

Spring has sprung and it was very obvious to all who joined with the members and visitors at the Bribie Island Orchid Society Spring October Orchid Show on the 8th and 9th October. The venue was filled with beautiful, fragrant orchids which were a visual and sensory delight. Our foliage benches were overflowing with ferns and other 'greenery'. Champion Orchid and Champion Specimen of the Show was *D. amethystoglossum* proudly grown by R & J Hopkins. G & R Smith were the proud growers of Reserve Champion Phal Sogo Yukidan. Champion Australian Native was D Chet's Choice and Champion Foliage was *Vriesea Purple Shiver* grown by L & S Waite. Our thanks must go to the members of the various societies in the Sub Tropical Orchid Council of Queensland who made the 'trek' to Bribie Island to bench their plants and help to make our show such a great success. We appreciate their involvement. Our Floral Art display continues to grow with the Championship being awarded to E. O'Sullivan for her beautiful arrangement called "Double Delight".

The commercial vendors had a successful weekend and many an orchid, bromeliad and other plant went to new homes. Pots, fertilisers and all the other bits and pieces for orchid and general gardening were available much to the delight of visitors and members. Potting demonstrations were provided on Saturday by Don Neldner and John Stokes which were enjoyed by those attending and on Sunday John gave a talk on Orchid Growing for Beginners. We now have several new members, thanks to their presentations.

The Bonanza was staged at our usual venue at the Student Centre at the Bribie Island State High School. This is wonderful location as it has plenty of off street parking, disabled access and all the displays and vendors in the one area. The space between the benches gives plenty of room to move. No show would be complete without a yummy morning and afternoon tea and a sausage sizzle and our members did us proud providing all the home cooked goodies. The members' Craft Stall is always popular and many visitors took advantage of starting their Christmas shopping early. The prizes were presented to the happy recipients by Patron Carryn Sullivan MP and Moreton Bay Regional Councillor Gary Parsons assisted by our Show Organiser Mel Wheeler and President Ian McLaren.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the support of the Bribie Island State High School, local businesses and Clubs and of course, our 'regular' visitors who come each show from far and near. We really appreciate your support.

As this was our final show for 2011, our committee and members can now sit back and reflect on what has been a most successful year. Events have included the Official Opening of our new clubhouse, The Orchid House, the Easter Autumn Orchid Show, our Queensland Week Orchid and Gardening Expo and finishing with this Spring Bonanza. We look forward to 2012 with enthusiasm and great expectations of more beautiful orchids as we celebrate our 25th Silver Anniversary. Congratulations all on a job well done.





