

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



Newsletter January 2014



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc. (52)

PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702

Founded 1955

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday. 28/1/14

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
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Committee

Jeff Glover 49287701
Peter & June Shelton 49266889
Jenny Moore 49237234
Ellie Dean 49282278
Trish Craig 49226621
P.Jenkinson 0419725173

New Grower's Leader:

Keith Marsden 49282752

Public Relations: Ellie Dean

Technical Advisers: John Frisch
Jeff Glover

Registrar: Terry Dean

Provider: Jan Rawlings

Door Monitors/ Hostesses:

Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

Librarian: Jack Martin

Raffle Plant Caretaker: Terry Dean

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sheltonpj@optusnet.com.au

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trishcraig@bigpond.com

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Judges for the Meeting

T. Dean. J. Glover. B. Hilse
M. Richardson

Editors Notes.

Well folks it's that time of year again. That time when we elect our leaders for the forth coming year.

Please note the fees are \$20.00, they are due and payable prior to the February meeting. Disregard the time of year you joined the Society, ALL fees are due and payable before the A.G.M. which is held each year at the February meeting.

Unfinancial members are precluded the power to vote at the A.G.M. If you cannot attend a meeting please forward your subscription to the treasurer.

All executive positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be taken from the floor for the following non executive positions –

- * Librarian
- * Asst' Librarian
- * Door Monitor
- * News Letter Editor
- * Provider/s
- * Public Relations
- * Host/Hostess
- * Technical Advisors
- * New Growers Leader
- * Registrar
- * Asst' Registrar
- * Plant care taker

The nomination form which I hope you will see fit to use will be on another page, PLEASE consider giving your executives a spell it has been a long time since we changed and to honest they all have health problems so how about it even if you'll fill a position for the year it would help them tremendously.

I hope you are keeping the misters going it doesn't take long for dehydration to set in, then they yellow off, then – we won't even think about it.

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 8th of February; articles received after this date will be included in the following month. Ed.

**NOMINATION FORM FOR EXECUTIVE POSITION
ROCKHAMPTON ORCHID SOCIETY INC. 2014.**

We the undersigned, financial members of the Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

Hereby nominate.....

For the position of.....

Proposer..... Signature.....

Secunder..... Signature.....

I, being a financial member of the Society, accept
the above nomination.

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE

(Please print all names except signatures)



SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM. 2014.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

E/MAIL.....

PHONE.....

FEE: \$20.00 SIGNATURE.....

Would you like your newsletter posted or E/Mail? YES / NO

Could all members please fill in the renewal form above, with your full names, phone number's, E/Mail address if you have one.
This is to check all members' information as some newsletters have been returned with the wrong address. Thank you.

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
General Meeting Tuesday 26/11/2013

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New members: Peter Rankin, Don & Kerry Ellis, Rodney & Kathy Russell.

Lucky Member: 66 Trish Craig.

Minutes: of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Terry Hearn, second Nat Lakey Carried.

Correspondence: In = Newsletters, Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc, Central QLD Bush house & Orchid Society, Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc, , Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Association. Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Mackay District Orchid Society, Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Orchid News NSW. Nambour Orchid News, Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. Nightcliff Orchid Society. Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc. Redcliff District Orchid Society Inc. Boyne- Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society. AON Insurance. Orchids QLD Inc, STOC QLD, Nambour Orchid Society, Orchids Australia, Australian Orchid Review.

OUT = Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Moyna Richardson Carried.

Treasurers Report: In Bill's absence Jeff Bloxsom read and moved second by Ellie Dean Carried.

New Growers: Keith Marsden thanked all members for their support for the last year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

General Business: Mackay will be hosting the TQOC Conference and the Australian Conference in September 16 – 23 rd 2015. Cent Sale made a profit of \$3,500.00, well done to everyone for all your help and support.

Our first trip for the year will be to Boyne- Tannum on the 22-23 February, if you are going names must be in at the next meeting. Christmas Break-up Party is the next thing for us all to enjoy.

Plant Commentary: John Frisch Short and Sweet as well as very informative thanks John.

Lucky exhibitor: Pat Marsh.

Raffle: Lionel Reaves, Keith Marsden, Peter Rankin, and Gwen Breingan.

Meeting closed: 9.25 pm.

Next Meeting: 28th January 2014

Jeff Bloxsom President

Gloria Wakefield Secretary

Monthly Competition Results. November 2013

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 43. Novice: 30)

<u>Judges Choice</u>	<i>Phrag.</i> Grande <i>Den.</i> Alice's Mark Bron (= <i>Den. gouldii</i> x <i>Den.</i> Juleen High) <i>Rhy. retusa</i>	B&H Hilse T&N Craig P&T Jenkinson
<u>Popular Vote.Advanced.</u>		
Cattleya Vandaceous over 60mm Vandaceous up to 60mm. Dendrobium Paphiopedilum Oncidiinae Species Miscellaneous	<i>Rth.</i> Roy's Magic 'Janet' <i>Ascda.</i> Ken Kone <i>Ascda.</i> Peggy Foo x <i>Rhy. gigantea</i> tie (<i>Den.</i> Blue Foxtail Tie (<i>Den.</i> "Dragon Five" <i>Paph.</i> Saint Swithin <i>Odcdm.</i> Everglades Elegance 'Nancy Lee' <i>Rhy. retusa</i> <i>Cty.</i> Burdekin Honey	T&E Dean T&E Dean B&N Lakey J&S Frisch J&S Frisch J&S Frisch T&G Breingan K&R Smith K&R Smith
<u>Novice.</u>		
Cattleya Dendrobium Vandaceous Species Miscellaneous	<i>C.</i> Roy Finley <i>Den.</i> Alice's Mark Bron <i>Ascda.</i> Suksumran Sunlight <i>Rhy. retusa</i> <i>E.</i> Bees' Knees x <i>E.</i> ??	T&N Craig T&N Craig P&T Jenkinson P&T Jenkinson R&G Wakefield



Rhy. retusa



Den. Alice's Mark Bron



Phrag. Grande



Xmas 2013 The End of Another Year.

What a glorious night we had, or that's the way it seemed to me, with everybody joining in the festivities. Good food, good company, good venue what more could one ask for, the trophies for excellence were handed out with Ken and Rosie ending up with an arm full, it just proves you do the research and then get yourself good quality plants you have every chance of being in the winners circle. Congratulations are well and truly deserved by the winners, each and every one of you.

The night was spent with trivia games as usual but the draw card of the night (I believe there's a chance we might do it again in the future) was the huge multi draw raffle, here I think we should all thank Ken and Rosie again for the work they put in amassing such a quantity of healthy plants they travel many miles to do this, to the both of you I thank you on behalf of the members your work does not go unnoticed. Yet again our executive and their helpers are to be commended on the presentation and the way it was run, I'm sure you the same as me thoroughly enjoyed it.



The Smith's, Advanced growers do it again



The Craig's, Novice growers



The happy gathering (only a section of us)

This Is a Nasty One.

Remember last month we had a plant with unusual markings on the leaves; well one of the leaves of that same plant was sent away for analysis – was it a virus or was it clean.

The plant and a few of its relations now reside at the Rockhampton landfill, yep it was virused. Finding out this was an eye opener, because a lot of us who've been growing for some considerable length of time had not seen this virus before (and hope we never do again) however it just goes to show that you can't be too careful, if you have a plant you suspect bring it to the meeting wrapped in a plastic bag, whatever you do don't handle other plants without washing your hands thoroughly. I believe there are approximately 37 viruses known with very few of them being visible to the naked eye. With that being the case we might all have virused plants in our collection and not know it. Below is the report received from **TASAG ELISA**.

The orchid specimen (***Oncidium Wildcat 'Rainbow'***) that you submitted to our laboratory has been tested for infection with *Cymbidium mosaic virus* (CymMV), *Odontoglossum ringspot virus* (ORSV) and *Orchid fleck virus* (OFV), by electron microscope examination of leaf sap extracted in ammonium molybdate (protocol # *Orchid Virus Testing*)

This specimen was found to be infected with *Orchid fleck virus*. This virus belongs to the *Rhabdoviridae* family and is known to be transmitted by certain member(s) of the mite family.

I have relegated one of my plants (*Odontoglossum*. Cherry Fudge) to the wheelie bin since seeing this virus, I wasn't sure whether it had it or not but to be on the safe side, got rid of it. We have a lot of money invested in our hobby and it would be very stupid to endanger our whole collection just for the sake of one or two plants. Some growers have been warned and continue to keep the infected plants amongst there other plants – the end is inevitable.



Hymn

If you have a plant that looks like this
relegate it to the wheelie bin.
If not sure check it out with the
experts.

G'day From Greg.

I received an E/Mail from our old friend Dr Greg Wheeler who now is practicing in Robe S.A. Greg asked me to pass his best wishes on to all his friends in the orchid society. He wishes you all well and good growing.

Hymn

PHALAEANTHE DENDROBIUMS.

Ray Nicholls

Phalaenanthe Dendrobiums are a true epiphytic orchid grown naturally in sub-tropical areas of Queensland and islands of the Queensland coast, with this in mind; they can be grown very successfully under bush house conditions on Queensland coastal areas.

A bush house in an open area facing a north-east aspect with the western wall sheeted giving protection from the hot afternoon sun and westerly winds is preferred.

A construction on an A frame model to a height of 3 metres is most successful.

Dendrobiums need height to obtain suitable air movement, which is very desirable. This also gives you the ability to hang your plants.

A 70% shade cloth is recommended. While the plants will grow better in a bush house with a shade cloth cover, protection from the rain is beneficial during the flowering period as heavy rains can break racemes and also cause fungal spotting of blooms. Many growers flower under cover for this reason.

Most growers don't have any problems in growing their seedlings and flowering their plants twice and from then on have difficulty maintaining growth and in many cases, life.

One of the most crucial steps in growing Phalaenanthe Dendrobiums is not to overpot your plants. Adult plants require cutting back to 4 or 5 leads, provided they are healthy. This is very important as Phalaenanthe Dendrobiums must be kept growing.

Back leads that are not functioning drain nutrients from the forward leads to sustain life. In many cases they only harbour fungal and bacterial diseases as well as parasites and mites.

- Regularly repot, cut the old canes away and keep the base of your plant clean and healthy, in other words, its necessary to repot after every 2 years of growth on adult plants. Seedlings to flowering perform better if repotted during their growth period. Most open potting media is suitable – bark or bark and stone or even mixed with styrene foam. It is most important to have a free draining mix. To prevent algae forming on top of your pots, try Physan (or Alginox) but it is critical to use the correct ratios when mixing. This also controls the ph within your pot, which benefits plant growth.
- The fertiliser program is done with a little and often during growing periods using high nitrogen based fertilisers at half recommended strength and applied to the foliage twice a week.
- At approximately 6 weeks prior to flowering, reduce the nitrogen and increase the P & K to harden the plants and to improve their flowering. This also puts your plants in a stronger condition for winter and the dormant period.
- Having grown and flowered your plant, it is now time for a rest. During this period cease fertilising and let your plants dry out keeping watering to a minimum. Seedlings will continue to grow and should be cared for as growing plants, although growth will be reduced during the colder months.
- At all times keep your plants free from disease, fungus, parasites and eating insects by employing the most appropriate control method but be sure to use all safety procedures and comply with the written directions on the container.

How I Grow My Cattleyas.

I would venture to say that each and every one of you has a few or lots of Cats in your collection, even after many lessons and demo's at the afternoon meetings there are still questions asked, so I thought I would write and explain how I grow mine. (Or try anyway.)

Potting: To start with I try not to over pot but ensuring you have enough room for 2 or 3 years growth, I used to use as a medium perlite and peat but since I have moved to a smaller location I found I haven't the room to store this so I now have the old tried and true bark and charcoal mix. Using medium sized bark and the equivalent size charcoal at a ratio of 8 to 1 with an extra cupful of perlite thrown in when potting the genera *Sophranitis* as I have found they like to be kept on the moist side, I don't like Sphagnum with Cats. With watering and feeding being as critical as it is, over watering or over feeding is as bad for Cat's as is the reverse.

Watering: It's not possible to tell you when to water as every bush house has its own micro climate, so you're on your own with that one, just remember its better to have your Cats dry out between watering than have them moist, not crackly dry but dry slightly, I found that when I was starting out with orchids I had a pot in the middle of the bench full of medium but no plant, if I was unsure of the moisture content of my plants by tipping the mix out gave me a fair idea as to moisture content. Always give your plants a good leaching on the 4th or 5th watering to get rid of accumulative salts. In the heat of summer I try to water my plants just before sundown so they have a chance to take up what moisture they require, in the winter the mornings are best. If you have overhead sprinklers it would be wise to fit a drain tap to your line so you can drain out the water. Just imagine having a cold shower in the middle of winter, let the water run for a while and then warmer water comes through.

Fertilising: I use fertilisers designed for orchids only and apply once a week during the growing period. Using one with high nitrogen, lower potassium at the beginning of the growing period around September/October and then swap for higher potassium lower nitrogen in January/February to hopefully get the best growth and flowers through the year. We also apply a small amount of slow release when repotting,

Light: Cats need rather high levels of light to grow and then flower well. I have my bush house covered in 70% shade cloth and I don't change that except to cover the sides with a clear plastic product to protect the plants from the winter winds, in my old bush house I had 2 fans set on a low speed which went 24-7 but I found the power bills getting rather large so had to give them up. You can't stop all air movement so take care and be vigilant; watch your plants for black spot.

Repotting: This as a rule is best done with the onset of the warmer months, although you can repot lots of the Cat hybrids at anytime, using the same method you always use – green growing tips on the roots – new fresh growths appearing. I have no qualms at all about repotting in the cooler months provided the plant itself is ready. I don't use slow release fertilisers in the winter. I can only tell you what I do in my bush house, remember yours has a different climate than mine but this should give you a rough idea on how it is done. Best of luck I hope you have a Grand Champion on the way.

Hymn



Ellie's Corner

Hello everyone. Welcome to the first Ellie's Corner for 2014. I hope you all had a safe and happy festive season surrounded by the love of family and friends. Terry and I enjoyed being home this Christmas (and our two doggies Little

Oscar and Ziggy were happy that they did not have to holiday at the kennels)! May we all enjoy successful orchid growing, and times of fellowship and friendship during 2014.

Our Society's Christmas Party and Trophy Night was a great success with 100 members attending. There was an air of excitement all evening and everyone had a wonderful time. We were all pleased to see Peter and Lorraine Carter there especially after their ordeals with Peter's health during the past year. We pray that 2014 will bring "better days". Their family members from Gladstone, Brisbane and Rockhampton all came together for Lorraine's Birthday on November 21st.

Ray and Gay Bills enjoyed Christmas together with their daughter Mandy and her husband Andrew and their grandchildren Charlotte, Laura and Tom on their property at Rolleston. Their daughter Karen and granddaughter Lauren also came from Bundaberg for part of the holidays. Karen's other daughter Leah was in the Philippines with a group of friends from Bundaberg. Their son Craig and his wife Mardi and three children were there for a few days prior to Christmas to celebrate with the Bills family and then enjoyed Christmas at the Beach with Mardi's family. Buster (Ray and Gay's dog) travelled to Rolleston with them and enjoyed all the festivities and the company of the other dogs on the property!

Burnie and Shirley Peters travelled to Ayr to visit their son Gary for Christmas and stayed on his property. 15 members of their family were there and Shirley said they were close to the coast and enjoyed beautiful sea breezes. I was speaking with Shirley on 8 January and she said that was Gary's 50th Birthday. The Peters family members love spending time together and they celebrated the Birthday at Christmas time. There were cows, sheep, turkeys, guinea fowls, deer etc. on the property. Sounds like paradise. They spent 3 weeks there and had a great time.

Lionel Reeves spent Christmas with his daughter Katrina and his granddaughter Phoebe and another granddaughter Lauren (who is his daughter Donna's child) and a happy group of friends. Lionel said it was a great occasion and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Keith Shanks died on 2 December. He and his wife Eileen were very loyal members of our Society until advancing years and illness caused them to curtail their activities with us. Keith had a fall four and a half years ago and broke his back and was unable to walk from then on. Eileen was a very loving and devoted wife and sat with Keith every day and shared her love and companionship with him. Keith and Eileen had a daughter and two sons, and nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. A beautiful part of his funeral service was the singing of "Amazing Grace" and "You Raise Me Up" by his grandson Shaun Cathro. Keith was greatly loved, not only by his family, but by his many friends. Eileen told me that she was very pleased and comforted to see so many of our ROS members at Keith's funeral on 6 December.

Peter Rankin joined our Society at the end of November and we warmly welcome him. He has a small orchid collection (which is growing) and a larger bonsai collection. He lives at home with his parents and his mother loves gardening. As a hobby Peter makes blades, knives, chisels, sets of grafting knives etc. He also sharpens knives and scissors. He would like to get a job using these talents.

Happy Birthday to those who celebrate in January and February:

January: Patricia March 1: Marion Wilson and Ron O'Brien 5: Don Ellis 8: Ed Treacy and Wendy Ahern 9: Norma Glover 10: Faye English 14: Lionel Reeves and Rosalie Smith 15:

Elva Treacy 19: Peter Carter and Jim Dickenson 20: Jack Dickenson 21: Sharyn Frisch 24: Moyna Richardson 30.

February: Richard Mann and Zoe Kidman 2: John Sorensen 6: Bev Powell 16: Karen Carr and Carol Hine 18: Dot Rebetzke 21: Jack Cowie 26: Terry Breingan 27.

May you all have a wonderful time on your special day.

Bye for now. 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

Watering Orchids – How I do it or don't do it.

The problem I have with my watering regime is I try and grow so many different genera that it is nigh on impossible to treat them all as they should be. For instance Oncidiums should be kept moist, Paphiopedilums also like to be kept moist and those are just two of the moisture loving orchids. Of course we all have Cattleyas which like to dried out before you put them to bed, or so the experts say but on days like this (36 degrees) I water them late in the day so the plant has time to take up the moisture it requires, I also, if I'm around during the day like to mist my whole collection.

No body can tell you how to water your collection because the micro climate of your bush house is very different to your neighbours, if you are like me and have various different pot sizes in your collection; the weight in your hand method doesn't work either. Taking all into account it seems like an impossible task but if you sort your dryer outers from your moisture lovers you have a chance but then they mightn't like growing where you've put them what now.

Trial and error is the only way I've worked out. (Do it with a sacrificial plant)

I hand water so that I can observe what is happening to my plants and I put coloured tags in the pots that like less water (species like a spell after flowering so don't require much if any water) after a while you get to know where your plants grow best and how much water they require. It really is the basic rule of growing orchids - OBSERVE YOUR PLANTS they will tell you what they need.

Hymn

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

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Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

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

Disclaimer

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

Your Orchid Diary 2014

February 15 STOCQ AGM, Gympie.
February 22 Boyne.Tannum Field days (Full Weekend)
March 29 Nambour Autumn Show (Closed Show)
April 5,6. Boyne Tannum Orchid Expo
April 11,12 Sunshine Coast OS Caloundra
April 20,21. Rockhampton Autumn Show
May 3,4. Gympie Garden Expo
May 9,11 Bundaberg OS Show
June 7 Rockhampton convenes STOCQ meeting
September 14 – 15th Rockhampton Spring Show
September 26,27. Glasshouse COS Show

2014 TQOC Atherton
2015 TQOC Mackay
2016 STOCQ Orchidfest