

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

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



## Newsletter May 2012

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702

Founded 1955

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 22/5/12

at 7.30pm

Plants to be tabled by

7.15pm

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom 49286582  
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Keith Marsden 49282752  
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Jeff Glover  
**Registrar:** Terry Dean  
**Providers':** Terry & Gwen Breingan  
**Door Monitors/ Hostesses:**  
Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver  
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### Judges for the Meeting

T. Dean, P.Shelton, B.Hilse.  
S.Peters

**Notice to  
Members  
PLEASE assist  
with cleaning the  
hall after the  
meeting!**

### Editors notes,

As we approach the colder months of winter we must take into consideration that our plants (or the majority of them) are tropical growers therefore they have the need for us to keep them as warm as is possible. The temperatures in Rocky don't go to the extremes that southern growers have to contend with, never the less we do get the occasional frost, consequently we must rug them up. When you decide to wrap your bush house up (as I'm sure you will), don't do it too early or your plants will suffer from transpiration, most orchids can tolerate temperatures as low as 10 degrees Celsius but not for prolonged periods. So as a rule of thumb I use the method – If I need a blanket keep out the chills of the night – so do my orchids. It is advisable not to take the cover right down to ground level or to the top as you will stop air circulation.

There are many types of material you can use I have found the best for my purpose is a product called Solar Weave it can be taken off and put away till the next chilly season.

Also I think it is imperative you also give your plants a thorough spraying with Envy or a like product so as it gives them added protection for the cooler months. Not forgetting the under sides of the leaves as this is where the majority of stomata are situated.

I (Pete) write information from past experiences and of course the many mistakes I've made over years. So what I say is only a guide, it may not work in the micro/climate of your bush house but it has worked for me so I wish you good luck.

We have in this month's journal the results of the autumn show, I think we all know what ribbons are ours but still it is a good idea to keep a record of your achievements.

Friendii has contributed a great article on hard cane Dens, good reading for those that are interested

In this months newsletter we have the show results, these give you an idea which plants to nurture for next year.

See you at the meeting.

*Pete & June*

# **Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**

## **General Meeting Tuesday 24/4/2012**

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**New members:** Joan Lindsay

**Lucky Member:** 6

**Minutes:** of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Burnie Peters second Lionel Reeves Carried.

**Correspondence: In** = Newsletters, Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Inc, Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Boyne-Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. Mid-Murry Orchid Club Inc. Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc, Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc, Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc. Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc, Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Association. Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. Townsville Orchid Society Inc. AOC Conference Perth. Kempsey NSW. Mackay Orchid Extravaganza. Australian Orchid Review. The Australian Orchid Council Inc. S.T.O.C. Queensland. John Rees. 3 Memberships. 4you. Orchid Australia. Perth Conference, Big Colour Works.

**OUT** = Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Moyna Richardson Carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Bill Richardson read and moved his report Second by Ellie Dean carried,

**New Growers:** Keith spoke about the visit to Shirley & Burnie Peters and thanked them for having us. Next one will be at Ken & Rosalie Smith at 92 Perrott Dve. Olive Estate. Bring a fold up chair and a small plate of afternoon tea and enjoy the company.

**General Business:** Ratify donation to S.T.O.C. (prize money) moved Terry Dean Second by Peter Shelton Carried. A Thank you to be sent to Peter Byrne for all his support to our shows. Trip to Gympie accommodation now booked and names are being taken. A Cent Sale will be held on the 14th October 2012 at the Feez Street Hall to raise money to go towards the trip, More information as it gets closer. Moved Ken Smith Second Ellie Dean to give secretary Gloria \$200.00 towards costs of ink and paper And \$100.00 for President Jeff towards Phone calls Carried.

Membership should now be paid

Moyna thanked all the stewards who helped her at the show.

**Plant Commentary:** Terry Dean did the commentary, Well done Terry good information.

**Lucky exhibitor:** R & G Wakefield.

**Raffle;** Graham Maunder, Nat Lakey, Gloria Wakefield, Noel Barker, Wendy Ahern.

**Meeting closed :** 9.15 pm.

**Next Meeting:** 22nd May 2012

Jeff Bloxsom President

Gloria Wakefield Secretary

## Monthly Competition Results. April 2012.

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 49 Novice: 21)

### Judges Choice.

<i>Bc.</i> Donna Kimura	K&R Smith
<i>Den.</i> Genting Candy	B&N Lakey
<i>Angcm.</i> <i>longicalcar</i>	P&J Shelton

### Popular Vote. Advanced

Cattleya over 75mm	<i>Blc.</i> California Girl	B&N Lakey
Cattleya up to 75mm	<i>C.</i> Christopher	K&R Smith
Dendrobium	<i>Den.</i> Genting Candy	B&N Lakey
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph.</i> Sally Berndt	T&E Dean
Oncidiinae	<i>Colm.</i> Wildcat 'Rainbow'	K&R Smith
Species	<i>Angcm.</i> <i>longicalcar</i>	P&J Shelton
Miscellaneous	<i>Bulb.</i> Wilbur Chang	P&J Shelton

### Novice

Cattleya	<i>Lc.</i> Molly Tyler	L.Lucke
Miscellaneous	<i>Phal.</i> Pinlong Memoristopher	T&M Handley

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## Judges Choices for April 2012



*Den.* **Genting Candy**  
B&N Lakey



*Bc.* **Donna Kimura**  
K&R Smith



*Ang.* **longicalcar**  
P&J Shelton

## New Growers Report

On Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> we had the pleasure to have our April meeting at the home of Rosie and Ken Smith out at the Olive Estate.

We were on tender hooks all morning looking at the weather but as it turned out we were lucky and completed the meeting without rain.

On arrival we were greeted by Rosie and Ken and as usual the orchid collection was the first port of call for the members.

Rosie and Ken have a very well grown collection housed in two orchid houses with many in bloom giving the members an enjoyable start to the afternoon.

There were quite a few for sale in the main shed and many of the members were able to grab a bargain or two to add to their own collections.

Afternoon tea was next and then the meeting progressed with a talk on Dendrobiums and any orchid problems were being faced with.

The raffle completed the afternoon giving the winners a plant or two to take home. My thanks to Rosie and Ken for having us again this year, your kindness and generosity is appreciated by all who attended.

My thanks to all who donated prizes for the raffle also the members who helped in making the afternoon the success that it was.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup> commencing at 2pm, starting at the home of Richard and Lynne Mann, their address is **9 Mc CARTHY ST, GRACEMERE**. We will then move out to Bev McArthurs at **57 HUFF ST, GRACEMERE**, to complete the meeting with afternoon tea and a raffle. Any orchid related questions can answered at any of the meeting venues, so please come along and enjoy the afternoon.

A folding chair for your own use and a plate for afternoon tea if possible would be appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you there

*Keith Marsden*

### VALE

**Joan Smith**

**Joan has left us and gone to that orchid  
heaven in the sky, rest in peace dear  
lady.**

**Our condolences to Clarry and family.**

### COACH TRIP

**We have 6 seats remaining for the trip to Gympie  
Orchidfest in June next year; the 50 seat coach  
originally booked was filled in no time so we have  
booked a 60 seater.**

**The assessed approximate cost will be \$350 per  
head but the cost will be finalised when the time  
approaches. There are no subsidies as yet included.**

**The cost includes coach travel, 2 nights  
accommodation and 2 continental breakfasts, all  
other meal costs will be at your own expense.**

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

## Autumn Show 14th/15th April 2012

<b>Grand Champion:</b>	<i>Rlc.</i> Donna Kimura	P&J Shelton
<b>Reserve Champion:</b>	<i>(Ctsm. pileatum x Ctsm. Marsh Hollow)</i> K&R Smith <i>x Ctsm.</i> Susan Fuchs	
<b>Best Specimen :</b>	<i>Den.</i> Alice's Stewart Zierk	B&S Peters
<b>Best Exotic Species:</b>	<i>Pyp. papilio</i>	K&R Smith
<b>Runner up to Best Exotic Species:</b>	<i>Angcm. longicalcar</i>	P&J Shelton
<b>Best Aust. Species:</b>	<i>Den. bigibbum</i>	J&M Bloxsom
<b>Runner up to Best Aust. Species:</b>	<i>Den. bigibbum</i>	J&M Bloxsom
<b>Best Orchid by Novice Grower:</b>	<i>Ascda.</i> Yip Sum Wah	J&P Moore
<b>Runner up to Best Novice:</b>	<i>Ctna.</i> Why Not Walk	T&N Craig
<b>Large Display:</b>	1st. K&R Smith & P&J Shelton	2 <sup>nd</sup> T&E Dean
<b>Small Display:</b>	1st. B&N Lakey	2 <sup>nd</sup> J.Hogan
<b>Container Garden:</b>	1st. L.Mann	2 <sup>nd</sup> . M.Maunder
<b>Floral Art, Arrangement:</b>	1st. P.Marsden	2 <sup>nd</sup> J.Shelton
<b>Floral Art, Corsage:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> M.Richardson	2 <sup>nd</sup> M.Richardson
<b>Class Champion; Laeliinae:</b>	<i>Rlc.</i> Donna Kimura	P&J Shelton
<b>Runner up to C.C. Laeliinae:</b>	<i>Bc.</i> Mem. Vida Lee	K&R Smith
<b>Class Champion; Vandaeae:</b>	<i>Mkra.</i> Madame Panni	B&N Lakey
<b>Runner up to C.C. Vandaeae:</b>	<i>Vasco.</i> Pine Rivers 'Wasana'	J&N Glover
<b>Class Champion; Dendrobium:</b>	<i>Den.</i> Johulatum	B&N Lakey
<b>Runner up to C.C. Dendrobium:</b>	<i>Den.</i> Mazokotaki	B&N Lakey
<b>Class Champion; Oncidiinae:</b>	<i>Onc.</i> Florida Gold 'Hildos	B&F English
<b>Runner up to C.C. Oncidiinae:</b>	<i>Onc.</i> Lemon Heart	J&M Bloxsom
<b>Class Champion; Paphiopedilum:</b>	<i>Paph.</i> Vanguard	T&E Dean
<b>Runner up to C.C. Paphiopedilum:</b>	<i>Paph.</i> Envy Green	J &N Glover
<b>Class Champion; Other Genera:</b>	<i>(Ctsm. pileatum x A ) x (B)</i>	K&R Smith
<b>Runner up to C.C. Other Genera:</b>	<i>Lyc,</i> Sunrise x Angcst Lady Bath	K&R Smith
<b>Class Champion; Foliage/Fern:</b>	Bromeliad.	B&F English
<b>Runner up to C.C. Foliage/Fern:</b>	Fern	T&G Breingan

### Minor prizes- Autumn Show

- 1.01 Laeliinea, standard, over 100mm**  
predominately white
- 1.02 Laeliinea ,standard over 100mm**  
Mauve / Purple shades
- 1.03 Laeliinea, standard, over 100mm**  
any other colour
- 1.04 Laeliinea, standard, up to 100mm**  
predominately white
- 1.05 Laeliinea, standard, up to 100mm**  
Mauve /purple
- 1.06 Laeliinea, standard, up to 100mm**

- |     |             |
|-----|-------------|
| 1st | R&L Mann    |
| 2nd | N/A         |
| 1st | P&J Shelton |
| 2nd | K&R Smith   |
| 1st | K&R Smith   |
| 2nd | K&R Smith   |
| 1st | N/A         |
| 2nd | N/A         |
| 1st | J&P Moore   |
| 2nd | E&M Gill    |
| 1st | K&R Smith   |

### 14th &15th April 2012

- Blc.* Bob Betts
- Bc.* Donna Kimura  
*Bc.* Donna Kimura  
*Rlc.* Tainan Gold  
*Blc.* California Girl x *Rlc.* Dal's Horizon
- C.* name unknown  
*Blc.* Bonanza x *C. bowirngiana*  
*Rth.* Burana Angel

Any other colour	2nd	P&L Carter	<i>Blc.</i> Taiwan Queen
<b>1.07 Laeliinea, standard, miniature</b>	1st	T&N Craig	<i>Ctna.</i> Why Not Walk
plant, blooms up to 75mm	2nd	K&R Smith	<i>Rth.</i> Dal's Emperor
<b>1.08 Laeliinea, Non standard, Cluster,</b>	1st	K&R Smith	<i>Blc.</i> Mem.Vida Lee
not less than 5 blooms per stem	2nd	R&G Bills	<i>C.</i> Calico Spots
<b>1.09 Laeliinea, Non standard,</b>	1st	J&M Sorensen	<i>Otarra.</i> Mailis Surprise
any other	2nd	R&G Wakefield	<i>Ctna.</i> Why Not
<b>2.01 Vanda / Ascocenda, bloom size</b>	1st	T&M Handley	<i>V.</i> Patrica Low x <i>Ascda</i> Gregrgr Libby
over 60mm	2nd	R&G Wakefield	<i>V.</i> Mamo x <i>V.</i> Hilo Blue
<b>2.02 Vanda / Ascocenda, bloom size</b>	1st	J&P Moore	<i>Ascda.</i> Yip Sum Wah
up to 60mm	2nd	P&J Jenkinson	<i>Ascda.</i> Yip Sum Wah
<b>2.03 Vandae any other</b>	1st	B&N Lakey	<i>Mkra.</i> Madam Panni
bloom size over 60mm	2nd	N/A	
<b>2.04 Vandea any other</b>	1st	J&N Glover	<i>Vasco.</i> Pine Rivers 'Wasana'
bloom size up to 60mm	2nd	W&M Richardson	<i>Vasco.</i> Pine Rivers 'Esan'
<b>2.05 Phalaenopsis/Doritis</b>	1st	T&M Handley	<i>Phal.</i> Pinlong Memoristopher "Dragon"
	2nd	T&E Dean	<i>Dtps.</i> Alice's Anie Bron
<b>3.01 Dendrobium,Phalaenanthe type</b>	1st	B&L Weaver	<i>Den.</i> Chao Praya Sweet
predominately White	2nd	T&M Handley	<i>Den.</i> Name unknown
<b>3.02 Dendrobium, Phalaenanthe type</b>	1st	B&S Peters	<i>Den.</i> Thailand x <i>Den.</i> Sweet Valentine
predom. Purple	2nd	A&L Cotton	<i>Den.</i> Alice's Peter
<b>3.03 Dendrobium, Phalaenanthe</b>	1st	T&M Handley	<i>Den.</i> Name unknown
any other colour	2nd	B&L Weaver	<i>Den.</i> Candy Stripes x <i>Den.</i> Doreen
<b>3.04 Dendrobium, Phalenanthe type</b>	1st	B&S Peters	<i>Den.</i> Alice's Stewart Zierk
Pansy/ Ekapol type	2nd	T&E Dean	<i>Den.</i> Dal's Memory
<b>3.05 Dendrobium, Intermediate type</b>	1st	B&N Lakey	<i>Den.</i> Mazokotaki
	2nd	J&M Bloxsom	<i>Den.</i> Mazokotaki
<b>3.06 Dendrobium Spatula typa</b>	1st	B&N Lakey	<i>Den.</i> Johulatum
	2nd	R&G Bills	<i>Den.</i> Mem. Stan Laffey
<b>3.07 Dendrobium Any other type</b>	1st	K&R Smith	<i>Den.</i> Chet's Choice x <i>Den. densiflorum</i>
	2nd	N/A	
<b>4.01 Oncidium Varicosum type</b>	1st	J&M Bloxsom	<i>Onc.</i> Lemon Heart
	2nd	K&R Smith	<i>Onc.</i> Moon Shadow
<b>4.02 Oncidium, Equitant type</b>	1st	K&R Smith	<i>Tolu.</i> Loke-Lani X
	2nd	K&R Smith	<i>Tolu.</i> Loke-Lani X
<b>4.03 Oncidium, Inter/intrageneric type</b>	1st	A&L Cotton	<i>Colm.</i> Wildcat
	2nd	T&G Breingan	<i>Onc.</i> Name Unknown
<b>4.04 Oncidiinae,any other type</b>	1st	B&F English	<i>Onc.</i> Florida Gold
	2nd	N/A	
<b>5.01 Paphiopedilum, Standard type</b>	1st	N/A	
	2nd	N/A	
<b>5.02 Paphiopedilum, Maudiae type</b>	1st	T&E Dean	<i>Paph.</i> Mem. Bill Farquarson
	2nd	K&R Smith	<i>Paph.</i> Oriental Mystique x <i>Paph.</i> Onyx
<b>5.03 Paphiopedilum, Brachypetalum / .</b>	1st	J&N Glover	<i>Paph.</i> Envy Green
Parvisepalum type characteristics	2nd	T&E Dean	<i>Paph.</i> Edithiae
<b>5.04 Paphiopedilum, any other type</b>	1st	T&E Dean	<i>Paph.</i> Vanguard
(including Phragmipedium)	2nd	T&S Robb	<i>Paph.</i> Transvaal ( <i>Ctsm.pileatum</i> x <i>Ctsm.</i> Marsh Hollow) x
<b>6.01 Catasetum &amp; alliance hybrid</b>	1st	K&R Smith	<i>Ctsm.</i> Susan Fuchs
	2nd	T&E Dean	<i>Ctsm.</i> Orchidglade
<b>6.02 Epidendrum</b>	1st	K&R Smith	<i>Epi. ellipticum</i>
	2nd	N/A	
<b>6.03 Any Other Hybrid</b>	1st	K&R Smith	<i>Lyc.</i> Sunrise x <i>Angst.</i> Lady Bath
	2nd	K&R Smith	<i>Z.</i> Quorn
<b>7.01 Laeliinae (Cattleya, Laelia,</b>	1st	M&M Richardson	<i>B. nodosa</i>
Sophronitis or Brassavola only)	2nd	W&M Richardson	<i>B. nodosa</i>
<b>7.02 Vandae (excluding Phalaenopsis &amp;</b>	1st	P&J Shelton	<i>Angcm. longicalcar</i>
& Doritis)	2nd	T&E Dean	<i>Angcm. leonis</i>
<b>7.03 Phalaenopsis or Doritis</b>	1st	T&E Dean	<i>Dor. pulcherrima</i>

7.04 Dendrobium, Australian	2nd	T&S Robb	<i>Phal. fuscata</i>
	1st	J&M Bloxsom	<i>Den. bigibbum</i>
7.05 Dendrobium, Exotic	2nd	J&M Bloxsom	<i>Den. bigibbum</i>
	1st	N/A	
7.06 Oncidiinae	2nd	N/A	
	1st	K&R Smith	<i>Pyp. papilio</i>
7.07 Paphiopedilum / Phragmipedium	2nd	T&E Dean	<i>Pyp. papilio</i>
	1st	N/A	
7.08 Catasetum & alliance	2nd	N/A	
	1st	N/A	
7.09 Any other Exotic species	2nd	N/A	
	1st	B&F English	<i>Ornithophora radicans</i>
7.10 Any other Australian Species	2nd	B&F English	<i>Epi. porpax</i>
	1st	N/A	
8.01 Anthurium ( var. andreanum or schizeraenum)	2nd	N/A	
	1st	B&F English	
8.02 Bromelaid	2nd	J&M Bloxsom	
	1st	B&F English	
8.03 Tillandsia or Cryptanthus	2nd	F.Rosel	
	1st	K&R Smith	
8.04 Succulent or Cactus	2nd	T&S Robb	
	1st	M.Richardson	
8.05 Bonsai	2nd	M.Richardson	
	1st	C&V Hewitt	
8.06 Any other foliage	2nd	C&V Hewitt	
	1st	B&F English	
8.07 Adiantum (Maiden Hair Fern)	2nd	B&F English	
	1st	T&S Robb	
8.08 Lycopodium (Tassel Fern)	2nd	R&L Mann	
	1st	T&G Breingan	
8.09 Nephrolepis (Boston Fern)	2nd	G&R Wakefield	
	1st	T&G Breingan	
8.10 Any other fern	2nd	N/A	
	1st	T&G Breingan	
	2nd	T&G Breingan	

**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**

# Growing Hardcane Dendrobiums -----A Personal Perspective

The genus *Dendrobium* is widespread throughout South-East Asia, East Asia, Australasia and the western Pacific islands and occupies habitats that range from sea-level to high mountainous regions. The number of species is so large and their cultural requirements so diverse that it is beyond the scope of this article to try to cover all aspects of their cultivation. Consequently, the focus is on one of the most popular groups, the Hardcane Dendrobiums. The Hardcane group is conveniently divided on the basis of flower shape into *Phalaenanth*e, intermediate and *Spatulata* types but because their cultural requirements are generally similar, they are considered here as a single group.

## **Basic Cultural Requirements:**

### **Growing Location:**

Some hardcanes (eg. *Den. discolor*) will flower prolifically when grown in full tropical sun. However, in our region, continual attack from *Dendrobium* beetles makes it impractical to grow significant quantities of hardcanes in outdoor situations. All hardcanes are susceptible to *Dendrobium* beetle attack and where the beetle is endemic; hardcanes are best grown in an insect-proof orchid house. For most hobby-growers, the degree of shading provided by the orchid house is generally a compromise determined by the desire to grow several orchid genera together. However, for the range of hardcanes grown in our region, optimum growth and flowering are achieved at 50-70% filtered sun. Growth and flower production increase with the number of hours of filtered sun received each day throughout the year and this should be considered when choosing a site for the orchid house or positioning hardcanes within the orchid house. Hardcanes of lowland tropical origins can be susceptible to the effects of low ambient temperatures and it is therefore advisable to implement procedures to minimize these effects. Application of Envy during the colder months is simple and effectively increases cold tolerance by 4-5 degrees C. Protection, either permanent or temporary, from the cold W-SW winds we experience during the winter months, is also advisable.

### **Potting:**

Hardcanes have comparatively fine roots and some can grow more than a metre tall. These characteristics influence the way in which I grow my hardcanes. For several reasons, I prefer to grow all orchid genera, hardcanes included, in Diatomite with/without the addition of long-strand sphagnum moss. However, hardcanes can be very successfully grown in a wide range of media, both of inorganic or organic origins, and your choice of medium will depend mainly on your preference and cultural conditions. Suffice to say that whichever medium is used, it must provide good drainage and aeration over the entire re-potting interval. Poor drainage and poor aeration produce anaerobic conditions that result in both root-tissue breakdown and favourable conditions for the establishment of root rots. Because all of my orchids, regardless of genus or pot-size, are grown together and watered automatically, I regulate the amount of water each plant requires through pot-size and the addition of long-strand sphagnum moss. Plants ex-compot (and keikes) are wrapped in damp sphagnum and put into 50mm pots that have 7-12mm diatomite as both drainage and as a topping medium.

These plants are then 'potted on', without disturbing the roots, into 75-90mm pots generally within 12-18mths. I continue to pot-on until plant-size becomes unmanageable, generally at 200mm pot size. The only medium used for potting-on is 7-12 mm diatomite. Hardcanes resent being over-potted so pot-size should always be dictated by the need to pot-on or re-pot at maximum intervals of 2yrs. If root growth is excessive, I trim the roots and medium by 1/3-2/3 before potting-on or re-potting. Eventually, large plants will need to be divided. To minimize set-backs, plants should be cut into divisions, each of 3-4 canes, at a time when root-growth is active (ie. as new, green, roots just start to emerge from the base of the new cane). If roots have been damaged or are in poor condition, the divisions should be wrapped in sphagnum and potted in the same manner as for 50mm pots. Root-growth can be stimulated by dusting the base of the division with a root-stimulating hormone powder (eg. Rootex, Root Strike). Divisions that have vigorous root growth can be repotted without sphagnum.

Hardcanes require good air movement, most grow tall enough to be quite unstable if grown unsupported on the bench, and most canes will require support to prevent untidy growth or breakage. For these reasons, I grow my hardcanes in hanging pots with smaller pots in single-wire hangers and large pots (150 mm) in multi-wire hangers. The canes are supported by tying them back to the wire. Potted hardcanes that are grown on the bench can be clipped to the bench and the canes can be staked for support. Adequate spacing of plants is required for uniform lighting, which in turn will improve both growth and flower production and stimulate the simultaneous flowering of all inflorescences.

### **Watering:**

Hardcanes will grow best and experience fewer problems if allowed to dry out between waterings. This practice exposes the roots to the air and reduces the risk of diseases, especially root-rot diseases. Ideally, plants should be watered just as the roots and medium become dry. The frequency of watering will therefore depend on the water-

holding capacity of the growing medium and ambient conditions including temperature, incident sunlight and air-movement. Daily watering may therefore be required on hot, clear, windy days but a 7-10day interval may be required during cold, cloudy, still periods. As a rule of thumb, if in doubt, don't!!! Most hardcanes can survive for prolonged periods without water but few can survive very long with rotten roots!!! Overhead watering, either as rain or irrigation, may result in broken flower spikes and can encourage the spread of flower- and leaf-spotting diseases it is therefore desirable to have at least one section of the orchid house that has a solid roof under which flowering plants can be placed for protection. Pot-watering is ideal but in my situation is impractical. So that the plants have the maximum time to dry before night-fall, I water only in the morning regardless of season. Leaves that are dry have a reduced risk of becoming diseased.

### **Fertilizing:**

Most orchid media contain few or no nutrients and some (eg lava rock, stone chips) have very low nutrient-holding capacity. Optimum growth and flowering depend on a continuous supply of all essential nutrients. These nutrients can be supplied using foliar or slow release fertilizers, either alone or in combination. There is no single magic formulation. Hardcanes can be very successfully grown using many different formulations. However, for simplicity and effectiveness, each spring and early autumn or at repotting, I apply to the surface of the medium an 8-9mth slow release fertilizer that has an NPK of around 9:4:16 plus all trace elements. Under our conditions, this fertilizer is generally effective for about 5-6mth. Calcium is simultaneously supplied as finely powered dolomite. If foliar fertilizers are used, they too should contain all major and minor elements. Calcium nitrate can then be used to supply calcium. High nitrogen fertilizers (15N) encourage lush, dark green leaves and rapid foliar growth but this is generally achieved at the expense of flower production. Maximum flower production is associated with light green leaves.

### **Bud-Drop:**

Some hardcanes may suffer from the premature loss of developing buds. The loss may involve few to several buds at any position along the spike. This so called 'bud-drop' is a physiological problem that is most common within the Phalaenathe group. It has multiple causes including temperature extremes, rapid changes in temperature and water deficit. Unless these causes can be controlled, bud-drop is best avoided by growing plants that have high resistance to the problem. Pathological conditions caused by fungal or bacterial infection or insect attack can also cause flower buds to wither or drop but control requires quite a different approach.

### **Pests and Diseases:**

Like all plants, hardcanes are susceptible to varying degrees to a range of Insect and other pests and to viral, bacterial and fungal diseases. Many pests and diseases are inadvertently introduced to our orchid collections and can be avoided by observing strict quarantine procedures. This is particularly so for orchid snails and slugs, several of the scale insects, and both viral and bacterial diseases. Previous ROS newsletter articles have dealt with these problems. However, even in 'insect-proof' orchid houses, it is not always possible to avoid infestations with thrips, mealy bugs, aphids, scales or some of the chewing insects. While there are several methods for controlling these insects, effective control generally relies on the use of a residual contact insecticide (eg. Carbaryl = Bugmaster) or a systemic insecticide (eg. Imidicloprid = Mallet or Confidor). Any use of insecticides must be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Likewise, many fungal diseases have wind-borne origins and cannot be controlled by quarantine alone. Control relies on implementing correct cultural practices assisted when necessary by the use of an effective chemical disease-control program. Control of bacterial diseases has been considered in a previous ROS Newsletter and is not dealt with here. The most visible fungal diseases are those that affect the inflorescences, leaves or new shoots. Buds, flowers and spikes may be affected by spotting, blights or rots while the leaves may be affected by varying degrees of spotting. New, immature, apical leaves may also be destroyed by fungal rots. The incidence and severity of these diseases is favoured by cool, wet conditions and when disease levels are high, complete defoliation of the canes may occur. This may lead to the erroneous conclusion that the prime cause of the defoliation is cold. It is true that some hardcanes, particularly those of tropical lowland origins, will defoliate in response to exposure to low temperatures alone. However, the presence of infection is by far the major reason for the defoliation that occurs during the cooler months. In many instances, fungal infection of the leaves can occur several months before disease symptoms are noticeable. The use of contact fungicides on these types of established infections will not cure them. Thus, although a contact fungicide may be applied once the disease is noticed; the end result is still defoliation, reduced growth and flower production and the mistaken belief that cold was the direct cause. Contact fungicides (eg Mancozeb, Bravo) act by preventing infection. To be effective they must therefore be applied on a regular basis before any disease symptoms are evident. Systemic fungicides (eg. Rovral, Tilt) act by killing established infections of fungi that are susceptible to the particular fungicide. However, systemic fungicides that are effective against the major fungal pathogens of hardcanes are generally unavailable to hobby growers. A high level of control of fungal diseases then depends on the implementation of strict

sanitation within the orchid house, on the choice of plants and on the strategic use of contact fungicides. Infected plant material can continue to produce virulent fungal spores that can in turn infect other plants. No dead or diseased plant material should therefore be allowed to remain in the orchid house but instead should be removed and destroyed. In relation to the choice of plants, there is considerable variation between plants in their resistance to fungal infection.

Careful observation of your own plants and those of others is needed to identify these plants. Any use of fungicides must be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

#### **Other Considerations:**

Most of the commercial cut-flower trade in hardcanes depends on intermediate types. Many of the more recent clones grow vigorously, can be flowered in 12-18mths ex-flask, produce multiple spikes of long-lasting flowers several times/year and have an extensive colour range. As a group, they are also far less likely to suffer from bud-drop than are the Phalaenanthe group. However, some intermediates can grow so large that they are unsuited to hobbyist culture.

While some Phalaenanthe types can also grow very large, those based on 'compactum' varieties of Den. bigibbum tend to grow to a much more manageable size. Similarly, there is also a great range of Spatulata types that exhibit relatively compact growth habits. The amount of variation within hardcanes is so great that there is always selections of plants that are not only well adapted to your cultural conditions but also have desirable floral and growth characteristics. They are so rewarding as to be worth the effort involved in growing them.

*Friendii.*



### *Ellie's Corner*

Hello everyone. At our last meeting there were many glowing reports on our recent Autumn Show staged on 14/15 April. The Show was a wonderful success, both socially and financially with about 800 patrons. The atmosphere of friendly co-operation among our members was very evident as everyone contributed in their own unique way. In spite of adverse weather conditions

leading up to the Show, the orchids on display enthralled our patrons as usual. As we looked around the venue we all feel justly proud that this Show was the result of one group of people, one Orchid Society - ours! A number of people remarked to me how refreshing it was to see our male members assisting with the Devonshire Teas. Shirley Peters told me that the gentlemen did all the washing up! She thinks the men like to listen to the ladies' "chit chat" and catch up with the latest gossip. Is that really true?

We owe many thanks to Doug Webber of Retravision for his generous donation of a TV for our raffle at the Show. Gloria Kane recently rejoined our Society (see last month's Ellie's Corner) and she is delighted that she did so at this particular time as she won the TV. She has given it to her daughter-in-law as a Birthday gift – lucky girl.

There was a lovely moment at the Show when an elderly lady visiting from Melbourne told us that it was her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday that day. President Jeff presented her with an orchid arrangement and the next moment she had whipped out her MOBILE PHONE and phoned Melbourne relatives and friends saying "guess where I am and guess what just happened?" We certainly made her day.

As usual, it was great to have Alice and Stewart and "Alice's Orchids" with us at the Show. Alice travelled home to the Philippines recently and saw her beloved mother, Donata who was 85 on 2 May. Alice loves spending time with her mother. She also saw her grandson Mark (one on 2 May) which means he shares his Birthday with his great grandmother. What a happy co-incidence. The Best Specimen Orchid at the Show was grown by Bernie and Shirley Peters and was Den. Alice's Stewart Zierk. There is a lovely photograph of Alice and Stewart standing one each side of this orchid and they are thinking of using it in their next catalogue.

At this point, I would like to pay a tribute to our long-time and enthusiastic supporter, Peter Byrne, our former Win TV Weatherman. Peter has talked about our Shows on the previous Friday evening's weather segment and worn an orchid buttonhole for many years at a time when many thousands of people were viewing their TV. He was presented with a

Certificate of Appreciation and a card just prior to his resignation from the members of our Society. He sends his best wishes for the future success for our Society. Peter is a man of great integrity and a larger-than-life personality and I am sure we will hear more of him in another role in the future. We wish him and his wife and family every happiness in their retirement.

We were also grateful that Win's news team came and shot some footage at the Show and played it on the following Monday evening. When I thanked them for coming the camera man said "Byrnsy said we had to!" We are also grateful to Seven News for their publicity of our Show on the Monday evening with lots of pictures of beautiful orchids and a very interesting shot of members sitting at the tables where the Devonshire Teas were served. All looking very photogenic! Jan Rawlings and her husband Trevor had a busy lead-up to our Show. They were on their daughter's property at Jambin helping out and milking cows etc. for eight days prior. It was great to see them both at the Show still looking remarkably fresh !!

In late March Karen and Peter Carr took a seven day cruise to Noumea, Isle of Pines and Port Vila. Although Karen was sick for two days (along with several hundred other passengers) in "rough seas", they both enjoyed the cruise. When they got back they flew to Cairns to see Karen's sister and her family, including Karen's brand new great nephew. They had a lovely visit to "Paronella Park" while in Cairns and then came home on the train in time for a quiet Easter. Karen works at Channel 7 and we thank her for her assistance in helping to arrange for Channel 7 to report on our Show.

I met a lovely lady who became a member at our Autumn Show. Her name is Joan Lindsay and she lives at Alton Downs and is interested in ferns and orchids and would like to learn more about their culture. She joined our Society through her life-long friendship with Graham and Maxine Maunder. She lives with her daughter, son-in-law, three grandchildren and numerous animals...sounds a lovely family. We welcome you Joan and may you enjoy many happy years with us.

It was good to see Jim Dickenson and his son Jack at the Show and at our last meeting. Jim's wife Sharon had surgery on her head A.V.M. (Arterial Venous Malformation) in her brain. Only one doctor in Australia is able to perform this procedure and the surgery was performed at Macquarie University Hospital. She then spent three months in the Mater Hospital Rehab Rockhampton, and she is now an out patient and continuing to improve. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sharon and Jim and Jack and the rest of the family as she recovers from this ordeal.

In recent months Carol McCabe has been quite ill which has caused concern to her family and friends. She has undergone many tests but no health condition was diagnosed. However it was good to see her at the Show, feeling much better. We send her our best wishes that she remain in good health.

Joy Dwyer spent Easter in Townsville with her son Darren and his family. She had a lovely time enjoying the company of her grandchildren (three noisy boys and one granddaughter who can be quite noisy too!). Darren is an engineer in the army and has been posted to the Sudan for six months as a United Nations Observer. Joy plans on a number of trips to Townsville while he is away to keep her daughter-in-law, Kirralee, company.

Happy Birthday to those celebrating in June.

Don Howes (2<sup>nd</sup>); Diane Hughes (4<sup>th</sup>); Gay Bills (6<sup>th</sup>); Ken Smith and Barry English (8<sup>th</sup>); Mike McGovern (10<sup>th</sup>); June Shelton and Nat Lakey (13<sup>th</sup>). May you all have a wonderful day.

Till next time – my love and prayers. ELLIE DEAN.

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### **Did You Know?**

The height of the Eiffel Tower varies by as much as 15cm depending of the temperature.

Chocolate sauce was used to portray blood in the famous shower scene in the film psycho.

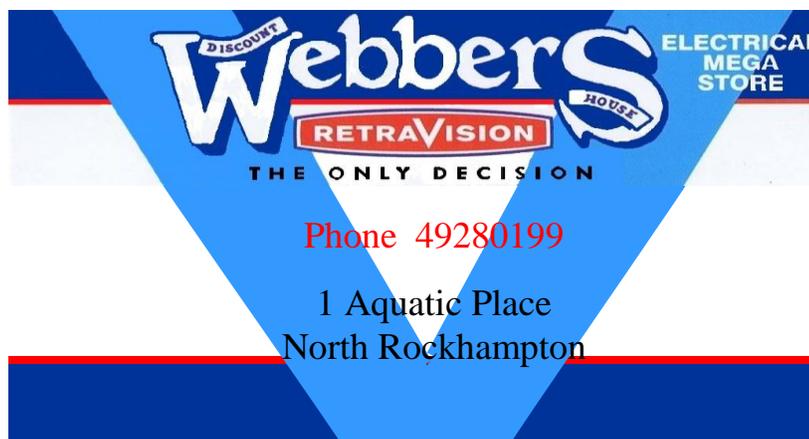


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Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at St Stephens Presbyterian Church Hall, Burnett Street, Nth. Rockhampton. Meetings commence at 7.30pm and plants must be tabled by 7.15pm

**Disclaimer**

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

**Your Orchid Diary 2012**

June 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> TQOC Ingham Conference & Show  
August 11-12<sup>th</sup> Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Spring 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 Dist' Orchid Society  
Sept 28-29<sup>th</sup> Glasshouse Orchid Society Show

2013 STOC Orchidfest Gympie  
2014 TQOC Atherton  
2015 TQOC Mackay