

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



Newsletter June 2013

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702

Founded 1955

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 25/6/13

at 7.30pm

Plants to be tabled by
7.15pm

President: Jeff Bloxsom 49286582
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Trish Craig 49226621

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Jeff Glover

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Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

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Judges for the Meeting

T. Dean P. Shelton. B. Hilse

Bob. Lakey

Editors notes.

June, the start of winter, one can feel the chill in the air, remember most of the orchids we grow are tropical therefore require warm nights, wrap up that bush house and keep them snug.

What about the Gympie weekend, what a great time we had good company good food and lots of orchids to look at or buy if you were inclined.

It was a fantastic show and I think John and Kaye Green should have their chests out as it went of like clock work and if there were any hiccups they weren't noticeable by us. Also many thanks to the same couple for organising a venue for our Sunday night meal, that gesture was very much appreciated.

Two of the major prizes came home with us to Rocky, the Grand and Reserve Champions the full report later in this issue.

Are you keeping tabs on our website? Bob is doing a Stirling job keeping the cyber world informed of our doings, what we win and awards and such. If you haven't looked at this yet prepare yourself for a good smacking, it really is worth looking at and believe me its standard is the equivalent of the best.

Next month we will have an article on *Paph. rothschildianum* penned by our own Jeff Glover, a truly great article published in this months "Orchids Australia", I am having a bit of a problem down loading it but I shall persevere.

Pete & June

Notice to Members please assist with cleaning the hall after the meeting

The closing date for articles for the next newsletter are to be received by the 15th of July; articles received after this date will be included in the following month. Ed.

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
General Meeting Tuesday 28/5/2013

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New members: Beverly Powell, Mrs Eris Kerivin.

Lucky Member: 37 Jan Hogan.

Minutes: of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Jan Rawlings second Sandra Rowcliffe Carried.

Correspondence: In = Newsletters, Nightcliff Orchid Society, Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc, Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc, Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club, Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc. Capricorn Orchid & Foliage Club Inc. Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Orchid News NSW. Central QLD Bush house & Orchid Society, Mid-Murray Orchid Club, Redcliffe District Orchid Society Inc, Memberships L. Rutherford, Sub-Tropic Orchid Council, Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Big Colour Works, AON Insurance, Bayview Towers, Windemere, Thank you from Henry & Marion Wilson.

OUT = Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Burnie Peters Carried.

Treasurers Report: No report Bill Richardson absent.

New Growers: Keith Marsden thanked Ken & Rosalie for having us at their house, the next one will be at the home of Richard & Lynne Mann 9 McCarthy Street Gracemere.

General Business: Awards were handed out to Graham & Maxine Maunder, Ray & Gay Bills, Bob & Nat Lakey. Show Dates for April 2014 will be April 12-13 th. Due to Anzac Day. Moved Ellie Dean second by June Shelton with the 13-14 September 2014 Show, We will celebrate our Diamond Anniversary
Moved Graham Maunder second by Marg Handley that Terry Dean be our delegate for the STOC Meeting

Plant Commentary: Jeff Glover spoke about the flowers and why one flower won and the other didn't this was enjoyed by all, thanks Jeff.

Lucky exhibitor: Jill Howes,

Raffle: Ken Smith, Trish Craig, Bernard Hilse, Diane Hughes, Sandra Rowcliff, Bob Lakey.

Meeting closed: 9.10 pm.

Next Meeting: 25 th June 2013

Jeff Bloxsom President

Gloria Wakefield Secretary

Monthly Competition Results. May 2013

(Plants Tabled: Advanced: 33. Novice: 17)

Judges Choice:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Rlc.</i> Donna Kimura ‘Paradise Tami’ | K & R Smith |
| <i>Rlc.</i> Lakehaven Pearl | K & R Smith |
| <i>Phrag.</i> Calurum | B & H Hilse |

Popular Vote – Advanced:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Cattleya over 75mm: <i>Rlc.</i> George King ‘Serendipity’ | K & R Smith |
| Cattleya up to 75mm: <i>Rlc.</i> Lakehaven Pearl | K & R Smith |
| Vandaceous: <i>Vasco.</i> Crownfox Magic ‘Gigi Magic’ | T & E Dean |
| Paphiopedilum: <i>Paph.</i> Doctor Toot | J & N Glover |
| Oncidiinae: <i>Incdm.</i> Popcorn ‘Hauari’ | K & R Smith |

Novice:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Cattleya: <i>Rlc.</i> Donna Kimura ‘Paradise Tami’ | G & M Maunder |
| Dendrobium: <i>Den.</i> Sampran Brown | G & M Maunder |
| Miscellaneous: <i>Angm.</i> <i>eburneum</i> | S. Rowcliffe |



Rlc. Lakehaven Pearl



Rlc. Donna Kimura

Photo of *Phrag.* *Calurum* not taken due to fall of flower.

Awards Presented.

Two R.O.S.I. Cultural award certificates were presented to grower at our last meeting. Firstly, a big surprise for Bob And Nat Lakey when unknown to them, the judges also awarded their beautiful plant of **Bc. Marg Putman** a cultural award after its selection as Best Specimen at our April show. The well grown plant filled a 300mm pot and carried 22 inflorescences with over 70 flowers.

Graham and Maxine Maunder also received a Cultural Award for their plant of **Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'** judged on the 12th of May. This plant carried 48 inflorescences around the perimeter of 450mm shallow pot. A very well grown clean plant. Congratulations!

Terry Dean, Registrar.

Congratulations.

Heartiest congratulations are due to too of our top growers, namely **Terry & Ellie Dean** and **Ken & Rosie Smith** on taking out the Grand Champion and Reserve champions respectively. This was by no mean stretch of the imagination a super effort considering the orchids on show were of quite a high quality

Terry's plant also got the nod for best specimen of the show, no mean feat indeed.

This same plant also received two awards for his effort An **Award of Merit** and also **Award of Cultural Merit**.

Ken & Rosie followed up with a very closely contested Reserve Champion.



Grand Champion Gympie Orchid Fest
Terry & Ellie Dean



Res Grand Champion Gympie Orchid Fest
Ken & Rosie Smith

Orchid Fest 2013 Gympie

The much awaited trip to Gympie is has been and gone and I think every body who suffered the rising from their slumbers at the ungodly hour of Cow time thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We climbed aboard “Dora the Explorer” and were on our way to the first pit stop for the trip Bororen (my fault but it was getting rather serious).



Then we pushed on to Gin Gin where we had brekky at a stop we frequent quite often on our various trips southward, they are to be commended for their organization (and Jeffs) – no waiting- no delays.

The next stop was Gympie and straight to the show and what a spectacle it was, being a benched show it makes one wonder whether this is the way to go, as far as judging is concerned it would make life easier and we would not get lost amongst the crowds.

However I digress we then went and booked into our designated Motels to have a clean up of the tired old bodies and then to the presentation dinner at the Gympie Golf Club, a very enjoyable night with the “Rocky Raffle Rats” cleaning up just about everything that was going. With Diane Hughes winning a few days on one of the tropical islands that abound in Queensland waters. The plant auction was next on the agenda, our President paid top dollar for the night but he will not be sorry I’ve seen the orchid in flower it’s a ripper. Carolyn Dahler got the cheapest orchid of good quality, I think it was in bud so whoopee for you girl.

Sunday some went to the local markets (unfortunately it rained so was a bit of a bummer) while others went back to the show, we rounded everybody up and traveled to the Glass house Mountains, on the way we had lunch at the Beerwah R.S.L. and what a meal it was “wow” Pressed on to Italo & Noela Frizzo’s enormous collection, it astounded everyone how they ever look after it all but they do and do a fine job off it as well, great people made us very welcome, once again the members got rid of some dollars. Then home for a much needed rest. Sunday night saw us feast at the Albert Park Bowls Club. Venue organised by our friends John & Kaye, for which we thank them, we are most grateful.

Monday morn saw everybody fit and ready for whatever lay in store so all clambered aboard “Dora” again and off to Cordalba for a visit to Brian Jones collection, Brian has some very old breed orchids and it was a pleasure to view them again, more dollars changed hands. Then to a collection we were all busting to see again Alwyn & Bev Heidke’s and disappointed we were not. It is one of the neatest bush houses you are ever likely to see chockers with orchids of many different genera, not only does one enjoy their collection, their company is much enjoyed as well two of the nicest people you would meet in a long days ride.

If you didn’t enjoy yourself – well you are very hard to please! Thanks Jeff for a job well done also a big pat on the back to P.J. for taking over the huge responsibility off guiding “Dora” on her way - you’re both tops in our book

Hymn. .

New Growers Report.

The new growers were invited to have their meeting last Saturday June the 1st at the home of Lynn and Richard Mann.

On arrival as usual the orchid collection was the first thing on the members list of things to do and with the collection housed in a number of bush houses this was a very enjoyable way to start the afternoon.

Afternoon tea was next giving the members a chance to enjoy each others company.

Our President Jeff addressed the members on the trip to Gympie the coming weekend and as is normal he has the trip well organised.

We then had the problem plant section giving the members an opportunity to have their concerns answered by the experienced members present.

Richard and Lynn kindly donated a large plant of *Den. crumenatum* to be divided up for the members to take home; they were also shown how to mount their plant on a wooden host mount if they decided that was what they wanted.

The afternoon raffle completed the meeting giving the members whose lucky day it was to take home a plant or two to add to their collections.

My sincere thanks to Lynn and Richard for their kind generosity and thanks to the members who donated to the raffle also for their help with the meeting. Your help is much appreciated.

The next meeting is to be held on **Saturday the 29th of June** at the **Scotvale Park Squash Centre** at **271 Richardson Road, Nth Rockhampton.** at the invitation of Sandy Rowcliffe starting at **2 P.M.**

The usual plate of goodies for afternoon tea and a folding chair if possible.

Keith Marsden

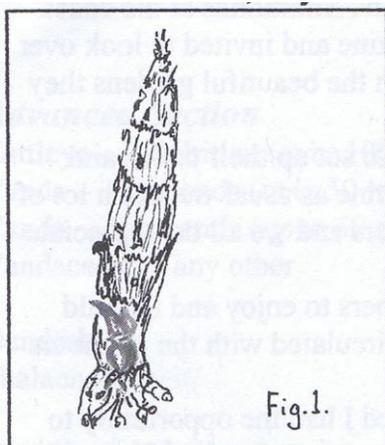
Phone- 49282752



Does anybody know who this woman is, picture taken at Beerwah R.S.L?

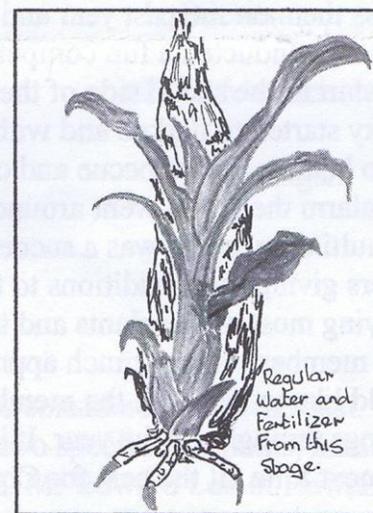
Catasetums.

Love'em or hate'em, they're definitely worth a spot in the bush house. Catasetums are found throughout Central America. Of the approximate 110, species 70 of these are found in Brazil, they grow from sea level to 1500 metres. Being deciduous the pseudo bulbs defoliate prior to the cooler months; they then require a rest period of differing times dependant on the climate at the time.



After the leaves have dropped it's a good idea to clean up the bulbs (with care they have a very sharp top to them), the remaining leaf bracts are an ideal hiding spot for many different kinds of pests. On the appearance of a new shoot (see figure 1) it's time to repot. The new growth needs to be at least 60 mms high, it's not wise to overpot use a pot the size that the root ball will fit snugly in, of course if you have decided to

grow a specimen plant a bigger pot would be the way to go. I use sphagnum moss mixed with a 20% of perlite added but you could use coolite if you wish (I have noticed this used by many growers in C.Q.) I've tried some in an open mix but the growth rate in sphagnum nearly doubled that of the open mix, also the flowers were of better quality. Show great care when packing the sphagnum in the new shoots and roots are very – very delicate. Top off the sphagnum with a teaspoon full of slow release 9 month fertiliser pellets and cover with a fine layer of 10mm river pebbles. This stops the fertilizer getting washed out of the pot and helps keep the moss fresh. Bright light (not direct but defused with shade cloth) good air movement is imperative for a healthy plant, water and fertilise right up to flowering, then back off the fertiliser. the leaves will drop off some of the deciduous types it's then time to stop watering as well, although it pays to keep your eye on them, if you notice that the pseudo bulb is withering, water but only lightly because they are **VERY** susceptible to rot in the cooler months.



I have found that if I put them on their own in a spot that is not going to get any water at all they do well because then I can control the amount of water they get.

For the types that keep their leaves intact water but **only lightly**. They are inclined to be disease free (I know they're going to make a liar of me now I've said that) but they are a target for red spider mites, scale and mealy bugs can present a problem, I have seen them ruined completely over night by spider mites, but as with other bush house pests they're manageable.

Ensuring good air movement will combat some of these problems without going to the chemical cupboard. These orchids can carry both male and female flowers depending on the elements. The commonly held belief is if the plant is given more light it will flower female, a belief I dispute but that's not what I'm writing about. The shape, size, form and colour of the male flowers will vary considerably from species to species but the female flowers are dissimilar especially in shape and size. Unfortunately the beautiful flowers are short lived, some as short as a few days.

Hymn

Dendrobium Types.

PHALAENANTHE TYPE. This type is commonly known as hard canes. This variety is derived from *Den. bigibbum* and *Den. phalaenopsis* and a couple of other species. The name means Moth like and they have a filled in shape. This type of *Den.* needs a warm summer and a dry rest over winter, i.e. Monsoonal conditions. On a judging point of view Phalaenanthe Dens should have an arching inflorescence with flowers aligned on either side.

SPATULATA TYPE. Also known as Antelope or Ceratobe because of their twisted petals. These are found from Northern Australia through to the Philippines. They have no real rest period so when you have new growths and new roots you keep watering and fertilizing. *Den. discolor* is one example of this type. One drawback of most of the Spatulata dens. is they grow very tall, 4m or more. Judging the inflorescence may be arching or upright.

INTERMEDIATE TYPE. These are the cross between Spatulata and Phalaenanthe types. They may or may not be twisted depending on which parent is the most dominant in breeding. This type is very popular because they grow well and flower several times a year. Most do not require a rest period in the growing season. One example is *Den. x superbiens* which is a natural hybrid between *Den. bigibbum* and *Den. discolor*. The Singapore orchids which florists sell are mainly intermediate Dens.

MINI ANTELOPE HYBRIDS. These are a hybrid between the large Spatulata and our Australian native miniature orchids, such as *Den. canaliculatum. carronii* and *johannis*. These hybrids may be heavily twisted to very little twist. *Den. carronii* adds pink to its progeny where as *Den. canaliculatum* and *johannis* are mainly yellow and browns. One of the best known hybrids is *Den. Gloucester Sands* which is a cross between *Den. discolor* and *Den. canaliculatum*. This type tends to grow all the year round so they require water and fertiliser all year round. Mature plants are very rarely out of flower. On a judging point of view the inflorescence can be arching or upright. The arrangement and colour are the main aspects.

EUGEANANTHE TYPE. More commonly known as soft canes. These plants are mainly derived from *Den. nobile* which is endemic to the foothills of the Himalayas northern Borneo and Thailand. They require monsoonal type weather. I water every day from the beginning of November to the end of March and from then on only enough to stop the canes from shriveling. These orchids are deciduous and the flowers appear from nodes along the canes. If given plenty of light during winter you should get flowers along the full length of the canes. Judges are very hard on Eugeananthe Dens as the standards require flowers all the way round the cane and from top to bottom.

LATOUREA TYPE. Otherwise known as New Guinea Dens. Examples are *Den. spectabile*, *atroviolaceum* and *macrophyllum*. Growing these depends on whether the species come from the highlands or the coastal areas of New Guinea. A lot of these produce flowers that nod to stop the pollen from getting wet and consequently washing out but I personally feel that hybridisers shouldn't be using them in breeding programs as there are enough that don't have this fault.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE TYPES. There are both warm and cool growing varieties and lots of hybrids between hot and cool. I feel that *Den. speciosum* is one of the best orchids in the world but it has the fault of flower longevity.

INDIAN TYPES. *Dens, pierardii, macrophyllum, thyriflorum* etc, etc, all tend to flower in the spring on pendulous racemes. Growing conditions are similar to *Eugeananthe* types.

CULTURAL NOTES ON WINTER GROWING.

I cover most of my orchid houses with plastic so I can control the amount of water they receive through winter. Orchids can handle a little cold but not wet and cold.

Cattleyas. Large pots I water every 7 to 10 days depending on the temperature. I water in the morning before 9am but never on cold overcast days. Small pots of seedling *Cattleyas* I water 5 days apart. Both large and small pots receive fertiliser each watering with a high PK fertiliser, (I use Searle's flourish.)

Dendrobiums. *Phalaenathe* type. I do not water these from the end of May to the end of August, just a fine mist over the leaves fortnightly. Intermediate and *canaliculatum* type hybrids I water weekly if plants have new growth and new roots, if not water sparsely. So observe your plants.

Eugeananthe type. (Soft canes). Only water enough to stop the canes from shriveling, more when buds are forming. **NO** fertiliser during the winter months. Give your plants as much light as possible during the winter months.

Vandaceous. I water weekly and mist if humidity is low. Again observe the root tips if they are green and show signs of growing – water and fertiliser is required. Damping down the bush house floor will help raise the humidity.

Both of these above articles were penned by the **Greenman.**

Editors note:

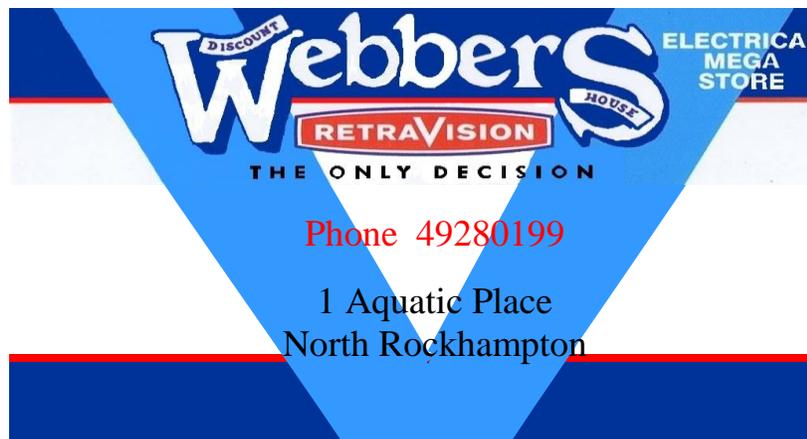
I was speaking the last meeting night to a new grower who was asking advice on the construction of a bush house. My advice to her was, if possible cover your framework with chicken wire then with 70% shade cloth, fitted out with self closing insect proof door. Don't put Solar weave on permanent but a detachable cover this will keep out those winter winds, we don't get a lot of winter rain but if perchance we do then your orchids are protected. Many growers wrap up their bush house in its entirety a very good idea but a bit expensive for the average small grower. If possible make enough room between the benches to turn, some growers make the mistake of not leaving enough room consequently inflorescences get broken and plants get knocked off benches.

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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.(39). 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 attributed to the use or misuse of any material published in this Newsletter

Your Orchid Diary 2012

July 6th – 8th Caboolture Orchid Soc
August 10 – 11th Maroochydore Orchid Soc
August 31 Sept 1 Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Spring Show
August 31 Sept 1 Nambour Orchid Soc
September 6 – 7th Childers Show
September 6 – 7th Nambour Spring Show
September 14 – 15th Rockhampton Spring Show
September 19 – 21st (39) Maryborough Show
September 27 -28th Glasshouse Country Show

2014 TQOC Atherton
2015 TQOC Mackay