

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

[www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au](http://www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au)

P. O. Box 594 Red Hill Rockhampton, 4701

Founded 1955



## Newsletter June 2018

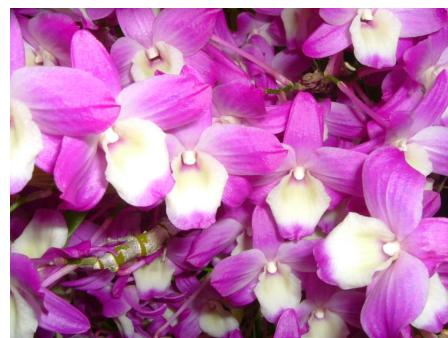
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### *Editor's notes*

Well, the weather hasn't disappointed in regards to having the early cooler winter that we have not experienced for a long time. It always impresses me how the long-term weather forecasters seem to get their predictions correct; whereas, the weather bureau will use phrases such as, 'the likelihood of' and 'a high chance of', always being very cautious in their predictions. Primarily, the long-range forecasters work is based on solar flare activity and comparison with historical records. What does this mean for us as orchid growers? To flower at their best or indeed at all, many species across all genera require a temperature drop combined with the reduction of available light starting in Autumn culminating in the Winter Solstice, June 21-22 when the shortest day of the year occurs in the Southern Hemisphere.

Therefore, hybrids in many cases will replicate these growth requirements. The absence of one of these criteria will affect the quality of the flowering and even if flowering will occur. The length of the seasonal day and night will never change provided the plants are not grown under artificial circumstances; thus, it is the variation of temperature that is important to all fruiting and flowering foliage in general. It is most important to us in the tropics and especially to us in Rockhampton where we have been able to flower a wide variation of genera, mostly due to the fact that traditionally we have had a substantial temperature drop in Autumn and Winter, whereas, in Mackay and further north they do not.

Softcane Dendrobiums in particular and many species and hybrids of the Cymbidium genus, come to mind, as being orchids grown in CQ that need a distinct seasonal temperature drop to flower well. Below are pictures of my Softcane Den. Hamana Lake 'Dream' flowering in September 2004 with an abundance of blooms, which records show had a cool Winter.



Until next month, good growing,

Jeff Glover

## Office Bearers

### Executive:

**Patron:** Vacant

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom

bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au 4928 6582

**Vice President :** Peter Jenkinson

[pe.oni@hotmail.com](mailto:pe.oni@hotmail.com) ph.0439515820

**Secretary:** Trish Craig ph. 49226621

[rockyorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:rockyorchidsociety@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Sandra Rowcliffe:

[svpsli@bigpond.net.au](mailto:svpsli@bigpond.net.au) Ph. 49364040

### Committee

Terry Dean 49282278 [terryellie@optusnet.com.au](mailto:terryellie@optusnet.com.au)

Jeff Glover [j-glover@bigpond.com](mailto:j-glover@bigpond.com) Ph. .49287701

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Nat Lakey 49288093

Tony March (contact details on application)

Bill Richardson [william.r@optusnet.com](mailto: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-coordinator 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



### Growers Tip

My tip this month is to 'Wrap or Not to Wrap', what am I talking about, the new type of sandwich that is all the craze for healthy eating or a new dance craze? Neither, long time growers will remember the wrapping of greenhouses 'trend', that was very popular in CQ when we once had reliable winter temperatures. The advent and relatively inexpensiveness of sheet plastics such as, 'polyscric' allowed growers to easily wrap up their greenhouses. The idea being to contain the warmth of the day in order to aid cool temperature sensitive genera such as, Phalaenopsis and get them through the cold winter nights. Some growers still do this, but with the lack of cold Winters in the last decade the practise has waned. It can be a positive experience and certainly does help, but it can also be an exercise fraught with difficulty. Mainly the problem is that 'wrapping' significantly cuts down on air circulation. Unfortunately, combined with increased watering and increasing day/night

temps as Spring approaches, creates perfect conditions for fungal infection. The particular culprit is Bothritis which readily affects orchid flowers and appears as small black spots that can be up to many hundred on one flower; which is very noticeable particularly on lighter coloured blooms. This disease has been the downfall of many a Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum bloom come the Spring Shows as any sign of disease renders them ineligible for judging. In my experience I only wrapped twice at our previous location in Frenchville.

We were in the shadow of Mt Archer and had some very cool mornings as a result. I had massive outbreaks of bothritis both times so I discontinued the practice and since moving 20 years ago I have not bothered as the winters have got warmer and I don't grow that many 'Phallies' anymore. So, I guess the point is, again it is up to everyone's differing conditions whether to 'Wrap or Not', and provided you can supply good air movement if you wrap, it can be a worthwhile procedure for the dedicated Phalaenopsis grower.

## **Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**

### **Minutes of the General Meeting Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2018**

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**New Members:**

**Visitors:** Ken O'Brien

**Lucky Number:** 83 T & G Breingan

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

Moved M Maunder      Seconded D Hughes      **Carried**

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **IN – NEWSLETTERS**

Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club Inc.

Caboolture Orchid Society Inc.

Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Inc.

Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc.

Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc.

Nambour Orchid Society

Nightcliff Orchid Society

Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc.

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.

##### **Emails:**

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

Agnes Water Orchid Expo Invitation – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> & Sun 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Apology from Carolyn Roberts

##### **Mail:**

Membership renewal – Dianne Berrill

Letter from Church re cleaning after April meeting

Letter from 4YOU

##### **OUT**

Email To Coralie Hills – Spring Show details for inclusion in June & August editions of Orchids Australia

Email to John Rees – apology for June meeting of STOCQ & OQI in Maryborough

Motion that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward correspondence endorsed:

Moved T Craig      Seconded M Kydd      **Carried**

Business arising from correspondence: A motion was put that the society pays \$100 to Radio 4YOU to continue our advertising on 4YOU

Moved M Lyons Seconded N Lakey Carried

**Treasurer's Report:**

Read and moved for acceptance by S Rowcliffe Seconded C Christiansen

Carried

**President's Report:**

Committee meeting: discussion regarding 2019 conference. We should have room for about 8 vendors. There will be no club plant sales and no Devonshire Teas provided by the club. Committee now will focus on the show schedule. Costings and grant applications will now be a priority.

**Growers Group Coordinators Report:** Marg Handley delivered her report

**General Business:**

Boyne Tannum Orchid Show this weekend. Some of the society's judges and associate judges will attend the judging on Friday night.

A motion was tabled that the society sends a donation of \$500 to the Australian Orchid Foundation in response to their request tabled in April 2018 correspondence.

Moved B Hilse Seconded P Jenkinson Carried

**Exhibitor's Raffle:** K & R Smith

**General Raffle:** L Lucke, S Kuhl, T Breingan, G Breingan, S Eggleshaw, D Hughes, Y Manning (chose to take the orchid magazines).

**Due to an oversight no raffle plants were available at the meeting. Therefore the Lucky Number, Exhibitor's Raffle and the General Raffle were conducted on an I.O.U. basis. These prizes will be brought to the next meeting for distribution.**

As the president will be away there will be no committee meeting this month

Jeff Bloxom  
President

Trish Craig  
Secretary

***Bundaberg Orchid Society Mothers' Day Show Winner:***



Congratulations to Jenni Scott whose plant of Rth. Dal's Emperor, pictured above won Grand Champion at the recent Bundaberg Mothers' Day Annual Show. Jenni is a member of a number of Queensland societies including ROSI, and is a generous supporter of those societies throughout regional Queensland by contributing her well grown plants to their shows; and as well to our own Spring and Autumn events. Her plant Dal's Emperor (Rth. Free Spirit x C. Lanna Coryell), registered in 1998, is a clone of a line of breeding produced in Queensland from the prolific producer of orchid hybrids in the 1980's and 90's, David Allan Littman. The acronym DAL which precedes many of his registered hybrids is derived from his name. (a good orchid trivia question for the Xmas Party) 66

Again, a number of our ROSI based judges and associate judges officiated at the Bundy Show, and more recently at the Boyne Tannum Show. Well done, Faye, Bernard, Trish, Peter, Nat, and Doug

Pic supplied by M. Rawlings

## General Cultural Guide April/June

| <i>* Information is general in nature and given in good faith.</i> | Watering/Weekly  | Fertilizer/Weekly   | Pest/Disease Control   | Comments  |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Cattleya</b>  | 2-3times weekly  | Blossom booster<br>Low Nitrogen                               | Flower Thrips<br>Yates Success or<br>Pyrethrum on<br>buds                  | Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools. |
| <b>Dendrobium<br/>Hard cane</b>                                    |  | Reduce fertilizer and cease by Winter's onset                 | Flower Thrips<br>Yates Success<br>Pyrethrum on<br>buds                     | Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools. |
| <b>Dendrobium<br/>Softcane</b>                                     | Once to twice weekly   | Cease fertilizer  |  | If fertilizer is applied from now on, plantlets will form rather than flowers             |
| <b>Phalaenopsis</b>  | 2-3 times weekly   | Reduce fertilizing with cooler weather.<br>Low nitrogen       | Preventative<br>Fungicide if wet<br>cooler weather<br>Mancozeb             | Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools. |
| <b>Vandaceous</b>  | Water daily in hot weather 2-3 days if cooler                    | Balanced fertilizer if still in growth Cease if weather cools | Flower Thrips<br>Yates Success or<br>Pyrethrum on<br>buds                  |   |
| <b>Oncidium</b>  | In hot weather, every 2 days if cooler2-3                        | Balanced fertilizer if still in growth Cease if weather cools |  |   |
| <b>Paphiopedilums</b>  | Every 2 days in hot weather. 2-3 times weekly in cooler weather. | Balanced fertilizer   | Preventative<br>Fungicide if wet<br>cooler weather<br>Mancozeb             |   |
| <b>Catasetinae</b>   | 2-3 times weekly   | Fertilizer should cease once flowering has initiated.         | Plants will defoliate if weather cools significantly.<br>(Normal reaction) | Watering should be phased out completely after flowering is finished.                     |

**Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Starts 7.30 pm.**

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

Monthly Competition Results – June 2018 (Plants tabled: Advanced 34; Novice 31.)  
 (Plants tabled: Advanced 40; Novice 32)

Judges Choice

*Den.* Fraser's Blueray Twist  
 =( *Den.* Ray's Twist x *Den.* Kuranda Blue) B&N Lakey  
*Bulb.* Elizabeth Ann B&N Lakey  
*Ons. (Odcdm.)* Succubus 'Night Shift' T.March

Popular Vote – Advanced.

Cattleya over 100mm *Rlc.(Blc.)* Dal's Passion 'Kaye' C.Christensen  
 Cattleya up to 100mm *Rth.* Chunfong Smile 'Cluster' T&M Handley  
 Vandaceous *V.* Crownfox Diva J&M Bloxsom  
 Dendrobium *Den.* Dal's Model x *Den.* Fraser's Red Beauty K&R Smith  
 Catasetinae *Fdk.* L'amour de vie de Sue T&M Handley  
 Species *Ctsm. pileatum* 'Dinner Plate' B&H Hilse  
 Miscellaneous *Cal.* Hexham Gem K&R Smith

Novice.

Cattleya over 100mm *Rlc.* Sibling Rivalry 'Southern Cross' D&L Humble  
 Cattleya up to 100mm *Rlc.* Redland Blitz  
 = (*Rlc.* California Girl x *Rlc.* Beverly Bleitz) R&L Mann  
 Dendrobium *Den.* Poppy Rose (name not registered) D&S Eggleshaw  
 Oncidiinae *Ons. (Odcdm.)* Succubus 'Night Shift' T.March  
 Miscellaneous *Sgr.* Yokosuka Story D&L Humble



*Bulb.* Elizabeth Ann



*Den.* Frazer's Blueray Twist



*Ons.* Succubus 'Night Shift'

Note: Thanks to Sandra Rowcliffe for the pics in my absence

## R.O.S.I Growers Group Report

On Saturday, 29 May, the Growers Group enjoyed an afternoon at the residence of Rosemary Wines at Rockyview. Rosemary showed us her method of recording her orchid acquisitions. We enjoyed seeing her orchid collection and hearing about the arrival of her orchid house.

Thanks again, Rosemary, for the invitation to visit your peaceful and lovely garden.

On the day, photos of the Bundaberg Orchid Society Show were passed around before afternoon tea. Quite a few R.O.S.I members attended the Bundy Show – some as judges and some as spectators. The show was impressive and consisted of large displays done by other Orchid Clubs and groups within the Bundy Club.

The topic for discussion on the afternoon was ‘Growing Hardcane Dendrobiums’ followed by ‘The Different types of Dendrobiums’. Where live specimens weren’t available, we made do with photos. Thanks to the Smiths for bringing a beautiful Phalaenathe type dendrobium, Den. Burana Diamond for us to view.

The next Growers Group outing will be at **Graham and Maxine Maunder’s residence at 184 Stamford Street, North Rockhampton at 2pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June.**

Please remember to bring your chair and plate of food.

Margaret Handley

## *Species of the Month*



The species of the month is *Paphiopedilum concolor*. *Paph. concolor* belongs to the subgenus *Brachypetalum*, whose members are characterised by a smaller growth habit, and highly tessellated and mottled leaves, and in *Paphiopedilum concolor*’s case purple spotted undersides. These attributes make these orchids very attractive for their foliage alone. Its flowers are pale yellow overlaid with fine brown/red spots. Its attractive colour has seen it widely hybridized with 149 registered primary hybrids. Likewise, a check of Orchidwiz also reveals

it has received 44 awards. *Paph. concolor* has a number of varieties, with the ‘album’ form being the most desirable and most markedly different to the standard form. Its habit of a ‘dense leaf crown’ growing close to the surface has it open to problems when cultivated by hobbyists.

For instance, fertilizer-salt build up will readily burn the leaves and will contribute to secondary fungal infections. Wilts such as *Fusarium* can also be a problem so regular flushing of the potting media and re-potting annually is required to assist in deterring these types of soil-borne fungi affecting this group of Paphs.

A suitable *Paphiopedilum* potting mix of 2 parts medium bark, 1 of perlite and 1 of medium charcoal is best for this species. It is often found growing on limestone rocks in a band from northern India to Vietnam and as such some growers add limestone chips to their mixes. This is a moot point as to whether it helps or not; as just as many plants are found in the wild growing in leaf humus on the forest floor.

Overall, considering these few problems it is a relatively easy to grow and quick to flower species for a *Paphiopedilum*, and is a good one for growers to start with who are considering adding *Paphiopedilums* to their collection.

## Vale 'Ellie'

Eleanor June Dean OAM, 1936-2018



The Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc. has been in existence since 1954 and is one of Rockhampton's oldest and continuous community clubs. Ellie and Terry Dean joined in 1963, some 9 years later. Ellie and husband Terry have both been without doubt our most active senior members over their past 55 year membership. Ellie has served in both executive and support positions within the society. Ellie was the Publicity Officer and in many ways the face of the society for several decades. This devotion to the society was recognised with Ellie and Terry both being awarded life membership in 1980.

Up until only late last year and her recent bout of ill health, Ellie was still contributing to our society Newsletter with her 'Ellie's Corner' which Ellie instigated as a section to cover the social aspect of our club. Indeed, this was where Ellie excelled, and I am sure Ellie would be delighted to be described as the 'Social Butterfly' of our Society. In her role of Hostess, over several decades, Ellie was very adept at making new members so welcome and in her inimitable style 'interviewing them' until she had gleaned all their family history for the next edition of 'Ellie's Corner'. Some of these new members would be shocked to find out how much more than they knew about themselves in the next Newsletter in 'Ellie's Corner'.

Whether there was an Orchid Show or visits by other Orchids Clubs, Bus Trips to other societies or the Annual Xmas party, Ellie would be there to weave her special social magic to make everyone welcome and ensure the event was a success. Who can forget her unique presence at these functions of greeting people in long flowing gowns and tiaras and her hair be-decked with orchids and even sometimes with flashing Xmas lights.

It was in this special way that Ellie came to be so well known by the wider orchid community especially in Queensland and indeed Australia-wide. There are over 30 orchid societies in Queensland and I am sure you could go to any and you would get the reply from their members of, "oh yes we know Ellie and Terry". Indeed, many out of town 'orchid-visitors' relished the chance to catch up with Ellie and of course to see Terry's orchids.

Yes, that was our Ellie always ready to see the humour in any situation and ever ready to help others despite her own pain and suffering that she endured throughout her life of battling Type 1 Diabetes from 17 years old. For her contribution to her work with the inaugural Rockhampton Diabetic Foundation Branch, her community service at the Rockhampton Mater Hospital, and as St Paul's Anglican Cathedral secretary over 4 decades, Ellie was awarded an OAM in 1992

As one member so succinctly said, "a part of the Society has now gone with Ellie's passing". With her signature saying of just be happy! happy! happy! I can see her organizing the next orchid show in heaven as we speak.

RIP Ellie, you were one of a kind and Rockhampton's Orchid Queen.

Jeff Glover



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### Your Orchid Diary 2018

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <u>June</u>   | 16 <sup>th</sup> STOC Meeting Maryborough  |
| <u>July</u>   | 13-15 <sup>th</sup> Qld. Garden Expo Nambour<br>20-22 <sup>th</sup> Caboolture OFS Show  |
| <u>August</u> | 10-11 <sup>th</sup> Maroochydore Orchid Show<br>31-1 <sup>st</sup> Sept Nambour Orchid Show  |
| <u>Sept</u>   | 14-15 Noosa Dist. Orchid Show<br>TBA Caloundra Spring Show(closed<br>21-22 <sup>nd</sup> Glasshouse OFS Show<br>29-30 <sup>th</sup> ROSI Spring Show |
| <u>Oct</u>    | 12-13 <sup>th</sup> Bribie Island OFS Show   |
| <u>Nov</u>    | 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> Nambour Species Society Show<br>STOC Meeting Caboolture  |

### Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

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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.

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