

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

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



## Newsletter July 2013



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

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 23/7/13

at 7.30pm

Plants to be tabled by  
7.15pm

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom 49286582  
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Jenny Moore 49237234  
Ellie Dean 49282278  
Trish Craig 49226621  
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#### 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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**Webmaster:** R. Lakey 49288093  
r.lakey@bigpond.com

### Judges for the Meeting

J.Glover J.Shelton B. Hilse  
B.Weaver

### Editors notes.

What has happened to winter? This would have to be the most delightful weather one could imagine. I eventually got my bush house covered to protect my orchids from the cold south Easterly winds but they haven't arrived as yet and hopefully they don't. (Famous last words).

Last month at the new growers meeting there were some plants brought along that had signs of cold, with these you must find the warmest spot in your orchid house and move them to it, there were some also showing signs of fungal disease this is a penalty you pay for not watching your plants, get this disease in the early stages and treat it with a good systemic fungicide, I dunk the whole plant if the disease is on more than one growth. When we cover up our bush house for protection from the cold winds, we deplete one of the basic needs for good orchid culture – air movement – having done this we must compensate in another way of protection – fungicide. If you decide to dunk your plant/s, always wear rubber gloves because being a systemic you can take it in through your skin.

But most of all you must be vigilant, fungus spores are sneaky little devils.

This month your newsletter contains a magnificent article Penned by our own Jeff Glover, all you Paph' growers will Thoroughly enjoy it I'm sure. You never know it might entice some more people to try to grow the superb genera known as Slippers

Whoever's in charge of the, weather keep up the good work.

*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 12<sup>th</sup> of Aug; articles received after this date will be included in the following month. Ed.

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

## General Meeting Tuesday 25/ 02/2013

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**New members;** Marline Warry

**Lucky Member:** 39 Ray Bills.

**Minutes:** of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Keith Marsden second Sandra Rowcliffe Carried.

**Correspondence: In** = Newsletters, Nightcliff Orchid Society, Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc, Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc, Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club, Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc. Capricorn Orchid & Foliage Club Inc. Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Orchid News NSW. Central QLD Bush house & Orchid Society, Mid-Murray Orchid Club, Redcliffe District Orchid Society Inc, Memberships Dot Rebetzke, M. & P Henderson, Sub-Tropic Orchid Council, Big Colour Works,

**OUT** = Read and moved Trish Craig Second by Jan Rawlings Carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Read and moved Bill Richardson second Brian Weaver Carried.

**New Growers:** Keith Marsden thanked Richard & Lynn Mann for having us at their house, the next one will be at the home of Sandra Rowcliffe.

**General Business:** Members unfinancial will be deleted from membership M. Gill, E. Houghton / Pershouse, M. & J McGovern, D. & E McKenzie, D. Gilmore, M. Teche / P. Steel, J. Lindsay, M. McPherson / C. Dee, L. Rutherford.

Moved Peter Shelton Second Ken Smith, the weekend of 7-8-9 June 2014 the STOC General Meeting be held in Rockhampton, Carried. Show Dates for April 2014 12-13th. (Week before Easter)

September 13 -14th - our Diamond Jubilee.

Orchid's•Australia - Alice•registered•New•Dendrobium•Alice's•Jeff•Bloxsom.

**Next Show theme:** Orchid's - Rainbow of Colours, moved M. Handley Second Terry Dean Carried.

**Plant Commentary:** Terry Dean

**Lucky exhibitor:** Jan Rawlings.

**Raffle:** Laurence Lucke, Trish Craig, Graham Maunder, Jeff Bloxsom, Lionel Reeves, Marg Handley. Richard Mann, Moyna Richardson, Jan Rawlings Peter Shelton.

**Meeting closed:** 9.00 pm.

**Next Meeting:** 23rd July 2013

Jeff Bloxsom President

Trish Craig Acting Secretary

### Notice to members

If you require/want your newsletter by email  
please send your email address to Trish Craig at [trishcraig@bigpond.com](mailto:trishcraig@bigpond.com)

## Monthly Competition Results. June 2013

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 34 Novice: 9)

### Judges Choice

*Eplc.* Don Herman  
*Dtps.* ♣Alice's♣Heart  
*Den.* Genting Candy

K&R Smith  
T&M Handley  
B&N Lakey

### Popular Vote, Advanced

Cattleya over 75mm  
Cattleya up to 75mm  
Paphiopedilum  
Phalaenopsis  
Oncidiinae  
Miscellaneous

*Rlc.* Mem.Gordon Vallance  
*Eplc.* Don Herman  
*Paph.* Grand Vizir  
*Dtps.* Alice's♣Heart  
*Mtdm.* Tropical Heatwave  
*Den.* MasokoTaki

K&R Smith  
K&R Smith  
K&R Smith  
T&M Handley  
K&R Smith  
J&M Bloxsom

### Novice.

Cattleya  
Miscellaneous

*C.* name unknown  
*Angcm.eburneum*

R&L Mann  
J.Rawlings



*Dtps.* ♣Alice's♣Heart



*Den.* Genting Candy



*Eplc.* Don Herman

## New Growers Report.

On Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> the new growers had the opportunity to have their meeting at the home of Sandra & Michael Rowcliffe. They are the owners of Scottville Squash Centre on arrival the members were made most welcome and invited to look over their orchid collection which is growing extensively and Michael has constructed a new orchid house which is fast becoming too small. It has certainly alleviated the overcrowding that was becoming evident in Sandra's other houses. Sandra is the orchid grower in the family and the way she is collecting and progressing it won't be long before her name will be prominent in the winners list.

Afternoon tea was next on the agenda giving the members a chance to ask each other questions and discuss what they have just seen, (Sandra was kept busy answering the many questions fired at her).

A demonstration was then given on how to slab mount a plant of *Den. keithii* and a discussion on fertilizing and the water quality that we need for our orchids.

The afternoon raffle completed the meeting with thanks to Sandra and Michael for allowing us the opportunity to hold our get together in their excellent facility, and also for opening up their bush house for us.

My thanks go to the members who donated plants for the raffle and for the help they give in making the afternoon so enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of July at the home of Gloria and Roger Wakefield at 7 Dally Street Wandal, starting at 2 P.M. the meeting will be a repotting workshop.

The idea is you bring along a plant you need to have repotted or a plant you are not sure how to repot it. You will be given assistance if required. As in other repotting workshops in the past the society will supply the potting medium and pots.

Please bring a folding chair and a plate for afternoon tea.



New Growers at Sandra's

*Keith Marsden*  
Phone- 49282752

**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

## *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*: 'The King of Orchids' by Jeff Glover

What other title could an orchid have that only grows in one location, imbues a majestic presence, has indirectly caused subterfuge and carries the name of perhaps the wealthiest family of all time? This article will endeavor to explore the enduring mystique surrounding this orchid by considering its discovery, its naming, provide an overview of the subsequent enduring breeding program and propose that this orchid *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*, is indeed worthy of the designation 'Orchid Rex'.

Barron Ferdinand James Von Rothschild (1839-1898) for whom the orchid is named was a member of the wealthy Jewish banking family that is synonymous with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century European financial institutions. He was Austrian by birth and settled in England where he became a member of the British parliament, a philanthropist, art collector and of course, avid orchid collector and patron. The estate he established in England was called 'Waddeson Manor' where he kept a huge collection of plants, many stemming from the collecting expeditions he financed. He was held in such esteem by society, including his orchid-collector peers and the wider community that he was thought most worthy to be honoured by lending his name to this new and wondrous species. It can be imagined the excitement its discovery caused during the period that is described as the 'orchid mania' of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

An example of the level of honour of having a plant named after oneself was the naming of *Paphiopedilum victoria-regina* after Queen Victoria, who was known to be fond of the *Paphiopedilum* genera. Perhaps it was the common name of 'Ladies Slipper Orchid' with its aristocratic tone that drew the fondness of the 'dour queen'. The



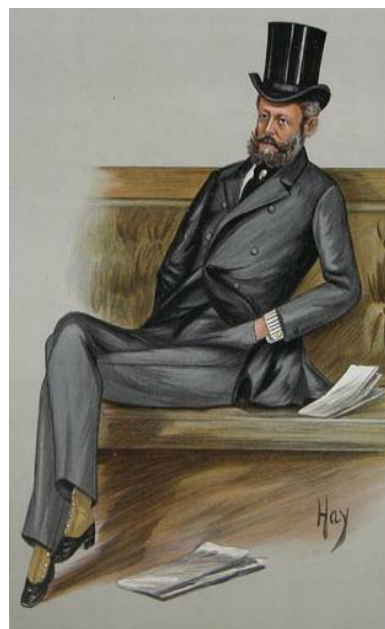
*Paphiopedilum victoria-regina*, named after Queen Victoria.

*Rothschildianum* and the *Paphiopedilum* genera overall. Sabah the 13<sup>th</sup> state of modern Malaysia is the orchid's 21<sup>st</sup> Century home; a now known exclusive home that had been a point of contention and was a closely guarded secret for many years (Koopowitz, 2001)<sup>(43)</sup>.



Enhancing the allure of *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* is this fact that it is only found in this one location, specifically around the foothills of Mt Kinabalu. This is despite early conjecture that it was also found in New Guinea, but what further compounds this orchid's mystique is that there is some credible evidence that the New Guinea connection may have been a ruse to throw other collectors of the scent. There is equal suggestion however, that it was genuinely confused with *Paphiopedilum elliotianum*, which is found in several locations across the Indonesian archipelago including New Guinea; and so the mystique deepens. From my research and it has by no means been exhaustive, who actually found *Paph. rothschildianum* seems to be a vagary of natural history and again open to further conjecture. However, a review of the most popular literature agrees that it was introduced

into European cultivation in 1867 by F. Sander and Co. and formally described in 1888 and most likely collected by one of his collectors (Koopowitz, 2001). Further controversy that befits the air of majesty surrounding this orchid can be found with reference to a collector named Jean Linden claiming to have imported it earlier, but his name *Paph. neo-guincense* was never validly



Barron Ferdinand James Von Rothschild  
1839-1898 Source: [Slipperorchidblog.com](http://Slipperorchidblog.com)

published. From his intended name it is easy to speculate whether he was drawn into, or part of the mystery to keep its location secret?

Regardless, of this air mystery a definitive statement on the discovery of *Paph. rothschildianum* beyond the scope of this article. Nevertheless, taking into account that more than likely one of Sanders collectors did retrieve some plants, a possible scenario can be validly considered. That is, as with many orchids and other tropical plants collected in the heady days of the 19th Century European Scientific and Geographic Exploration Societies, it was sent back, to Europe, survived and flowered by chance. No photographic evidence would have been possible to alert Sander of the find and a letter of description would have taken many months to be received even if it accompanied the plants. So it is reasonable to speculate further did Sander really appreciate what he had until it flowered, especially considering the time from introduction to formal description and registration. Discoverers, growers and collectors of exotic plants and animals in those times could be compared to hero-worship and possession of such a sought after plant was a source of eminence and social status for the wealthy. Hence the secrecy and subterfuge on its location once flowered. In comparison, exotic animals were brought back to European zoos as animal husbandry improved and survived to breed and prosper and became widespread throughout Europe. Plants however, were a harder task. For example, how could the copious amounts of water required to keep jungle-collected plants alive be provided on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century sailing ships.

Subsequently, as was later shown, in order for sufficient numbers of plants to survive a long sea voyage they also had to be given specialist care. As such, flowering exotic plants in Europe for the first time was a rarity and brought much wonderment and excitement in Victorian times. Placing this into context, many exotic plants were previously known of only through drawings, and dead examples, returned from voyages such as, that of Sir Joseph Bank's whilst accompanying Captain Cook on his long expeditions in the Pacific a century earlier. By the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, travel via ship was steadily becoming shorter, and hence the survival rates of plants being taken to the collectors in Europe were improving. Accordingly, the prices at auctions for plants with a higher chance of survival steadily achieved record sums and *Paph rothschildianum* became 'the orchid' to have!



*Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* with the top fully emerged flower exhibiting the famous horizontal posed petals.



*Paph. St Swithin. PaphRothschildianum X Paph.philippinenses* made in 1901 endures as arguably the most popular and recognizable rothschildianum primary hybrid

Now, once able to be regularly flowered the obvious progression for the likes of Messrs. Sander, Statter and Vetch was hybridization. It is interesting to note that in those times hybridization was originally thought of by many people with as much suspicion and mistrust as genetic modified food plants are today. Similar arguments and concerns were raised, such as, that it was an unnatural process and going against the order of nature and could result in all sorts of possible future problems. However, as we now know, from the progression of science, many natural hybrids occur in the plant kingdom, especially amongst orchids. A quick search of my *Orchidwiz* 8.3 database shows that 274 first generations or primary hybrids with *Paph rothschildianum* have been made to 2011. Many were registered in the decades between 1890-1910. Among these was the cross with *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* another *Paphiopedilum* with a fantastic story of its own. This *Paphiopedilum* is sometimes considered as the pretender to the crown. Yet, in what can be interpreted as deference to *Paph. rothschildianum* and the continuing connection to the British royal family the resulting hybrid was given the name of *Paphiopedilum Prince Edward of York*. Yes prince, not king. Sander registered this cross in 1898, His Royal Highness the Prince Edward of York was born in 1894. An interesting quirk of history is that this prince was also destined to be clouded in mystique and notoriety in that while he did become king, unlike *Paph. rothschildianum* he did not hold the title for long. He became King Edward VII who famously abdicated in 1936. (Wikipedia)

Koowitz, 2008, in his book, *Tropical Slipper Orchids, Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids*, places the collecting of Paphiopedilums into three ages. The discovery of *Paph. rothschildianum* and the development of its early primary hybrids fits into what he states as 'The First Golden Age' starting in 1816, with the cultivation of the first Paphiopedilum in Europe, *Paph. venustum*. The Second Golden Age started after World War One with the focus on producing complex hybrids and continued until the 1970's. During this time cultivation of the original multifloral hybrids of the first age continued but with little new hybridization, however; the 'The Third Golden Age' would witness another fantastic development of *Paph. rothschildianum* hybrids. New species that existed in Vietnam and Southern China would be introduced to western collectors as these countries were opened up after years of revolution and war.



**Paph. stonei above, crossed with Paph.rothschildianum makes Paph. Lady Isabel, registered in 1897.**

Sander was no doubt at the forefront of crossing 'The First Golden Age' multifloral paphiopedilum species with Paph rothschildianum. These included early discovered Paphiopedilums such as *lowii*, *parishii* and *victoria-regina*. However, he did have a rival, it seems a wealthy collector Thomas Statter Esq. of Manchester is credited as the originator of another famous cross often seen in collections today and in the class of his legendary creation of *Paph. St Swithin*, that of *Paph. Lady Isabel*. This cross was made with another alluring species *Paph. stonei*. This species along with, *rothschildianum*, *philippenses*, *lowii* and *sanderianum* are the main species that are the basis of many second and third generation multifloral hybrids. Database searches can find these species in the progeny background of many paphiopedilums, surprisingly, even being found in some complex hybrids. A relatively modern multifloral hybrid of renown, registered 1991, is *Paphiopedilum Angel Hair*, this is a cross between *Paph. St Swithin* and *Paph sanderianum* and is a fine example of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation breeding. Thus, it combines all the features of *Paph. rothschildianum*, *philippinenses* and *sanderianum*. These are primarily the height and presence of *Paph. rothschildianum*, the colour of *philippinenses* and the exclusively elongated petals of *Paph. sanderianum*. By again perusing the *Orchidwiz* data-base and noting the dates of the registrations of the primary hybrids of *Paph. rothschildianum* it can be deduced that during the 20<sup>th</sup>

Century there was a progression of crosses made with species from the other sub-sections /alliances of the genus paphiopedilum. *Barbatum*, *Insigne*, *Parvisepalum* and *Brachypetalum* alliances are all represented, and with what are considered the lesser multiflorals such as, the widely used parent *Paphiopedilum primulinum*. This species is valued in breeding for its yellow-greenish tones and its easy cultivation. It is a repeat flowerer and flowers from a willowy stems do other species of this group such as *Paph. liemianum*. The result of *primulinum* crossed with *Paph. rothschildianum* gives the beautiful hybrid *Paphiopedilum Prime Child*, with the imposing flowers on the tall stems that is synonymous with *Paph. rothschildianum* and the yellow tones from *Paph. primulinum*. It is a good example of multifloral breeding in the 'Second Golden Age'. But as previously mentioned it was the availability of the Parvisepalum Alliance or Chinese Paphiopedilums as they are commonly referred to that caused a new wave of worldwide excitement in 'The Third Golden Age' of Paphiopedilum breeding.



**Paph. Angel Hair 'Krisett' AM/AOS a fine example of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation breeding**



**Paph. Prime Child (*rothschildianum* x *primulinum*)**

The members of this alliance include *Paph. delenatii*, *armeniicum*, *micranthum*, *malipoense*, and *emersonii*. The flowers of these types with their bulbous like labellums were unlike any seen before. The flowering of *Paph. armeniacum*, seen from 1983 with its intense yellow orb like flowers caused much excitement in the orchid world (Koopowitz 2008). The obvious intention once available was to hybridize these new species, and the resultant progeny from breeding within the group made excellent hybrids that are still popular with nurseries and collectors alike. It wasn't long before the other alliances were considered as potential breeding candidates. Hybridizers quickly turned to the multiflorals and of course the 'king' was considered as the primary suitor. Soon the orchid world was abuzz with the outcomes. The resultant hybrids registered in the late 1980's and early 1990's, were nothing short of spectacular with names such as, Dollgoldi (*rothschildium* x *armeniicum*), Gloria Naugle, (*rothschildianum* x *micranthum*) and Harold Koopowitz (*rothschildianum* x *malipoense*) that are now considered amongst the most legendary and desirous paphiopediliums of all times. For example, the resultant infusion of *Paph. rothschildianum* into *Paph. armeniacum* could be described colloquially as 'having given it a dose of steroids'. As with all new collectables, at first huge sums were paid to obtain one of these fantastic new primary hybrids and as the saying goes history is bound to repeat and the king had caused a new round of orchid mania almost 100 years on from the heady days of its first flowering. Fortunately, modern breeding methods were soon able to make these new hybrids available to all collectors at reasonable costs, unlike the

exclusivity that was the 19th century domain of the wealthy like Barron Ferdinand von Rothschild.

So, is *Paph. rothschildianum* the King of Orchids or maybe just the best Paphiopedilum as specialist collectors of other genera might argue. I guess it can come down to the simple proverb 'that beauty is in the eye of the beholder', however; several compounding factors suggest it is indeed worthy of the title. These are, its enduring progeny spanning generational breeding and the sheer numbers that have been produced and are still being made. Likewise, no one doubts it has a presence and when first sighted usually at an orchid show many are left in awe at its magnificence. If you think this may be an over reaction, an Internet Google search gains over 50,000 results by

merely entering its name. There are exclusive forums devoted to it, articles, photos, drawings, trips advertised to see it in its native state, and of course plants for sale, many proudly declaring the 'roth connection' above all else. Lastly, its connection to British royalty, the wealth of its namesake and its discovery at the zenith of the British Empire would be testament alone for some to claim it deserves the title. Yet, despite this overwhelming evidence, the surrounding mystique and the fascinating narrative; for us orchid collectors and as only we devotees can appreciate, it is the challenge to grow and flower this elite plant just like Sander did nearly 120 years ago that makes it worthy of being proclaimed 'Orchid Rex'.



**Paph. Dollgoldi Krisett a spectacular Roth - Parvi cross.**

Note: All plants featured have been grown, flowered and photographed by the author.

References:

Sources Cited:

Koopowitz, H., 2001. *Orchids and their Conservation*, Timber Press, USA.

Koopowitz, H., 2008. *Tropical Slipper Orchids, Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids*, Timber Press, USA.

www. Wikipedia.com/Prince Edward of York. accessed 3/4/2013

Sources Consulted:

www.slipperorchidblog.com

<https://files.nyu.edu> 'Jasons Orchid Page'

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/tomnz/paphframe> 'Padiopedilum Culture Guide'

<http://huntingtonblogs.org/2012/04/king-of-orchids/>



**Found at the Gympie Orchid Spectacular.**

Camera, can be claimed on description of same.

**Apology.**

**Please note:** Last newsletter the published date for our spring show was wrong, the correct date is –

**September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.**

With the theme – **Orchids - Rainbow of Colour.**

**“Notice to Members”**

Max & Sue wish to notify members that they will be present at **The Rocky Swap** on the **3<sup>rd</sup> of August.** They will have a stall under the **Robert Schwarten Outdoor Pavilion** on **Exhibition road gate 3.**

They will be selling new releases of *Cattleya* & *Phalaenopsis* mericlones & seedlings in 80ml pots, along with *Vanda* mericlones & seedlings.

They can supply a list to members if they wish to E/Mail [max\\_sue@iprimus.com.au](mailto:max_sue@iprimus.com.au)

Max & Sue Rawlings of **MnS Orchids, Sarina.**

**“Cent Sale Date”**

The date for our forthcoming cent sale has been changed to:

**Sunday November the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Please take note.**

**“Mid year B.B.Q.?”**

The committee have set aside the date the **11<sup>th</sup> of August** to hold our mid year Barbie, further discussion to take place at the general meeting.

**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 2013**

**August 11<sup>th</sup> Potential B.B.Q. date**

August 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> Maroochydore Orchid Soc  
August 31 Sept 1 Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Spring Show  
August 31 Sept 1 Nambour Orchid Soc  
September 6 – 7<sup>th</sup> Childers Show  
September 6 – 7<sup>th</sup> Nambour Spring Show  
**September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton Spring Show**  
September 19 – 21<sup>st</sup> Maryborough Show  
September 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Noosa benched Show  
September 27 -28<sup>th</sup> Glasshouse Country Show  
November 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Nambour Species Show & trade Fair.

2014 TQOC Atherton  
2015 TQOC Mackay