

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

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



## Newsletter July 2012



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc. PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702  
Founded 1955

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 24/7/12

at 7.30pm

Plants to be tabled by  
7.15pm

**President:** Jeff Bloxson 49286582  
jmbloxson@hotmail.com

**Vice President:** Terry Dean 49282278  
terryellie@optusnet.com.au

**Secretary:** Gloria Wakefield 49224289  
rwa13788@bigpond.net.au

**Treasurer:** Bill Richardson 49275759  
william.r@optusnet.com

**Committee:**  
Jeff Glover 49287701  
Peter & June Shelton 0487298520  
Joy Dwyer 49283551  
Ellie Dean 49282278  
Trish Craig 49226621

**New Grower's Leader:**  
Keith Marsden 49282752

**Public Relations:** Ellie Dean

**Technical Advisers:** John Frisch  
Jeff Glover

**Registrar:** Terry Dean

**Providers:** Terry & Gwen Breingan

**Door Monitors/ Hostesses:**  
Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

**Librarian:** Jack Martin

**Raffle Plant Caretaker:** Terry Dean

**Property Officers:**  
Barry & Faye English 49222637

**Editor:** Peter & June Shelton 49266889  
sheltonpj@y7mail.com

**Asst Editor:** Trish Craig  
trishcraig@bigpond.com

**Webmaster:** Kev Logan 49396581

### Editors notes,

Well another month gone, crickey doesn't time fly we must be having fun as the saying goes. All I know is that I'm getting older quicker.

We attended a new growers meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and had a surprise at the turn up I counted 44 which is a good turn out for most societies general meeting, most of the newer members find it difficult to attend our G.Ms. for many and various reasons and I find on talking with them they are most grateful that we are holding day meetings, it is certain everybody enjoyed themselves. Keep up the good work Keith it's much appreciated.

You experienced growers must be afraid to put down in writing your little secrets, because my mail box is full of emptiness when I look and hope someone will have put their pen to paper, it doesn't take long and we'd all appreciate sharing your knowledge. How about it?

This cooler weather one would think the soft cane Eugeananthe Dens would be setting their flowers now but I don't notice anything exciting happening, how are yours looking perhaps you could let me know because as every one knows I don't grow them very well.

This month there is a small article on how we use Epsom salts (Hydrated Magnesium Sulphate) and Condy's Crystals (Potassium Permanganate) both very useful additives to your fertilizing program.

Apologies for no judge's choice pictures this month Pete experienced problems importing the pictures, heaven only knows what he did or didn't do. I'll have to make sure he doesn't do it again.

What happened to our dry season, looks like we are in for another whacky season, our poor old orchids don't know whether they are Arthur or Martha. Thank heavens they are tough.

Pictures are of awarded orchids, we think they are rippers.

*Pete & June*

**Notice to  
Members  
PLEASE assist  
with cleaning the  
hall**

### Judges for the Meeting

T. Dean P. Shelton B. Hilse  
N. Barker

## **Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**

### **General Meeting Tuesday 26/6/2012**

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**New members;** Susan Price

**Lucky Member:** 4 Pam & Keith Marsden.

**Minutes:** of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Ellie Dean second Bev McArthur Carried.

**Correspondence:** In = Newsletters, Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Inc, Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club, Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Boyne-Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. Mid-Murry Orchid Club Inc. Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc, Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc. Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc, Central QLD Bush house & Orchid Society. Nambour Orchid News, Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc. Capricorn Orchid & Foliage Club Inc. Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra. Orchid News NSW. Nightcliff Orchid Society. Redcliff District Orchid Society Inc. 2 Memberships. Australian Orchid Council ( Insurance ) NSW Orchid renewal. Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Ass ( Invitation ) Gympie Golden Orchid Spectacular. Minutes Sub- Tropic Orchid Council. John Rees Awards. Newsletter returned. Orchids Australia. Australian Orchid Review. Opening Spectacular Maleny Botanic Gardens.

**OUT** = Sympathy card Terry & Gwen Breingan and Jeanette Scanlon.  
Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Jenny Moore Carried.

**Treasurers Report:** In the absence of Bill Richardson there was no Treasurer report.

**New Growers:** Keith thanked Richard & Lynne Mann then Bev McArthur for inviting us to come to their house. The next one will be at Graham & Maxine Maunder 184 Stamford Street North Rockhampton Please bring a fold up chair and a small plate of afternoon tea and enjoy the company.

**General Business:** Don't forget the Cent Sale which will be held on the 14th October 2012 at the Feez Street Hall. Moved Ellie Dean second Graham Maunder that we do away with the Theme for the displays at the show, Now awarding points = Arrangement 30, Variety 30, Quality 30, & Labelling 10. The theme for the whole show will be "Our world of Orchids" moved Rosalie Smith second June Shelton Carried. Letter of thanks to go to Webbers & Arthur Cotton for their donations to the show. We will look at doing something before the end of the year maybe a short trip.

**Plant Commentary:** Jeff Glover did the commentary, Short and Sweet with lots of good information.

**Lucky exhibitor:** Bev McArthur

**Raffle:** Jeff Bloxsom, Rosemarie Wine, Jan Hogan, Thea Press, Richard Mann, Bev McArthur, Sandra Rowcliffe, Graham Maunder, Jeff Bloxsom, Terry Breingan (2), Marg Hadley,  
Meeting Closed: 9.25 pm.

**Next Meeting:** 24th July 2012

Jeff Bloxsom, President

Gloria Wakefield, Secretary

## Monthly Competition Results. June 2012.

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 35 Novice:18 )

<b>Judges Choice</b>	<i>Paph.</i> Deperle	J&N Glover
	<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	J&M Bloxsom
	<i>Dtps.</i> Alice's Heart	T&M Handley

### Popular Vote: Advanced

Cattleya over 75mm.	<i>Rlc.</i> Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon'	T&E Dean
	tied ( <i>Bc.</i> Pastoral 'Innocence')	C.Smith
Cattleya up to 75mm	<i>Slc.</i> Hawaiian Lustre	K&R Smith
Vandaceous	<i>Vasco.</i> Alice's Anie	J&J Hogan
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph.</i> Red Velvet	J&N Glover
Oncidiinae	<i>Vuyl.</i> Carnivale	P&J Shelton
Species	<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	J&M Bloxsom
Miscellaneous	Z. B G White	T&E Dean

### Popular Vote: Novice

Cattleya	<i>Rlc.</i> Cornerstone 'Fine Circle'	T&M Handley
Miscellaneous	<i>Dtps.</i> Alice's Heart	T&M Handley



*C. schilleriana*



*Bulb. lobbii*



*Den. Fraser's Blue*



*Rsc. Rosella's Scorpio*

## **The use of Potassium Permanganate.**

We know this product as Condyl's Crystals and it has many uses. Although it has long been superseded by many other products such as antibiotics and other modern medicines, as a child I knew it as an all round remedy for many ailments, for example when I was in the army it was used as a treatment for tired or sore feet, especially as a preventative for Tinea. Although some of these were classed as 'old grannies remedies' Condyl's is still used as an astringent, bactericide and as a deodorant.

By now you are wondering what this has got to do with orchids. I've been using Condyl's for many years and have found it to be a remedy for many problems associated with orchids. When deflasking I rinse the seedlings in a solution – about 3gms to 4 ½ litres of water, a much stronger mix can be used for sterilising used pots. Having scrubbed the pots first in soap and water, fill a container with Condyl's and soak the pots for at least half an hour. (6gms per ltr)

If you have a plant that looks distressed, soak it in a mix of 5gms per litre of Condyl's before placing it in your bush house. Also when you spray with a fertilizer or insecticide a few grains of Condyl's can only do good, it not only helps the plant to fight diseases but the plant uses the small amount of potassium to make better flowers.

I must warn you, don't get heavy handed with it as the stain of Condyl's is very hard to remove. The best way is to wear gloves.

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## **The use of Hydrated Magnesium Sulphate**

Commonly known as Epsom salts it contains two elements crucial to plant growth. Sulphur (13%) is necessary to the inner workings of plants but it is almost never lacking in soil, thanks in part to synthetic fertilizers.

As we don't pot our orchids in soil there is a deficiency of trace elements required by them. In general, magnesium plays a role in strengthening of the plant walls (no more flaccid growths) also it allows the plant to take in nutrients supplied by us to the potting media. Magnesium is critical to the flower initiation process in orchids.

Below are a few suggestions should you decide to use it.

1. 1 teaspoonful to 5 ltrs of water every time you water.
2. If you fertilize once a week, use 1 tablespoon to 5ltrs of your fertilizer solution.
3. Seasonal application as above.
4. For Phalaenopsis growers the recommended dose is 5 teaspoons to 5 ltrs of fertilizer. Apply this twice in a row in May.

**Do NOT mix the two together.**

## New Growers Report

Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> the new growers had the pleasure to have their meeting at the home of Maxine and Graham Maunder.

On arrival we were welcomed by Graham and Maxine and invited to look over their orchid collection and gardens before afternoon tea. Their gardens and orchids spend time perusing with the weather just perfect.

Afternoon tea was next on the agenda giving the members present a chance to spend time together and enjoy the sumptuous spread. We were able to welcome members from Bowen on visit they were Daryl and Leone Humble and also Sue Price a Rocky lady who was a past member and now has rejoined our society. Sue has been a friend for many years and it is great to have her back.

The meeting started with the problem plant discussion giving the members a chance to receive the answers they required from the experienced members present.

My thanks to the experienced members we are fortunate to have you at our meetings passing on your many years of experience to our new chums.

We followed on with a discussion on getting started with orchids and the necessity for the protection of a bush house also how and where to build one.

The afternoon raffle completed the afternoon giving the lucky ones plants to add to their collections.

I would like to thank Maxine and Graham for giving the members the invitation and for making us feel welcome.

My thanks also for your generous donations and help in making the meeting so enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held on **Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of July at the home of Neil and Trish Craig at 36 Cousins Street starting at 2 PM.**

Please bring a folding chair and a plate for afternoon tea if possible.

Keith Marsden.



44 New Growers at Maunders

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Did you know.

The search engine 'Google' got its name from the word 'googol' which is the number 1 with 100 zeros after it.



## Ellie's Corner

Hello everyone. I am commencing my column with a sad heart following on the passing of Joan Smith on 2 May. She was 84 and Joan and her husband Clarry were married for 57 years and had been members of our Society for 22 years. Joan was a beautiful, gentle little lady loved by all. She adored Clarry, their children and grand children and surrounded them all with her special love. Clarry said that they were fortunate to have her as long as they did as she had health problems during former years and Clarry and their family banded together to care for her. Clarry told me that he has been her major carer for the past three years and stayed home most evenings to be with her. They had four children, Neil, Ian, Leanne and Kaylene, seven grand children and three great grand children. Joan had two wishes – one to celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and two – to see all her grand children married. We know she will be watching these events from heaven. Neil gave a beautiful eulogy for his mother at her funeral service and spoke about her love of family and life. He said she greatly enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, working them out in record time! She loved watching the footie but the family could never quite work out just what team she was barracking for!! She also watched the soopies and “Deal or No Deal” and always called out “Take the Money”. We send our love and condolences to Clarry and family. They were all really comforted that so many of our members attended Joan’s funeral and showed their sympathy and support. Our thoughts and prayers also go to Jenny and Peter Moore. Joan was Jenny’s beloved aunt (her late mother was Joan’s sister). I know we will all keep special remembrances of happy times spent with Joan within our hearts.

Along with about 20 other members Rosie and Ken Smith attended the Tropical Queensland Orchid Conference in Ingham 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> June. They then continued on to Atherton, Ravenshoe, Mt Molloy, Port Douglas, Cairns and back home. They “haunted” many orchid nurseries and private collections. Rosie said the car was packed with orchids and there was just enough room to fit her in as well for the trip home!

Those intrepid travellers, Graham and Maxine Maunder, also made the trip north. After staying four days in Ingham they travelled to Atherton and Cairns and Townsville (where they stayed 3 days with friends). They enjoyed all the lovely scenery and glorious weather and naturally bought lots of orchids!

Our hardworking Secretary, Gloria Wakefield and her husband Rodger also travelled north for the Conference. Gloria said they took a week to get there and another week to come home. They went fishing (and had fresh fish every night) and greatly enjoyed travelling along in a leisurely manner and taking time to enjoy their surroundings. Gloria said they “re-charged” their batteries. They bought some orchids but next time plan to have more space to bring more back! Dennis and Joy Dwyer celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They took a trip “down memory lane” to Bundaberg where they were married and then on to the Sunshine Coast and the Mary Valley where Joy’s family came from. Many of Joy’s family members still live in the area. They enjoyed a family get-together at their daughter’s home in Toowoomba and their daughter who lives in Rockhampton joined them too. They were away ten days. What a lovely way to celebrate 50 happy years together. Congratulations to Joy and Dennis.

Ray and Gay Bills also attended the Conference in Ingham. They spent a week in Cairns prior to the Conference and enjoyed the spectacular Sky Rail at Kuranda...they said it was a great experience. They also went to the Butterfly Enclosure where they admired the absolutely beautiful sight of so many butterflies. It sounds really breath-taking. They dined out to

celebrate Gay's Birthday on 6 June while they were in Cairns. They went to Ingham for 3 nights and then back to Townsville where they visited Alice and also caught up with other orchid friends. On the way home they spent a couple of nights at Airlie Beach where they had a large unit overlooking the Esplanade.

Trish Craig recently attended a "WRAPT IN ROCKY" week at the Girls Grammar School. It was a residential group of workshops to do with textile and fibre. There were 8 tutors from as far away as the USA and South Australia with approximately 70 students from all over the East Coast of Australia. It involved felting, print making, various types of hand crafts and leather bag making. Trish called it a very fulfilling, exciting and exhausting week. There was a lot of hard work for Trish as she was one of the organizers and her husband Neil played a great role as a volunteer !

Paxia and Laurie Lucke celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 30 June. They were married at St. Paul's Cathedral and lived at Bracewell until they retired in 2006 when they moved to Gracemere. They have three children – two girls, Toni and Susan, and a boy Peter. Their daughters live in Brisbane and their son in Townsville. They have three grandchildren (each child has one). Later on they are having a trip away and will visit their family. Congratulations to a lovely couple.

Till next time. My love and prayers. *ELLIE DEAN.*

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*Indeed the diversity of orchids seems to be directly linked to the availability of pollinators: as the insects have the largest numbers of species of all animals, so those plants, the orchids, which rely on them for pollination, have a corresponding and overwhelming diversity of species.*

Oakes Ames.

*Among the grasses, Palms, Lilies and Irises to mention only a few of the forty five families that constitute the monocotyledons, the orchids hold the loftiest position.*

Oakes Ames

**Don't forget our SOCIETY - STORE (members only)**

**For all you Orchid Supplies**



**49222637 Barry & Faye English**

**Hours of Business: 8am -12 – 2- 5pm ( Closed: 'Thursdays' and 'Lunchtime' each day)**

**No cheques please 8**

**Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**

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**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 Street, Nth. Rockhampton. Meetings commence at 7.30pm and 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

**Your Orchid Diary 2012**

August 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> Maroochydore Orchid Soc  
August 31 Sept 1 Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Spring Show  
August 31 Sept 1 Nambour Orchid Soc  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Capricorn Orchid Show  
September 8-9<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton Orchid Society Spring Show  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Aust Orchid Conference Perth  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Maryborough District Orchid Soc Show  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Noosa DOFS Show  
Sept – 21<sup>st</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> Toowoomba Orchid Soc  
Sept 28-29<sup>th</sup> Glasshouse Orchid society Show

2013 STOC Orchidfest Gympie  
2014 TQOC Atherton  
2015 TQOC Mackay