

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



Newsletter October 2013



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702

Founded 1955

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday. 22/10/13

at 7.30pm

Plants to be tabled by

7.15pm

President: Jeff Blossom 49286582
jmblossom@hotmail.com
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Keith Marsden 49282752

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Jeff Glover

Registrar: Terry Dean
Providers': Jan Rawlings

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Judges for the Meeting

T. Dean J Glover. B. Hilse

Ken Smith

Editors notes.

This months newsletter has been compiled by my daughter Kate, there is no doubt she will probably do a much better job than I, I must thank her for her help all through the year, as without her expertise the newsletters would be a jumbled mess. (Did you say what's new) thanks again Katy you're a gem. I think I should mention Kate was the editor of the newsletter back in 1999 so she knows her way about.

June & I have resigned from A.O.C. judging, June in all facets of it, including judging at our monthly meetings. There is a reason for this which we prefer not to disclose. We feel rather sorry about that because we have enjoyed our stint as judges. I intend to keep on as a meeting only judge, that's if they will allow it.

DO NOT FORGET OUR CENT SALE ON NOVEMBER THE 3RD. Donations of flowering plants will be gratefully accepted. To all who go on our bus trips away this is to your advantage as the proceeds help pay for the bus.

Pete & June

Well I been put on the spot again Dad must have been so excited about going away he has miss counted when the newsletter was due at the printers. & now Terry & Ellie's computer has thrown a whammy & refuses to play ball so all the monthly results & Ellie's corner are stuck inside it. So the monthly results & Ellie's corner will have to wait until next month Sorry about that folks but that's technology. Due to this not much for me to include just some lovely photo's that Bob took at the meeting for me.

Hope you enjoy

Kate

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 11th of November; articles received after this date will be included in the following month. Ed.

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
General Meeting Tuesday 24/9/2013

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New members: David Eggleshaw

Lucky Member: 56 ken & Rosalie Smith.

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

Correspondence: In = Newsletters, Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc, Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc, Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Association. Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc. Capricorn Orchid & Foliage Club Inc. Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. Nightcliff Orchid Society. Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc. Redcliff District Orchid Society Inc. Central Queensland Bush House & Orchid Society, Boyne- Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society. Letter from Gympie, AOC President, Caloundra Orchid Society, Boyne- Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society, AON Insurance.

OUT = Sympathy card to Arthur Cotton, Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Jenny Moore Carried.

Treasurers Report: Read and moved by Bill Richardson Second Pat March Carried.

New Growers: Keith Marsden invited everyone to go to Pat March 123 Lion Creek Road Please bring a plate for afternoon tea and a folding chair for you to sit on and enjoy the company of the other members. With a Thank You to Trevor and Jan Rawlings for having us at your house.

General Business: Trophies that were won at the Show were handed out by Jeff Bloxsom. Christmas breakup at the Frenchville Club on the 1 st December. Next meeting names will be taken if you are coming. Don't forget the next Cent Sale is on the 3 rd November at Feez Street Church Hall Workers needed at 11 am, Cent Sale starts at 2 pm. Please help as well as come. A discussion was held on a request from the Grammer School about an orchid for them.

Plant Commentary: John Frisch Short and Sweet with lots of good information, thanks John.

Lucky exhibitor: B. & S Peters.

Raffle: Lionel Reeves, Gwen Breingan, Sandra Rowcliffe, Jeff Glover, Keith Marsden, Jeff Glover, Marg Handley, Pat March,

Meeting closed: 9.15 pm.

Next Meeting: 22nd October 2013

Jeff Bloxsom President

Gloria Wakefield Secretary

Monthly Competition Results. September 2013

(Plants tabled: Advanced: . Novice:)

Here are the pictures& names for some as supplied by Bob Lakey,
But the actual results will have to be in next month's newsletter due to computer malfunction.
(Terry's Computer ate the details & won't give them back)



J_Bloxsom
Cym. Australian Midnight



J Frish
Den. Yuzuki-Royal



T & E Dean
Lc. Mini Purple



New Growers Report.

On Saturday the 28th the newgrowers were invited to have their meeting at the home of Pat & Owen March. This is the first time we have had a meeting at Pat & Owen's & we enjoyed the beautiful shady backyard they have. On arrival we were invited to look over the gardens & Orchids before afternoon tea.

We started the meeting with a trouble plant discussion giving all the members present a chance to enjoy the experience of other members. We are lucky to have a number of experienced members always willing to give us their time & expertise in making the meetings so much better

My sincere thanks to you for your support. We discussed the repotting of Catasetums & Soft Cane Dendrobiums as they are now showing their new growths.

The afternoon raffle completed a very enjoyable afternoon. My thanks to Pat & Owen for having us, your efforts are much appreciated. Thanks as always to all who donated to the raffle & to everyone who helped in so many ways, without your help each month my job would be so much harder.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday the 26th of October at the home of Graham & Maxine Maunder at 184 Stamford Street starting at 2pm. The usual plate & folding chair if possible.

The end of year barbecue will be held on Saturday the 16th of November at the home of Terry & Gwen Breingan of 28 Dowling Street starting at 5pm Thanks Terry & Gwen for having us again this year. We will discuss the arrangements for the barbecue at the next meeting.

Keith Marsden

Phone- 49282752



Ellie's Corner

**Will return next month if the
computer does not eat the
column permanently.**

Phaius. tankervilleae.

By Beryl A. Labler

In 1970 a very beautiful ground orchid was described from a plant collected in Conchinchina - now Laos, Vietnam & Cambodia. It was given the name *Phaius grandifolius*. An identical plant had been sent from China to England about 1778 & had been grown at Kew Gardens. It had been described incorrectly in 1789 under the name *Limodorum. tancarvilleae*. It was later realised the correct name should be *Phaius, tankervilleae*. The specific epithet honours Lady Tankerville a patron of botany at that time.

These are the largest ground orchids in Australia. They are also among the first orchids to be brought into cultivation.

The large ovoid pseudobulbs produce several leaves resembling those of *Aspidistra* but are much lighter in colour, thinner in texture & prominently plicate. The flowering scape can be 2m high but is usually much shorter. Usually only one scape is produced with from 3 to 14 large & very showy flowers arranged in a loose raceme at the top.

The buds are white and lay along the cupped bracts with the spur at the base of the labellum pointing upwards. When the flower opens the 3 sepals & the 2 petals spread widely with the dorsal sepal standing erect & a smaller petal on either side. The outer surfaces are white & the inner reddish/brown. About 5 longitudinal green stripes on the inner surface contrast with the reddish/brown colour. Usually there is only one green stripe along the centre of the petal.

The sepals are about 5.5cms long & 2cms wide & end in a finely pointed tip. The petals are the same length but are narrower. The labellum is tubular of trumpet shape with its sides rolled inwards to fold over the column. It is about as long as the dorsal sepal & is creamy white on the outside except at the end where there is broad dark wine red or crimson margin which is undulate – cristate. The inner surface is suffused with the same colour with yellow streaks running to the base. The base produced into a blunt spur less than 0.5cms long. The firm column is creamy white about 2cms long & 0.5cms wide. The upper surface which can be seen protruding between the sides of the labellum is curved.

In the older flowers at the base of the inflorescence the spur points to one side or the other indicating that the pedicel twists as it ages.

It grows in swampy conditions among grasses & sedges in open forests or Cabbage Tree Palm swamps. Flowering time is spring.

It is found from the Richmond River in Northern N.S.W. along the coast to the tip of Cape York Peninsula, across the top of Australia to the Northern Territory, thru' New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia to India & China. It can be grown successfully either as a pot plant in orchid potting mix or in a semi-shaded position in a garden in ordinary well watered garden soil. It has become a rare & endangered species as its natural habitat rapidly vanishes with road works, land development and sand mining activities.

The Cats.

The first *Cattleya* Known in cultivation was owned by the Liverpool Botanical Gardens (U.K.) it was sent to them from Sao Paulo in Brazil, the year 1810. The plant was then known as *Epidendrum. violacea* but is now known as *Cattleya. loddigessii*. The original plant and its numerous off cuts are said to have bloomed every year following its arrival in England but account of the species didn't appear until 1819 when a plant that belonged to Mr. Conrad Loddiges was figured and described in their Botanical Cabinet.

Perhaps the most significant thing that started orchid mania of English horticulturists was the blooming of the *Cattleya. labiata*. This event was to herald orchid growing as the in thing among the aristocracy of the period.

In the year 1818 a Mr. William Swainson was collecting orchids in the Organ Mountains, near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The said plant couldn't have been in bloom for he showed no interest in them, thus they became packing material around his other tropical plants he was sending to England. Mr. William Cattley, of Barnet, a cultivator of tropical flora, received some of this packing, the strange appearance intrigued him and so he somehow came up with a way of growing them. In that very same year he flowered one. Having never seen the likes of it before he sent it to Dr John Lindley, the then you beaut guru of Orchidaceae, along with this note; "this is the most splendid of all Orchidaceous plants which bloomed for the first time in Britain in the stove of my garden in Suffolk." Lindley described and figured it, naming the genus in Cattleys honour. Very taken by the large labellum, he gave it the specific name *labiata* (from the Latin word labium – meaning "lip".) He also gave it a complimentary specific name *autumnalis*, as reference to its autumn flowering in the Northern Hemisphere.

So the genus *Cattleya* was born, with many considered *Epidendrums* being moved in later years.

This information was gleaned from the book, *A History of the Orchid*, by Merle A. Reinikka.

Hymn.

Don't forget our **SOCIETY – STORE.** (For all you Orchid Supplies)

MEMBERS ONLY.

49222637 Barry & Faye English

By appointment ONLY.

(Hours of business: 8am-12 noon – 2 pm - 5 pm) Closed Thursdays.)

No cheques please

How I Grow Oncidiinae Hybrids.

Light: A good indication of proper light is the colour of the leaves: they should be bright green as opposed to dark green (too much shade) or reddish green (too much light). I have often moved a plant that was large and strong but which had not yet bloomed, into brighter conditions and watched as it responded in no time by sending up spikes. Care must be taken when doing this, however, that the increased light is not too great or injury to the leaves will result.

Temperature: From around a high 40 deg and a low of around 10 deg (so this should be alright here as other orchids grow well when we have higher and lower temperatures than this). Then the temperature tolerant Oncidiinae should by all accounts perform very well. Don't be afraid to move your plants around, different spot on the bench or hang them perhaps, you must be the judge, - are they doing better since I shifted them? Observe your plants!

Humidity: Provide a humidity range of 50 to 90 percent. Seedlings benefit from the highest humidity you can provide, e.g. 70 % or higher. As a rule humidity should be increased as the temperature, light intensity and air movement increase. You can provide this by misting the plants regularly and periodically wetting down the bush house floor.

Air movement: Having adequate air movement will reduce temperatures of the leaf, that in turn allows more light intensity to be tolerated consequently more vigorous growth is obtained. An additional benefit is the reduction of fungal and bacterial infections, which humidity alone would otherwise cause. Because as we know stale non moving, damp air is an ideal situation for fungal and bacterial problems to occur.

Watering quantity: Oncidiinae intergeneric hybrids should be kept somewhat moist. Never allow them to dry out completely but be sure to provide them with excellent drainage, as soggy or waterlogged conditions are not ideal for a healthy growing plant. They require more water when making new growths and less once the pseudobulbs have fully developed. When watering be sure to water copiously to ensure a thorough wetting (57) of the potting medium to reduce salts build up.

Fertilising: Oncids respond very well to a balanced formula at ½ strength every 2nd or 1/3rd watering. If potted in bark high nitrogen fertiliser should be used. Fertilising can generally be increased during warmer weather when plants are in active growth, while it's the complete reverse in the cooler months.

Potting: I usually repot every 2 years. Exceptions are those mounted on bark etc; these should be repotted only when the mount starts to break down or more often the case, the plant has outgrown it's mount. I know some of you grow your plants in sphagnum moss, these need to be repotted every 12 months or 18 months at the limit. Repot when new growths are 2 or 3 ins (50mm) tall or when the new roots appear (green tips). If you find it necessary to divide, try to keep at least 3 mature pseudobulbs together. Water the newly potted plants lightly until the new roots have entered the growing medium, then resume your normal watering – fertilising practice.

Potting Mix: Any mix with good water holding qualities can be used. The main thing is **DON'T** let the mix dry out between waterings; keep it slightly moist at all times provided drainage is good.

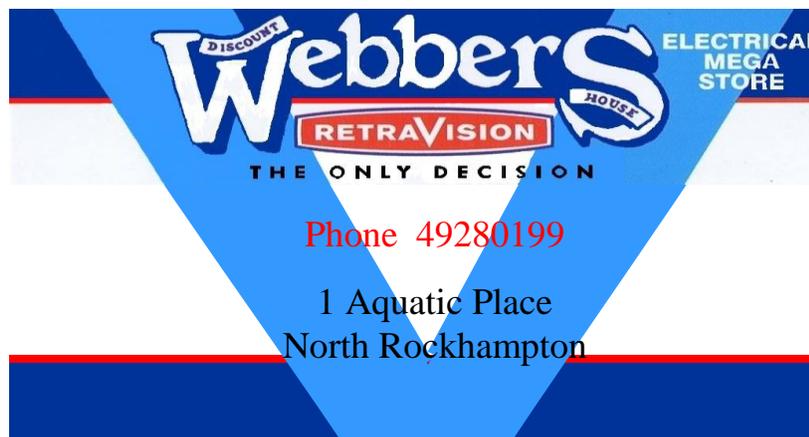
Hymn.

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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 2013

1st & 2nd Nov: Nambour Species Show & Trade Fair

3rd November CENT SALE Feez St

9th Nov STOCQ meeting, CSSA Hall, Caloundra.

2014 TQOC Atherton

2015 TQOC Mackay