

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



Newsletter August 2012



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

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 28/8/12

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 Wakefeild 49224289
rwa13788@bigpond.net.au

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

Committee:
Jeff Glover 49287701
Peter & June Shelton 49266889
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

Judges for the Meeting

J. Glover. J. Shelton.

B. Hilse. Jan Rawlings

Notice to Members

**PLEASE assist
with cleaning**

Editors notes,

This is the kind of weather our babies like, perhaps a little warmer at night would be nicer but one can't have everything, even us humans are enjoying it, at night you can snuggle up with whatever you go to bed with and during the day throw away the jumpers and tracky daks and get into the shorts and shirts.

Having been in a few of the bigger growers bush houses over the last few weeks I have noticed the absence of forward buds, it must be a worrying time for the ones who put on displays but they are remarkable plants and can go from woe to go in a very short time, so we must hope for some big fat buds in the coming weeks.

As you all are quite aware it is nearly show time I do hope somebody amongst us has some quality plants, I'm afraid I haven't even got any poor quality blooms, (they certainly don't like this moving business). So this Spring it's going to be on the shoulders of you new growers to put your best foot forward and show what you are made of as orchid growers, over the years of attending new grower meetings you surely will have learnt something, now is your chance to prove it. Of course we expect something really good from the big displays. (I'll get myself in trouble here I best back off).

This month your newsletter contains the basic Ellies Column and competition results, also there is an excellent article written by Friendii, these articles he writes are superb so I hope you are all taking in the knowledge that he is passing on to you the members. With luck he will continue to impart his knowledge by writing more articles they are really appreciated.

Don't forget all trophies are to be returned this general meeting there are also a couple of books outstanding, so check your bookcase and see if you have them.

Pete and June

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

General meeting Tuesday 24/7/2012

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: Darryl & Leone Humble

Minutes: Of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Keith Marsden second Ellie Dean. Carried.

Correspondence: In= Newsletters, Caboolture Orchid Soc, Rockhampton Horticultural Soc, Boyne-Tannum Orchid & Foliage Soc, (2) Mid-Murray Orchid Club, Mackay & District Orchid Soc, Maryborough District Orchid Soc, Central Qld Bush House & Orchid Soc, Bundaberg Orchid Soc, Capricorn Orchid & Foliage Club, Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Soc, Townsville Orchid Soc, Orchid News N.S.W. Nightcliff Orchid Soc, Redcliff District Orchid, Pioneer Orchid & Plant Ass', Sue O'Brien re Des Warnock, Big Colour Works, Bribie Island Orchid Soc, The Australian Orchid Council account, The Australian Orchid Award.

Out: Thank you to Webbers. Moved Gloria Wakefield, Second Ellie Dean, Carried.

Treasurers Report: Read & moved by Bill Richardson, Second Bev McArthur, Carried.

New Growers: Keith thanked Graham & Maxine Maunder for inviting us to come to their house. The next one will be at Trish & Neil Craigs, Cousin St, Rockhampton. Please bring a folding chair and a small plate of afternoon tea and enjoy the company.

General Business: Looking at a trip to Mackay late this year. Don't forget the field day to Bundaberg 9-10th March 2013. Don't forget the Cent sale which will be held on the 14th October at the Feez St hall. The show was then talked about with names needed at the next meeting for all displays.

Plant Commentary: John Frisch did an excellent commentary, short & sweet with lots of good information, thanks John.

Lucky Exhibitor: Bev McArthur.

Raffle: Peter Jenkinson (2), Ray Bills (2), Keith Marsden, Joy Dwyer, Jan Hogan, Richard Mann, Karen Williamson & Terry Ahern.

Meeting Closed: 8.55 PM.

Next Meeting: 28th August 2012

Jeff Bloxsom, **President.**

Gloria Wakefield, **Secretary.**

Monthly Competition Results. July 2012.

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 41. Novice: 22)

Judges Choice.

<i>Paph.</i> Brownstone	T&E Dean
<i>Onc.</i> Twinkle	K&R Smith
<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	K&R Smith

Popular Vote: Advanced

Cattleya over 75mm.	<i>Blc.</i> Arom Gold	K&R Smith
Cattleya up to 75mm	<i>Pot.</i> Hoku Gem	W&M Richardson
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph.</i> Red Velvet	J&N Glover
Oncidiinae	<i>Onc.</i> Twinkle	K&R Smith
Species	<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	K&R Smith
Miscellaneous	<i>Rhy.</i> Kultana	J&M Bloxsom

Popular Vote: Novice

Cattleya	<i>Pot.</i> Victorian Lady	B McArthur
Vandaceous	<i>V.</i> Name Unknown	P&T Jenkinson
Species	<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	R&L Mann
Miscellaneous	<i>Dtps.</i> Chian Xen Mammon	T&M Handley



Onc. Twinkle



Paph. Brownstone



Rhy. gigantea

New Growers Report

On Saturday the 28th new growers had the pleasure to have their meeting at the home of Trish and Neil Craig, the weather was beautiful and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On arrival we were welcomed by their pet dogs at the front gate and then by Trish and Neil at the back of their home and as usual the orchids and gardens were the first port of call.

The amount of landscaping that they have had to do to the rear of their yard makes you appreciate what can be achieved with a bit of planning and a lot of hard work. The orchid houses are located on different levels and like most of our collections they are becoming a little crowded. They have a nice mixed collection and the members had pleasure checking them out before afternoon tea.

The meeting started with the usual question and answer section for members and all questions were dealt with in a constructive manner by the experienced members present. Here I must say thanks to the advanced growers for sharing their expertise with the newer growers, we can all learn from their experience.

We then went on to discuss the many different methods we use in the growing of Vandas and their combinations with other genera. Neil and Trish have a nice collection of Vandas growing. This gave the members a chance to discuss the Vanda alliance and the requirements needed to grow them successfully.

The afternoon raffle completed a very enjoyable afternoon giving the lucky ones a plant or two to add to their collection.

My sincere thanks to Trish and Neil for their kindness and hospitality and also thank you to all the members who donated to the raffle and helped in making the meeting the success that it was.

The next meeting is to be held a week early on **Saturday the 25th of August** at the home of **Jan and Trevor Rawlings** at **6 Ann Street Rockhampton** starting at **2pm**.

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

Keith Marsden

Congratulations

Congratulations once again to Jeff & Norma Glover for yet another award for their plant of *Dendrochillum. cobbianum* 'Krisset' FCC-ACE/ AOC which was awarded at our spring show last year. The plant has now been selected as Queensland's nomination for AOC Species of the year and Jeff was presented with a certificate marking this milestone at our last meeting. The results of voting for the top AOC awards for "Hybrid of the Year", "Species of the Year", "Award of Distinction of the Year", and "Cultural award of the Year" will be revealed at the AOC Annual Meeting held during the conference in Perth in September. Full details of all nominations with photos are in the latest edition of Orchids Australia.

Terry Dean . Registrar

The Winter of Our Discontent-----Fungal Blights of Orchid Flowers.

The winter of 2012 has been one of the wettest on record which, when combined with low ambient temperatures both day and night, has resulted in severe outbreaks of fungal diseases of orchid flowers. The problem has not been confined to our local area. Contact with fellow orchidists both to the north and to the south has revealed that the problem is widespread. In some cases, infection rates have been so high and damage so severe that all or most flowers produced over the winter period have been a total loss. It is very disappointing to have waited so long for our beloved orchids to flower only to see those flowers covered in spoiling spots and ruinous rots. What causes these spots and rots and what can be done to control the problem?

Several fungi and some bacteria can cause flower blights of orchids. However, by far the most common, and the focus of this article, are grey mould, which is caused by the fungus, *Botrytis*, and anthracnose, which is caused by the fungus, *Glomerella*. Either fungus can infect a wide range of orchid genera and can have devastating effects on *Cattleyas*, *Vandas*, *Hardcane Dendrobiums* and *Phalaenopsis* to name but a few. Buds or flowers may be infected with older flowers particularly susceptible to infection.

Grey Mould

Initial signs of the disease generally show as tiny, water-soaked, necrotic spots that can appear on flower buds (Fig.1) or on any part of the flower (Fig.2). These spots may be pink (eg. Fig.1), brown (eg. Fig.2), or brown with pink margins. Under favorable conditions these spots rapidly enlarge and may develop into a soft, mushy rot that causes a general collapse of the flower (Fig 3). Severely infected flowers may develop a grey, almost furry-like growth of fungal mycelium (Fig.4).



Fig.1 Initial Botrytis infection of Cattleya flower bud



Fig. 2. Initial Botrytis infection of Cattleya flower



Fig 3. Advanced Botrytis infection of a Cattleya flower



Fig 4. Botrytis mycelium showing masses of spores

Millions of brownish-grey spores develop on short stalks that protrude above the mycelium. These spores are then spread to other flowers by wind, water or by mechanical means (such as on your hands or clothing). If those flowers are wet, the spores will germinate and can infect otherwise healthy tissue within about 12 hours. Infection may also become established in dead or dying flowers or leaves. The end result is that under favourable conditions, the fungus proliferates very rapidly and all of your precious flowers can be destroyed within a few days.

Grey mould is most active at ambient temperatures from about 15 to 22 degrees C, relative humidity greater than 90% and when plant tissue is wet. It can therefore be particularly devastating during cool to cold weather when drizzling rain continues for several days ie. conditions similar to those we have experienced over winter. During the summer months, ambient temperatures are generally higher than the favoured range for *Botrytis* proliferation, and infection is usually less of a problem even though rain may occur for prolonged periods.

Control

Primary disease control depends on reducing the amount of circulating inoculum and ensuring that flowers and leaves are kept dry. Secondary control depends on the use of fungicides.

Older cultures of *Botrytis* produce compact masses of fungal hyphae called sclerotia. These sclerotia are highly resistant to desiccation and can survive from one season to the next. Under favorable conditions they germinate and release masses of spores that are then available to continue the disease cycle. To minimise the amount of inoculum, it is therefore essential to remove all infected flowers and leaves from affected plants and remove all fallen flowers and leaves from within the orchid house. When sanitising your plants, minimize the risk of further spreading the disease by using sterile cutting instruments and by continually sterilising your hands. Alcohol based hand sanitisers are a convenient way to achieve the latter. Unfortunately, *Botrytis* affects a wide range of ornamentals, horticultural crops and companion plants. Wind-borne spores from sources outside of the orchid house can therefore provide a constant supply of infective material for plants inside the orchid house.

To keep plant parts dry and thus create conditions unfavorable for spore germination, avoid overhead watering, pot-water only, water only when necessary and water only in the morning to allow maximum time for the plants to dry before nightfall. Ideally, flowering plants should be protected from rain by placing them under a solid roof. It is also critical that all plants are exposed to good air movement. This assists with the drying process and so minimises the time that free water is available for spore germination. Plants grown outdoors, particularly when well spaced and grown in hanging pots, are more likely to receive better ventilation than crowded, bench-grown plants.

Although we may, and should, implement all of the above conditions, it is generally impossible to prevent or control the disease by primary means alone. This is particularly so during cold, wet winters. Secondary measures in the form of effective fungicides are then invariably required. Of the contact fungicides, chlorothalonil (eg, Bravo, Cheers Weathershield 720) and Mancozeb (eg Dithane, Mancozeb) when used according to manufacturer's instructions, can provide a high degree of disease control. Effective control is also provided by the systemic fungicide, iprodione (eg Rovral, Ippon 500 Aquaflo) used either alone or in combination with an effective, compatible, contact fungicide (eg. Bravo or Mancozeb). Irrespective of which fungicide is used, it is essential that it is applied early in the flowering cycle so that the flower buds are protected from infection (see Fig.1). This not only helps prevent infection appearing on the flowers but also helps minimise damage to flowers caused by the fungicide. When applied correctly, chlorothalonil or iprodione generally do not cause bud damage but may damage some flowers. Mancozeb will generally leave residues that detract from flower quality.

Anthraconose

Anthraco

nose is a very destructive disease that first appears on buds or flowers as light- to dark-brown, circular to oval, water-soaked lesions (Fig.5). The lesions develop more slowly than those of Botrytis and while they may coalesce, they generally do not result in a generalised rot of the flower. Older lesions will often show concentric rings of fruiting bodies that are characteristic of Glomerella infections, not only on flowers (Fig.6) but also on leaves or pseudobulbs. These fruiting bodies produce spores that can then infect any part of the orchid plant. The spores depend on water for both dispersion between plants and for germination (and hence, infection) on the plant surface. Glomerella is a pathogen of a very wide range of plant genera including many ornamentals that may be grown as companion plants. It is active over a temperature range from about 15 to 30 degrees C, far wider than that for Botrytis. It is therefore a constant threat throughout the year though more so during cool, wet winters.



Fig 5. Anthracnose (Glomerella) Infection



Fig 6. Concentric rings characteristic of Glomerella infection

Control

Control of Glomerella infections relies on the same measures as those for Botrytis (above). Primary control depends first on removing all infected material, whether flowers, leaves or pseudobulbs, dead or alive, from within the orchid house. This minimizes the amount of circulating inoculum within the orchid house. Since both dispersion and germination of Glomerella spores depend on water, the second essential component of control is to keep the flowers and leaves dry. This can be achieved in most circumstances by observing the principles expressed above for the control of Botrytis. If an outbreak of Glomerella does occur it is almost obligatory to pot-water only as any overhead watering will rapidly spread the disease. Again, however, there will be occasions when primary measures alone will not achieve complete control and some use of fungicide will be necessary. The same fungicides used to control Botrytis (see above) can also be used to control Glomerella. Any use of fungicides must be strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Friendii.



Ellie's Corner

Hello everyone. Moyna and Bill Richardson have recently returned from a fabulous trip of 23 days departing on 15 May, led by Scott McCartney of Speciality Tours aptly entitled "The Colours of Europe". They were in a group

of 20 from Rockhampton (including Neil Craig). First port of call was Amsterdam and then on to Venio to the Floriade, in Holland, a Garden Festival held once every ten years. The Pavilion that held the large flower displays was stunning. Displays often were the size of bathrooms to lounge rooms and 3-4 metres tall!! After touring and checking out such places of interest as the old working windmills and clog factories, they commenced a 7 day cruise down the Rhine from Amsterdam to Basel in the Black Forest. They stopped off at Cologne and Koblenz and admired beautiful architecture and Cathedrals. They greatly enjoyed visiting Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum in Rudesheim where there is one of the greatest collections of robotic or automation self-playing instruments from the 18th to 20th century. Then on to a tour of Strasbourg where storks nest on top of trees lining streets. They bought stork souvenirs for their grand children. Took day trip through the Black Forest and ate Black Forest cake. At Basel they took a coach to Lake Constance and visited the Island of Mainau – Flower Island – spectacular especially the rhododendrons and the magnificent butterfly house. They next spent several days in Bavaria – Mad King Ludwig's country. Went to visit the fairytale castle - Neuschwanstein Castle – everything was lush and green and white swans were all through the area. They passed through Lucerne in Switzerland and admired the snow covered Alps. They then took a cog railway up to Jung Frau – top of Europe. After more sightseeing it was back to France. In Paris they had a wonderful time - a Show at the Moulin Rouge- a visit to the artist quarter of Montmartre and, of course, the Eiffel Tower. They then spent a few days in Dubai and enjoyed a Safari Dinner in the desert and a camel ride. They enjoyed the old Cairo Museum and King Tut's Exhibition. Bill got a tummy bug 2 days before they left to come home. He had all the right pills but could not keep much down and so was dehydrated by the time they got back. The doctor put him in the Mater Hospital and after a couple of bags of saline he was much improved. The doctor even let him out on the Saturday to play bowls as long as he was back at night for the next lot of antibiotics. He was very put out when it rained and stopped him playing on the Sunday. What a hero our Bill must be at his Bowling Club! No sooner were they home than they were off again to Canberra on their annual pilgrimage for their grand daughter's birthday. Jasmyn was 6 this year and is in kindergarten. It was freezing cold – 4 – 5 degrees. They had some lovely family times but found it nice to get back to the warmth of Rockhampton.

Neil Craig has recently enjoyed an amazing holiday. He flew to Copenhagen, and joined a 7 day cruise around the Baltic Sea. It called in at Stockholm in Sweden and then on to St Petersburg and Tallin in Estonia and Kiel in Northern Germany. He had great fun exploring the various ports of call. He spent three days in Berlin and travelled on the fast train to Amsterdam where he joined the "Colours of Europe" Tour with Bill and Moyna and crew.

Wendy and Terry Ahern recently travelled to Maryborough to help Wendy's mother Nell celebrate her 90th Birthday. A wonderful day was enjoyed by close family and friends and residents and staff at Groundwater Lodge where Nell resides. She kept all entertained by playing her new mouth organ which was one of her birthday gifts. Nell has played a mouth organ since the age of seven. Wendy said her mother's eyes sparkled and she had such a lovely smile on her face when she saw her gift. How wonderful to still enjoy making music and entertaining others at the age of 90!! Congratulations to Nell from us all.

We welcome as new members Darryl and Leone Humble of Bowen. Leone is Ken Smith's cousin. They lived in Rockhampton for many years and moved to Bowen several years ago. They intend to move back to Rockhampton as soon as they sell their home in Bowen. They have a small bush house and have enjoyed visiting our Orchid Shows and hope to come to our Spring Show in September. They are retired and enjoy spending happy times together.

John and Sharyn Frisch have received the long awaited news that their son Ashley has announced his engagement to Katie, also a Marine Biologist in Townsville, but who hails from Grand Junction, Colorado, USA. Sharyn tells me that they don't know where the wedding will be – they have been given three 'maybes' – USA, Townsville, or Vanuatu – but some time next year! Sharyn is flying to Townsville in the near future with her 94 year old mother, to wish the couple well and have a few days with them in their home overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Sharyn and John have recently had two weeks at Stanage Bay where John joined a professional fisherman for a couple of overnight trips to the Percy Islands. They spent 10 days at the Boyne crabbing, 5 days around Bundaberg with friends and enjoying the Orchid Club Day at Howard where John was a guest speaker, 5 days around Toowoomba shivering, visiting friends and attending a family wedding at Preston Peaks. These are all the things that have kept the family busy. Sharyn recently went on a sewing retreat at the Haven, Emu Park.

That ever-green couple, Ted and Alice Mannion recently celebrated 65 years of wedded bliss on August 4th. They enjoyed morning tea with their daughter and family members and also spent time with Ed and Elva Treacy who celebrated their 65 wedding anniversary on May 29th. Congratulations to four lovely people. Ted and Alice are enjoying and entering into the activities at Shalom and are looking forward to the Annual Shalom Garden Party in the near future.

Allan and Gloria Kane recently had a seven night cruise to New Caledonia, Lifou and Vanuatu, on the Pacific Dawn. They loved every minute of it and said the atmosphere was just so relaxed with everyone in the party mood. Cruising is certainly the ideal way to spend a holiday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those celebrating in **August**: Mirella Sorensen (1st): Keith Marsden (25th): Bill Richardson (29th). **September** Birthdays: Yvonne Logan (8th): Marg Handley (9th): Jill Howes (15th): Marie Page (20th): Gloria Kane (21st): Joan Lindsay (26th): John Frisch and Graham Maunder (30th). May you all have a wonderful time on your special day. Till next time.

My love and prayers. ELLIE DEAN.

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

For all you Orchid Supplies



49222637 Barry & Faye English

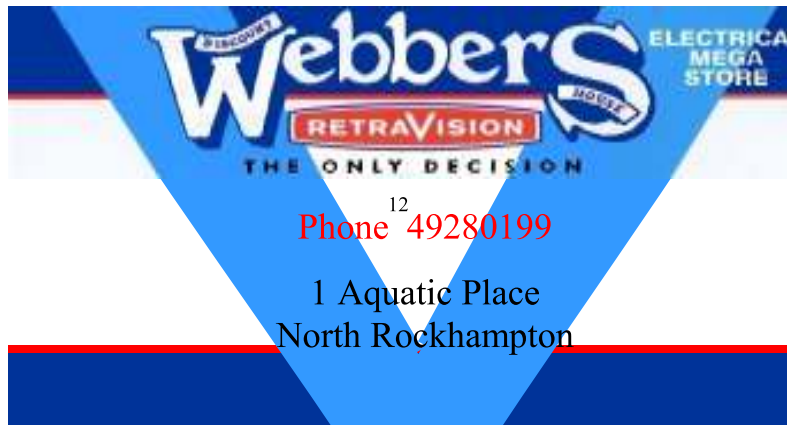
Hours of Business: 8am -12 – 2- 5pm (Closed: 'Thursdays' and 'Lunchtime' each day)

No cheques please

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

If undelivered, please return to
Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
PO Box 5949
Central Queensland Mail Centre, Qld 4702
Print Post Approval PP 448679/00002

**Postage Paid
Central Queensland
Mail Centre
Qld. 4702
AUSTRALIA**



Sponsors of the Rockhampton Orchid Society

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

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 31 Sept 1 Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Spring Show
August 31 Sept 1 Nambour Orchid Soc
Sept 1st 2nd Capricorn Orchid Show
September 8-9th Rockhampton Orchid Society Spring Show
Sept 11th - 16th Aust Orchid Conference Perth
Sept 20th - 22nd Maryborough District Orchid Soc Show
Sept 1st - 22nd Noosa DOFS Show
Sept - 21st /26th Toowoomba Orchid Soc
Sept 28-29th Glasshouse Orchid society Show
Oct 6th/7th Hervey Bay Orchid Soc.

2013 STOC Orchidfest Gympie
2014 TQOC Atherton
2015 TQOC Mackay