Impton urchia 500

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au Newsletter January 2015

PO Box 5949 Red Hill. 4702 North Rockhampton, Qld. Founded 1955

## **Editors notes.**

Well here we go, another year ahead of us and as usual your newsletter will be available in your mail box or whatever format you receive it. Hopefully this year you will do your best and submit articles for your new editor, there are so many things that you could write on, for example, how I got started in orchids, how I grow successfully a specific orchid and so on. Believe you me this job is not the easiest of jobs and if you can contribute it would be and is much appreciated. Our society newsletter is read by orchid growers all over the world and receives many accolades. (Of course, rightfully so.)

With the next month being February it is our AGM month, I suppose you've all decided which positions you'll apply for, our society needs a change of executive members – not that the ones there now haven't done a good job, they've done a terrific job, our society is financially sound and doesn't have the in fighting that mars so many societies. When you have a change of the upper echelon you get new ideas and somehow you find a new vigour is injected into your society. Although we ask this of you every year we still get the same response, every one looking at the floor.

Judging by my plants this should be a good year bloom wise, they are looking very robust and healthy and not suffering from wet feet like they do in a normal wet. Having said that the last good wet that we had when we didn't see the sun for weeks on end and it rained continuously for days and days, in that time my plants grew with added vigour and produced beautiful blooms, which got me to thinking maybe the boffins are wrong saying your Cats must dry out between waterings, I don't think my orchids of many genera dried out for weeks. BUT I am not game to try it out with hand watering in case I kill them. I should put aside a bench of sacrificial plants and try it with them – once again I'm chicken.

Please think long and hard about taking on a position, even if it is a small one, they all count in the running of a successful society. The people at the top are getting tired of pleading with you so put your hand up just for a year and give us a much needed spell.

June, Kate & I wish you all a very happy and successful New Year, and may you all grow a grand champion.

Pete & Kate

Notice to Members please assist with cleaning the hall after the meeting

The closing date for articles to be included in the next newsletter are to be received by the  $\underline{11}^{th}$  of February; articles received after that date will be included in the following month. *Ed.* 



Judges for the Meeting

J. Glover T.Dean

**B** Hilse S.Frisch

NEXT MEETING Tuesday. 24/1/15 at 7.30pm Plants to be tabled by 7.15pm

<b>President:</b> Jeff Bloxsom jmbloxsom@hotmail.com	49286582		
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New Grower's Leader: Keith Marsden	49282752		
Public Relations: Ellie Dean	49282278		
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Librarians: Jack Martin	/ P.Shelton		
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# New Growers Report.

The first meeting of the new growers group will be held later in the year, Keith will provide information at our general meeting.

As is the normal procedure we shall have the meeting at our place to discuss the activities for the coming year. Put your thinking caps on your suggestions and input will be much appreciated.

We look forward to visiting your properties and seeing how you grow your orchids. Perhaps we could come to your place this year?

The meeting shall start at **2pm** at **463 Crane Avenue**, **North Rockhampton**. Weather permitting. Please phone **49282752** if you need any further information.

A plate of goodies for smoko and a folding chair if possible would be a great help.

Keith Marsden

New Growers Leader

# Christmas 2014 – The End of Another Year.

A gathering of 100 plus members were seated at the Frenchville Sports Club to enjoy the nights proceedings and what a night it was, good company, good food, good venue as a matter of fact the night was a ripper. This year once again Ken and Rosie went home with an armful of trophies scooping the pool once again. To them and all the other winners I'm sure the trophies are well deserved as we all know the amount of work goes into producing a top orchid (along with a bit of luck to have it flower at the right time,) Please accept our heartiest congratulations. Perhaps the highlight of the night was the multi draw raffle, there was on show to be won well over \$2000 worth of quality plants purchased from all over the state. It never fails to amaze me how one person can sit there and keep on winning draw after draw but it happens and the best of luck to them. Here I think accolades are due to Jeff and his band of willing helpers with special mention to Bill and Moyna, the venue was decorated wonderfully, the presentation and the way it was run went off without a hitch.

Unfortunately the many photos taken did not reproduce well for which I humbly apologise. Taking everything into account I feel sure you thoroughly enjoyed it as did I.

# A Christmas Greeting From Dr Greg Wheeler.

I received an E/Mail from Greg who has now retired from his busy life as a doctor and is enjoying his retirement competing in triathlons, he wishes me to pass on his best wishes to all who remember him. Greg was a doctor in Emu Park for many years and a much valued member of our society.

# **Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**

General Meeting Tuesday 25/11/2014

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New members:

Lucky Member: 73 Bob & Nat Lakey.

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

**Correspondence: In** = Newsletters, Boyne – Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society. .Redcliffe District Orchid Society Inc. Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc, Rockhampton Horticultural Society, , Nightcliff Orchid Society, Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc. Central QLD Bush house Orchid & Succulent Society, Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra, NSW Orchid News, Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society, Nambour Orchid News, Orchids QLD, Boyne Island Tannum Sands Orchid & Foliage Society Inc, STOCQ, Bundaberg Orchid Society, John Rees, Sandra Rowcliffe, Australian Orchid Foundation.

**OUT** = Thank You letter to Webbers, A. Cotton, David Peel. Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Moyna Richardson Carried.

Treasurers Report: Bill Richardson Read and moved his report second Ellie Dean Carried

**New Growers:** Keith Marsden thanked Pat & Owen Marsh for having us all go to their house Also Terry & Gwen Breingan. For letting us use their yard for the end of year B B Q Thanks Terry & Gwen.

**General Business:** There was a large discussion on new growers Some want the name New Growers changed to Workshop, Terry Ahern wants a secret vote, Jan Rawlings suggested a different name, David Eggleshaw spoke about why it can't be called New Growers, Jeff Glover spoke about leaving it as it is. A show of hands as to what the members wanted to stay New Growers yes to change no. Letter from Australian Orchids Foundation, thanks for the \$1,000.00 Donation.

**Plant Commentary:** Jeff Glover did the Commentary very informative talk thanks Jeff. **Lucky exhibitor:** Trevor & Marg Handley..

**Raffle:** Trish Craig. Jeff Bloxsom, Sue Eggleshaw, Moyna Richardson, Bernard Hilse, Marg Handley, Rosemary Wines.

Meeting closed: 9.15 pm.

Next Meeting: 27th January 2015

Jeff Bloxsom President

**Gloria Wakefield Secretary** 

### Monthly Competition Results. August 2014

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 43 Novice: 24)

Judges Choice:	Vasco. Pine Rivers	B&N Lakey
	Paph. Berenice	J&N Glover
	Cty. Burdekin Honey	K&R Smith
	(please note correction to genus name)	

<b>Popular Vote - Advanced:</b>
Cattleya up to 75mm:
Vandaceous up to 60mm:
Paphiopedilum:
Species:
Miscellaneous:

C. Hsing Coynae X C. aclandiea Vasco. Pine Rivers Paph. Berenice Den. lindleyi Eplc. Burdekin Honey

Popular Vote – Novice: Vandaceous: Species: Miscellaneous:

*Ascda*. Suksamran Sunlight *L. purpurata Epi*. Bees Knees B&N Lakey K&R Smith J&N Glover M&W Richardson K&R Smith

P&T Jenkinson P&T Jenkinson P&J Moore



Cty. Burdekin Honey



Paph. Berenice



Vasco. Pine



At our November meeting, Ken and Rosalie Smith tabled a beautiful, well grown plant of *Catyclia*. Burdekin Honey 'Shona'. This plant not only gained the "popular vote" and "judges choice" prizes on the night but the judging panel saw it worthy of our club Cultural Award. It carried 17 inflorescences with upwards of 247 flowers and buds. Foliage was lush and free of marks and it filled a 200mm pot. Ken & Rosie can be well proud of their *Cty*. **Burdekin Honey 'Shona' ACA/ROSI**. Congratulations.

( This grex was registered in 2003 by Sam Scalia, Home Hill, as *Epicattleya* {*Epc.*} Burdekin Honey, a hybrid between *Cty.* El Hatillo and E. Bees' Knees). *Terry Dean* 

#### **Popular Vote Results Best Show Exhibitor** Number ADVANCED Plant of Popular total Judges Autumn Spring Total meetings Choice show GROWERS Numbers vote points show points K & R Smith 17.5 28.5 T & E Dean 11.5 20.5 J & S Frisch B & N Lakey B & H Hilse M & W Richardson M & T Handley M & J Bloxsom 3.5 11.5 P & J Shelton Trish Craig 1.5 6.5 J & N Glover J Hogan T & G Breingan S & B Peters A Cotton C Smith M & J Sorenson R & G Bills F & B English **NOVICE GROWERS** P & T Jenkinson <mark>26</mark> S Rowcliffe 0.5 6.5 T & J Rawlings R & L Mann 3.5 11.5 L & P Lucke 0.5 10.5 P & J Moore G & M Maunder R & G Wakefield 1.5 8.5 R Wine M & C Dahler J & D Howes Schultz & White Z Kidman P March D Hughes S & D Eggleshaw

# **Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc. Competition Results 2014**

# **Neonicotinoid Insecticides for Control of Insect Pests of Orchids**

As Darwin noted some 150 years ago, all life forms are involved in a constant struggle for survival. Plants are no exception. Among other attributes, plants have had to evolve mechanisms that allow them to survive the challenges from insects (and other pests) that would otherwise feed on those plants. Foremost of these mechanisms has been the evolution of compounds that are toxic to pest insects. One of the best known of these compounds is nicotine, a naturally-occurring alkaloid found in tobacco and several other plants. Nicotine is so effective in protecting these plants from insect attack that it was almost inevitable that humans would eventually use nicotine in some form to protect beneficial plants. The first big advance occurred about 90 years ago when nicotine sulphate was synthesised. However, nicotine sulphate is not only very highly toxic to insects but also to humans. Because of the latter it is no longer used in most countries. Further refinement was required. During the 1980s scientists synthesised other compounds from nicotine. These had the advantage of being very highly toxic to insects but very lowly toxic to humans and other mammals. These compounds became known as the neonicotinoid insecticides (literally, the new insecticides derived from nicotine) and the first of these, imidacloprid, was registered in USA in 1994. Imidacloprid is now the world's most widely used insecticide and is the active ingredient in hundreds of commonly used products. Since the 1980s several neonicotinoids have been registered but of these, imidacloprid and acetamiprid are the two most likely to be encountered by orchid enthusiasts. Further comments are therefore restricted to these two compounds.

#### Characteristics.

The neonicotinoids mimic the neuro-toxic (nerve-killing) effect of nicotine. The pathways by which this effect occurs are much more highly developed in insects than in most other classes of animals. Thus, the neonicotinoids are far more toxic to insects than to mammals, birds and some fish species. They are also far less toxic to humans and other animals than are the organophosphate and carbamate insecticides they have largely replaced. The neonicotinoids are so toxic to insects that as little as 1-2 ppb (parts per billion) can cause death. Consequently, significantly less of the neonicotinoids need to be used to achieve the same results as if other insecticides are used. For example, the amount of imidacloprid required to kill some insects is only 1/10,000th the amount of DDT required to achieve the same result. Both imidacloprid and acetamiprid have both contact and systemic activity and have a long residual action. Systemic activity means that the insecticide is absorbed by the leaves and roots and translocated throughout the treated plant. Because both insecticides have a long residual action, they will persist and provide protection against insect attack for at least several weeks. Insects that suck or chew on the treated plant over this time need only ingest a minute amount of the insecticide to damage their nervous system and die as a result.

### **Comparative Toxicity.**

All compounds, pesticides included, are toxic to varying degrees. Acute toxicity is generally measured as the oral dose required to kill 50% of the test animals (usually rats). This is expressed as milligrams of the test substance per kilogram body weight of the test animal (ie mg/kg). It is called the Oral LD50. Note that the lower the LD50, the higher the acute toxicity. LD50 values <1-50 are classed as highly toxic, >50-500 as moderately toxic, >500-5000 as slightly toxic and >5000 as non-hazardous to humans. Table 1 shows the Oral LD50 values for two neonicotinoids (imidacloprid and acetamiprid) and their formulated products (Confidor, Mallet and Scott's Defender Maxguard respectively) relative to some other insecticides and commonly used compounds.

Compound	Source or Trade Name	Oral LD50 (mg/kg)	Use
Vitamin D*	Various vitamin pills	10	Essential for life
Nicotine*	Tobacco products	50	Narcotic
Caffeine*	Coffee, tea and other beverages	150	Stimulant
Chlorpyrifos*	Lorsban, Fortune 500	96	Contact, residual insecticide
Dimethoate*	Rogor	235	Systemic, residual insecticide
Imidacloprid*	Imidacloprid	450	Active ingredient of Confidor and Mallet insecticides
Carbaryl*	Bugmaster, Sevin	500	Contact, residual insecticide
Acetamiprid*	Acetamiprid	1064	Active ingredient of Scott's Maxguard insecticide
Pyrethrum*	Pyrethrum daisy	1500	Contact insecticide
Imidacloprid (formulated as Confidor or Mallet)	Confidor, Mallet	>5000	Contact, systemic and residual insecticides
Acetamiprid (formulated as Scott's Maxguard)	Scott's Defender Maxguard	>5000	Contact, systemic and residual insecticide
Maldison	Malathion, Maldison	>5000	Contact insecticide

#### Table 1. Comparative toxicities of various compounds

\* Technical Grade (ie the undiluted form)

Note (1) The Oral LD50 is far lower (ie the acute toxicity is higher) for vitamin D (a deficiency of which causes Rickets in humans and other animals) than for any of the insecticides. However, vitamin D in minute amounts is essential for all forms of higher life. (2) The acute toxicity of the neonicotinoids is far less than that of nicotine or caffeine (another naturally occurring plant alkaloid and one that has neuro-toxic effects on both insects and molluscs). However, both compounds are consumed on a regular basis, often without question, by a significant proportion of the human population. (3) The toxicity of the formulated neonicotinoids (Confidor, Mallet, Scott's Defender Maxguard) is so low that, when used according to label instructions, they are classed as slightly toxic or non-hazardous substances. Nevertheless, the neonicotinoids, like many pesticides, can have detrimental effects on non-target species. In orchid-house situations, these effects are likely to be of minor importance. However, care should be taken to avoid contamination of surrounding areas and watercourses and all precautions, including personal protection, should be strictly observed whenever any pest-control products are used.

### Role of Neonicotinoids in Orchid Culture.

Both the overall scientific evidence and user experience have demonstrated that the neonicotinoids, including both imidacloprid and acetamiprid, are one of the safest classes of insecticides ever developed, not only for humans but also for the general environment. In addition, the formulated products of imidacloprid (eg Confidor and Mallet) are very effective for controlling a wide range of insect pests that attack orchids. Of the sucking insects (ie bugs), all species of armoured scales (eg white louse, Boisduval scale, fly-speck scale), soft scales, mealybugs, white flies, aphids and fruit-spotting bugs are susceptible. Most species of thrips are also controlled. Because of their systemic action, imidacloprid formulations will control rootfeeding insects (eg mealybugs, thrip larvae), scales that hide under sheaths (eg Boisduval scale) and stem-boring insects, all of which are difficult to control with contact insecticides (eg Malathion) or by non-chemical means. Of the stem borers, dendrobium beetle larvae are potential candidates for control with imidacloprid formulations. These formulations kill surfacefeeding dendrobium beetle larvae and anecdotal evidence suggests that excellent control of stemboring larvae is achieved. However, definitive studies are yet to be conducted to test the anecdotal evidence. For chewing insects, Chrysomelid beetles (which includes Dendrobium beetles) and caterpillars (the larvae of moths and butterflies) are effectively controlled. Mites, which are arachnids, not insects, are not controlled.

Imidacloprid is rapidly broken down by sunlight and by water. This must be taken into consideration when applying the insecticide. Hence, spraying should be conducted in the late afternoon, never during the heat of the day or if the ambient temperature exceeds 35 degrees C. In addition, plants should not be watered for at least 12 hours after spray application. Once the insecticide is absorbed into the plant it is unaffected by rain or by watering. Scott's Defender Maxguard (active ingredient acetamiprid) is a convenient, ready-to-use, contact-systemic-residual formulation that is highly effective against the same range of sucking insects controlled by imidacloprid. The take-home message is that, when the need arises, these neonicotinoids offer a safe, simple, highly effective means of controlling almost all insect pests of orchids and their companion plants. Remember that message when you are enjoying your next cup of coffee!

### Friendii.



Ellie's Corner

Hello everyone. Welcome to the first edition of Ellie's Corner for 2015. I hope that you all enjoyed the happiness and excitement of the Festive Season and that you are now entering the New Year full of vim and vitality ready to grow lots of beautiful orchids! Our end of year

Christmas Party and prize giving was a great night, filled with fun and fellowship, with nearly 100 people attending and all present voted it a huge success. The function took place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Frenchville Sports Club.

Terry and I were honoured to receive a Certificate of Membership for 50 years. We have always enjoyed all the happy times we have shared with other members over the years and our enthusiasm is as keen as ever. During the years Terry has served as Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and Show Marshall, and I have been Public Relations Officer and Hostess. Keith and Pam Marsden received a Certificate for 40 years membership and they have both contributed greatly to our Society. Keith has been New Growers Leader since its inception in1979 when Dr Greg Williams was our President. Ted Page was presented with a Certificate for 20 years membership and Bernie and Shirley Peters and Terry and Jan Connolly were honoured for being members for 10 years.

Michael Dahler (aka Elvis Presley) and Carolyn had a very happy time at our Christmas Party and looked great. Laurie Lucke celebrated his 83<sup>rd</sup> Birthday with us all that evening. He and

Paxia welcomed their two daughters, one son and spouses and children home for Christmas and they all had a wonderful time together.

At the time of writing (12 January), Bev McArthur is a patient in Royal Brisbane Hospital. She developed blood clots in her leg and was flown urgently to Brisbane before Christmas for immediate attention. It was very serious. She then had to endure a follow up operation for skin grafting. I have phoned her and spoken with her at the Hospital (36368111) today and previously. She said the doctors feel she is improving at last. She has a grand daughter who visits her regularly and she had a lovely surprise on Christmas Day when her daughter Vicki and partner Rod flew from Gladstone and spent a few hours with her. Joy Dwyer (who now lives in Toowoomba and is a former member of our Society) phones Bev every few days and that is a great comfort to her. Our love and prayers are with you Bev.

Jill Howe tells me that Don is greatly improved and is back driving the car. He attends gym rehab at the Allied Health Centre at the University through the cardio program. All the best from all of us, Don.

Peter and Toni Jenkinson had a lovely family Christmas with most of their family present. Peter said it was a great joy that they were able to bring his mother home from Alexandra Gardens for Christmas Day. Peter is on extended leave at present and told me he is very busy repotting and working in his garden. He hopes sometime to fit in a little fishing!!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Richard and Lynne Mann as Richard prepares to enter the Rockhampton Base Hospital for a hip replacement on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Pat March has to undergo another operation on her foot and will have a plaster cast for several weeks. This is naturally a big disappointed for Pat and we will all be praying for her full recovery. On a much brighter note, I am happy to be able to report that Pat and Owen's grandson Nathaniel, is now making great progress after two cochlear ear implants. It is an absolute miracle – he is able to hear and is starting to speak. May God continue to bless this dear little boy, and his family and all the medical staff involved.

Weddings were on the mind of Trevor and Margaret Handley in the last few months of 2014. They were invited to 3 weddings of children of friends from Moranbah days. So with a watering system in place for the Handley Orchids, Trevor and Margaret flew to Perth 3 days after the September Orchid Show. While in Perth they visited Kings Park where they saw Donkey Orchids flowering as well as many colourful wildflowers. Collecting a hire car in Perth, they had a quick trip to Albany, Denmark, Manjimup, Augusta and then to Margaret River to attend the first wedding at the Brookland Valley Estate Winery. 2 days later they flew from Perth to Auckland NZ to attend the second wedding at Hamilton on the North Island. Early October was a wonderful time to be in the North Island garden wise as it was tulip time. After 12 days driving around the North Island, they flew home for 3 weeks and then they drove to Casuarina Beach in NSW for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wedding. The weddings were all wonderful occasions and Trevor and Margaret enjoyed catching up with so many old friends. Now, that is the way to enjoy life. Seize every opportunity to be with loved ones and enjoy good times together.

Happy Birthday to those members celebrating in January and February:

January: Patricia March 1: Marion Wilson 5: Wendy Ahern 9: Norma Glover 10: Faye English 14: Lionel Reeves and Rosalie Smith 15: Jim Dickenson 20: Jack Dickenson 21: Sharyn Frisch 24: Moyna Richardson 30.

February: Richard Mann and Zoe Kidman 2: John Sorsensen 6: Shae Tjerkstra 13: Bev Powell 16: Karen Carr and Carol Hine 18: Dot Rebetzke 21: Terry Breingan 27.

Lionel reminded me that he turns 70 this year and that he shares this special day with Rosie. May you all have a great day.

I recently had a very happy call from Sandra Rowcliffe telling me that she now has a position as Store Manager at Bras N Things at the City Centre Plaza. Sandra is a very talented, enthusiastic lady and I know she will succeed in whatever career path she chooses.

My love and prayers.

ELLIE DEAN.

### NOMINATION FORM FOR EXECUTIVE POSITION ROCKHAMPTON ORCHID SOCIETY INC. 2015.

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

Hereby nominate
For the position of
ProposerSignature
Seconder
I, being a financial member of the Society, accept the above nomination.
SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE

(Please print all names except signatures)

## **SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM. 2015.**

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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.

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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 attributed to the use or misuse of any material published in this Newsletter <u>Your Orchid Diary 2015</u> February 21<sup>st</sup> STOCQ –AGM Albert Park Bowls, Gympie. <u>March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Tri annual ROCKHAMPTON</u> April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Bribie Island Show April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Gladstone OS show, Robertson Toyota April 12<sup>th</sup> &13<sup>th</sup> ROCKHAMPTON OS show May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Gympie ADOS show. May 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Bundaberg OS show, Civic Centre. May 23 rd & 24<sup>th</sup> Boyne Island / Tannum Sands Show. June STOCQ meeting hoeted Nambour OS. July 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Caboolture OS Show. August 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Maroochydore OS show. September 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Maryborough DOS show. September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> ROCKHAMPTON OS show. September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> ROCKHAMPTON OS show. September 13<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> TQOC & AOC Conference & Show Mackay September 25<sup>th</sup> &26<sup>th</sup> Glasshouse COS show.