

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

P. O. Box 5949 Red Hill Rockhampton, 4701

Founded 1955



Newsletter July 2018

Editor's notes

Orchids are a cash crop! Yes, but not what we usually regard in this day and age as a 'cash crop', the term lends itself to imagining practices with plants that are not grown to admire but to be processed into all forms of tradeable resources, both legal and illegal. Perhaps our most tradeable orchid is the Phalaenopsis. When I first started on my orchid journey 36 years ago and discovered Phalaenopsis they were very limited in the range of colours and size, compared to what is available now. They were primarily based on 2 species, *Phal. amabilis*, and *Phal. schilleriana*, hence there were pinks, whites with yellow lips and red lips and pinks with white and red lips and combinations of hues in these colours. Most were large formal types. Some were combined with what was then classed as Doritis species such as, *equestris* and *violacea* resulting in mainly the same colours but with an increased number of smaller flowers and that was pretty much it. 119

Without doubt it was the rise of the Taiwanese economy in the 1990's and their government's sponsoring of their then fledgling orchid industry that changed the Phalaenopsis paradigm so to speak. Their investment resulted in the research into orchids as a 'cash crop' to take advantage of the potential of orchids in general, and in particular Phalaenopsis as part of the world-wide flower trade, but not as in cut flowers but as 'potted flowers', the outcome being the industry of today. As a result, it was in the 1990's that hobbyists started to gain access to some of the 'new breeding' that was coming from Taiwan. It was trailblazers like Robertson's Orchids in Nambour that persisted in importing flasks for the hobbyists and soon previously un-heard of combinations of colours started to appear. Even the fabled yellow Phalaenopsis became a reality, slowly morphing from dusty shades to the bright yellows and oranges now readily available. In addition, we now have the amazing contemporary array of spots, stripes and harlequins that would have once been unimaginable.

Having been to the annual Taiwan Orchid Growers Show in 2015, it gave an insight into the immensity of the trade in Phalaenopsis and lets you appreciate that the hobby-trade is really only a very small side issue. Shipping and Aircraft containers of flowering Phalaenopsis are sent daily to all parts of the world where the majority of people live in high-rise units where the unnamed 'Phallies' provide some colour in their world and are then disposed of once the flower is spent; much cheaper and longer lasting than a bunch of flowers!

While visiting the US in April this world-wide trade was brought home to me quite markedly in that most super markets we visited had what seems to be a global standard shop fitment these days of a flower sales booth; with exactly the same hybrids and labels just like at home.

Pavilion Supermarket Los Angeles



Bunnings Rockhampton



Office Bearers

Executive:

Patron: Vacant

President: Jeff Bloxsom

bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au 4928 6582

Vice President : Peter Jenkinson

pe.oni@hotmail.com ph.0439515820

Secretary: Trish Craig ph. 49226621

rockyorchidsociety@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sandra Rowcliffe:

svpsli@bigpond.net.au Ph. 49364040

Committee

Terry Dean 49282278 terryellie@optusnet.com.au

Jeff Glover j-glover@bigpond.com Ph. .49287701

Trevor Handley 0417605191

Marg Handley 31290348

Bob Lakey rlakey@dodo.com.au Ph.49288093

Nat Lakey 49288093

Tony March (contact details on application)

Bill Richardson william.r@optusnet.com Ph. 49226621

Allan White Ph. 0419580086

Ex Officio Positions

Society Registrar: Terry Dean

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Glover

Assist Newsletter Editor: Jenny Moore

Technical Advisors: John Frisch, Jeff Glover

Webmaster: Bob Lakey

ROSI Growers Co-ordinator Marg Handley

Providor Maxine Maunder

Promotion Officer Sandra Rowcliffe /Jeff Glover (STOC)

Door Monitors Lorraine and Brian Weaver

Librarian: Jack Martin

Raffle Plant Caretaker: Terry Dean

Property Officers: Barry and Faye English.

Shows and Meetings

Show Marshall: Jeff Glover

Chief Steward: Moyna Richardson

Plant/Barcode collators Trish Craig & Barry English

Australian Orchid Council ROSI Based Judging Team

Judges:

Jeff Glover

Terry Dean

Marty Gunder

Faye English

Bernard Hilse

Associate Judges

Trish Craig

Doug Chippendale

Peter Jenkinson

Nat Lakey

Sandra Rowcliffe

Until next month, good growing, Jeff Glover



Growers Tip

An old adage that rings true in many ways is 'cleanliness is next to godliness. For orchid growers, keeping a 'clean' greenhouse is one of the best investments a grower can make in protecting all the time and effort you put into your collection. What do I mean? You don't have to get down on all fours and scrub the floor or wash the shade-cloth. But consider the constant battle with pests and diseases we face, caused in a lot of ways by confining many plants within a relative small area when compared to their natural habitat where the ratio of orchid species may be 1plant to 2squaremiles or greater Think about the ways we inadvertently contribute to disease and spreading it through our collection. For instance, how many of us keep a bucket or container to store fallen leaves and spent flowers. How often is it emptied? The

longer you leave it the more it becomes an active disease breeding site of your own making. Consider this, each time the watering system operates it tops up the decomposition process resulting in you having a nice little festering disease maker working right in the centre of your collection.

Do you really want a compost bin in your green house? So next time you rake up the leaves and spent flowers especially in winter, empty the bin as well!

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

General Meeting Tuesday 26TH JUNE 2018

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: Nil

Visitors: Nil

Lucky Number: 66 T Craig

Minutes of previous monthly meeting were approved as correct and accurate.

Moved P Rankin Seconded Z Kidman **Carried**

Correspondence:

IN – NEWSLETTERS

Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club Inc.

Boyne Tannum Orchid & Foliage Soc.

Caboolture Orchid Society Inc.

Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Inc.

Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. – May & June

Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc.

Maroochydore Orchid Society Inc.

Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc.

Mid-Murray Orchid Club Inc.

Nambour Orchid Society

Nightcliff Orchid Society

Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Assoc. Inc.

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.

Townsville Orchid Soc. Inc.

Emails:

John Rees – STOCQ & OQI minutes of meetings held at Maryborough on 16/6/18

AOC – Nomination reminder AOC Executive positions –due 30/6/18

Pohlmans Nursery Train Tour

Sandra Rowcliffe – thank you from Australian Orchid Foundation for donation

Mail:

Thank you Card from Terry Dean

Rock – statements

Big Colour Works - statement

Orchids Australia

Australian Orchid Review

OUT

Nil

Motion that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward correspondence endorsed:
Moved T Craig Seconded J Rawlings **Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Read and moved for acceptance by S Rowcliffe Seconded B Lakey **Carried**

Growers Group Coordinators Report: Marg Handley delivered her report

President's Report:

A committee meeting was held on Tuesday 19th June to discuss progress of the conference. Jeff reported that the arrangements for supplying food at the venue have been sorted out with Brad Korte. There is still a possibility that the new extension may be built in time for the conference. The presentation dinner on the Saturday night will be at the Heritage Village at a cost of about \$70 per head.

Plant Commentary:

John Frisch gave an informative talk on the plants tabled at the meeting.

Exhibitor's Raffle: K Smith

General Raffle: C Roberts, Z Kidman, S Rowcliffe, J Bloxsom, S Eggleshaw, S Kuhl x 2, B Hulse, J Hogan.

Jeff Bloxsom
President

Trish Craig
Secretary

R.O.S.I Growers Group Report

Fortunately, the rain stayed away for the ROSI Growers Group's visit to the Maunders residence on Saturday the 30th June. Graham's orchid houses feature a diverse collection of orchids which, as he said, he grows for his enjoyment. It was a pleasure to see the spectacular garden with its many colourful bromeliads, orchids, succulents and other plants. The garden reflects Maxine's artistic flair. Thanks go to the Maunders for the inviting us to visit. I am sure many of us have gained more ideas to incorporate into our own gardens. Before afternoon tea, I drew members attention to the June publication of *Orchids Australia* which features an article called 'One Day Wonders - Ephemeral Beauty.' *Dendrobium (Den.) crumenatum* is described in this article and we had discussed this species and viewed a plant (not flowering) at the May Growers Group. Those who don't subscribe to *Orchids Australia* are able to borrow this magazine from the Club Library.

Oncidiinae was the topic of discussion for the afternoon. My first experience of this genre was the 'Dancing Lady' orchid grown in many gardens. This is actually *Oncidium sphacelatum*. Maxine and Graham have several of these plants growing in trees and in pots. According to OrchidWiz X4.3, *Onc.sphacelatum* has 564 registered progeny in the orchid world. Some of the other flowering plants on show from the Handley orchid house were *Oncidesa (Oncsa.)* Sweet Sugar, *Oncidium (Onc.)* Sunlight 'Pesky Panther', *Oncostele (Onc.)* Catatante, *Oncidium (Onc.)* Twinkle 'Red Fantasy' and *Tolumnia (Tolu.)* Jairak 'Yellow'. Thank you to the those who donated prizes for the raffle. We had a great selection of orchids, bromeliaeds and chocolates for those with a sweet tooth!

The next Growers Group get together will be at the residence of Diane and Rod MacKenzie at

215 Harrison Street, Frenchville on Saturday 28 July at 2 pm.

Please bring a plate of food and remember your folding chair.

Margaret Handley

General Cultural Guide July/September

<i>* Information is general in nature and given in good faith.</i>	Watering/Weekly	Fertilizer/Weekly	Pest/Disease Control	Comments
Cattleya	1-2times weekly	Blossom booster Low Nitrogen	Flower Thrips Yates Success or Pyrethrum on buds	Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools.
Dendrobium Hard cane		Reduce fertilizer and cease by Winter's onset	Flower Thrips Yates Success Pyrethrum on buds	Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools.
Dendrobium Softcane	Once weekly	Cease fertilizer		If fertilizer is applied from now on, plantlets will form rather than flowers
Phalaenopsis	1-2 times weekly	Reduce fertilizing with cooler weather. Low nitrogen	Preventative Fungicide if wet cooler weather Mancozeb	Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools.
Vandaceous	Water daily in hot weather 1-2 days if cooler	Balanced fertilizer if still in growth Cease if weather cools	Flower Thrips Yates Success or Pyrethrum on buds	
Oncidium	In hot weather, every 1-2 weekly	Balanced fertilizer if still in growth Cease if weather cools		
Paphiopedilums	1-2 times weekly in cooler weather.	Balanced fertilizer	Preventative Fungicide if wet cooler weather Mancozeb	
Catasetinae	1 time weekly Increase frequency If new growths are starting	Fertilizer should cease once flowering has initiated.	Plants will defoliate if weather cools significantly. (Normal reaction)	Watering should be phased out completely after flowering is finished.

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday 24th July. Starts 7.30 pm.

Notice to Members: Please assist if you can with cleaning the hall after the meeting

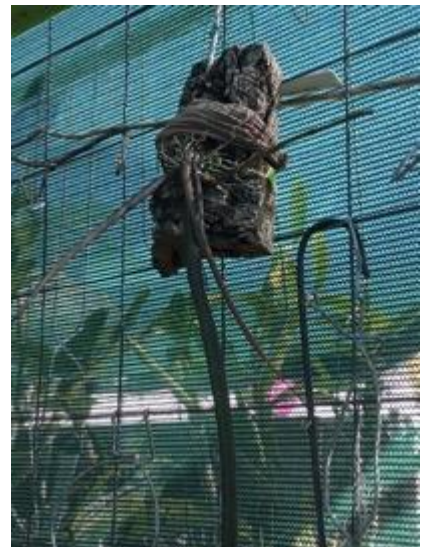


Species of the Month

The species of the month is *Oncidium cebolleta*. This orchid belongs to the group that is given the colloquial sobriquet of 'Rat Tail' Oncidiums. When contemplating this orchid's structure, it does not take much imagination to conceive how it received its common name. The terete leaves are pendulous in its natural growth and form a combined structure from which they emanate. It is definitely not a rhizome nor is it monopodial so it is a novelty in that respect as well as with its unique leaves. A little research shows why its structure has evolved in this manner. It is an extremely tough character indeed, growing in all manner of climates in Central America from elevated positions to semi-arid and marginal desert areas on trees, rocks and even human made hosts such as fence posts. Like all orchids that have terete and semi-terete leaves their

secondary role is to catch moisture and water and funnel it to the roots, acting as a survival mechanism to help in harsh dry climates where rainfall is seasonal, short in duration and limited. One research source dedicated it as the most numerous and widespread of all Oncidinae species, which was a surprise; but not so much when you re-consider its growth habit and structure as described above.

My experience with this orchid over decades is what could be described as an on-off fatal affair; fortunately, only fatal for the orchid. It certainly does **not like excessive humidity**. Growing a mixed collection like most and trying to cater for different genera has proved trying for this little beauty in that fungal and rot infections have seen its demise. I again have a few plants and with this current 'affair', I am committed to controlling the amount of water they receive throughout the year as too much can prove fatal in both Summer and Winter. It is almost exclusively grown on a cork mount to which it readily attaches. However, it will grow 'upright' in a pot as indicated in Pic 1. One for the collector who likes to grow something different.



Social Notes

No one yet has volunteered to be the social editor, so yes, the space is intentionally blank. Therefore, as previously requested if you have any 'snippets' such as, anniversaries, birthdays, or special events happening that you would like to share please e-mail me to include them in the Newsletter

if undelivered,
Please Return to
PO Box 5949 Red Hill
Rockhampton Queensland. 4701



Print Post
Post
100020042



Your Orchid Diary 2018

<u>July</u>	13-15 th Qld. Garden Expo Nambour 20-22 th Caboolture OFS Show
<u>August</u>	10-11 th Maroochydoore Orchid Show 31-1 st Sept Nambour Orchid Show
<u>Sept</u>	14-15 Noosa Dist. Orchid Show TBA Caloundra Spring Show(closed 21-22 nd Glasshouse OFS Show 29-30th ROSI Spring Show
<u>Oct</u>	12-13 th Bribie Island OFS Show
<u>Nov</u>	2-3 rd Nambour Species Society Show STOC Meeting Caboolture

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at St Stephens Presbyterian Church Hall, Burnett St. Nth Rockhampton; commencing at 7.30 pm. Plants must be tabled by 7.15pm.

Disclaimer: Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc. disclaims all responsibility for any losses or damage, which may be attributed to the use or misuse of any material published in this Newsletter.