work to put on shows with a theme like the two events we have staged this year, the positive feedback from the public made the extra effort worthwhile. We really enjoyed staging this show and all members and visitors had a great time. The Management Committee and members would like to take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Government, Premier's Department, Q150 Community Funding Program (CFP) for the grant for our Q150 celebrations.







Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Queensland was an unique occasion and Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc was proud to play a small part in this very special year.

