

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



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

PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702  
Founded 1955

## Newsletter July 2014

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### Editors notes.

Is every ones plants thoroughly confused like mine are? I've got a bush house full of flowers, most of them I expect to flower in the spring, I was told by a learned grower to cut off the buds and with a little bit of luck they'll flower again in the spring. I saddled up with a jar full of secateurs and Tri/Sod but just couldn't bring myself to do it, I s'pose they have to make their own mind up when its time to flower but it is most disconcerting when you tell them you are banking on a lot of them to be able to put on display in September. Still, I s'pose we'll come up with something we usually do. (Do you talk to your plants? Mine speak a different language I'm sure because they don't take any notice of me).

Speaking of the show I hope you have been staking and nurturing your display plants (I hope your doing better than me), Next month I will publish an article on how to prepare your plants for benching, written by Noel Grunden of Atherton, (of course you won't be benching will you, you'll be putting on a display). I really can't understand why some of the growers who have been growing for a number of years now don't go it alone, it's great to be with someone else but can you imagine the thrill when you get the blue ribbon for the best display, it's a real buzz I can tell you.

I notice there are a few of you that didn't wrap up like we told you, I'll bet you do it next year because this winter is one of the coldest I've ever experienced since I've lived here, or maybe its just old age with the blood getting thinner. If you didn't wrap up did you treat them with something like Envy for protection, if such is the case I would like to know how they survive the cold? With mine flowering like they are I'm beginning to wonder whether I'm treating them too well, whatever I'll stick to it.

We are still waiting for some articles from members, if you read an interesting article written by someone and you think it would be of interest let me have it and I'll do the rest. *Please*. It is becoming very difficult to find good articles that you may be interested in

See you next month, God willing, in the mean time good growing and God bless.

*Pete & Kate*

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

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**The closing date for articles to be included in the next newsletter are to be received by the 13<sup>th</sup> of August; articles received after that date will be included in the following month. *Ed.***

## Orchid Society Stores

*For all your orchid supplies.*

Pots many & various as well as many different potting mixes.

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**Ph 49222637**

**For Members Only**

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**Judges for the Meeting**

**J. Glover T.Dean**

**B Hilse T. Craig**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday, 22/7/14**

**at 7.30pm**

**Plants to be tabled by**  
**7.15pm**

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom  
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**Public Relations:** Ellie Dean 49282278

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**Registrar:** Terry Dean 49282278

**Provider:** Maxine Maunder 49283212

**Door Monitors/ Hostesses:**  
Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

**Librarians:** Jack Martin / P.Shelton

**Raffle Plant Caretaker:** Terry Dean

**Property Officers:** B &F English

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## New Growers Report.

The June meeting for the new growers was held at the home of Bob and Nat Lakey on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>,

On arrival we were welcomed by Bob and Nat and were invited to look over their gardens and orchid collection before afternoon tea.

Their collection has grown over the years like collections do, to a stage that required a building of another orchid house.

The new house is igloo shaped and believe me very impressive. This is the second of this type of house that Bob has constructed and every one present was impressed. He explained the benefits to the members also this type of construction is easy with the extra benefit being the cost factor.

Their collection is now one of the big collections in Rocky along with the fact that they have put in the research and work that have their orchids growing in very good condition.

The trouble plant section was next following afternoon tea giving our concerned growers the chance to obtain their answers from our experienced growers present.

Bob addressed the members on some of the viruses that can be experienced in growing orchids.

The raffle completed the meeting with a few lucky ones taking home a plant or two to add to their collections.

My sincere thanks to Bob and Nat for giving us the privilege of viewing your collection and all were in agreeance it was an enjoyable afternoon, also my thanks to all who donated to the raffle, and to every member who came along and helped to make the meeting so enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held at the home of **Trevor and Marg Handleys at 16 Flinders Close Yeppoon.** Commencing at **2 P.M. on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July.**

The usual plate for afternoon tea and a folding chair if possible also Marg suggests a jumper or jacket as it may be cold.

*Keith Marsden*

Phone - 49282752

Trev and Marg - 49393196

### Did you know?

***At around 24,000 square kilometers – and larger than Israel – Anna Creek Station in South Australia is the world's largest working cattle station.***

## **Reed Stemmed Orchids** (Or as we know them – crucifix orchids)

These orchids are very easy to grow in a warm sheltered spot, protected from the wind. The reed stemmed orchids of which we speak, won't stand frost, perhaps light ones but don't do well in frosty areas. Their red and orange shades are most common but they range through cream, yellow, pink and lilac to purple, they make good container plants.

According to a well known nursery in Cairns they are best grown in large clumps so that their slender stems help support each other when the adventitious roots which form the stems get entwined. This close and tangled growth ensures a massed flower effect. Most flower during the warmer weather unless you can grow them in a sun trap.

A weekly or perhaps fortnightly application of fertilisers like Thrive, Aquasol, applied at half the recommended strength.

Aerial roots form on the older stems and new plants in the form of keikis can be started by cutting off a portion of the stem with the keiki attached and planting in a new pot. (Don't remove the keiki until a good strong root growth has formed).

There are several hundred different types of Epidendrums but we are talking now only of the reed stemmed types. Many of the others are quite difficult to grow if you try to grow them under the same conditions as the reed stemmed type.

The amount of sun needed varies with locality of course. In warmer Queensland areas (like ours), they like morning sun and some shade from the hot afternoon sun. A nursery on the northern coast of N.S.W. finds they will tolerate most growing mediums from well manured soil to rather coarse composts which may include some soil, sand, peat moss, rice hulls, peanut shells, charcoal, bark or cow manure.

In time they will grow quite tall and flop around all over the place unless they have some kind of support – either growing them in clumps as suggested or supplying them with something else to which they can cling.

If you are growing them in a garden setting (which they love and flourish) a netting support could be used. A few years ago I accidentally left a pot against a wire fence when I remembered it a few weeks later it had grown 3' up the fence, it's still there and doing well.

If you decide to grow them in a pot use a lattice work support or bamboo stakes strategically placed. Or if you prefer, let them scramble and intertwine with each other. This can be effective up to a point but if you have a passion for tidiness forget it, because they can get very untidy.

Watering is just the same for any Epidendrum, they don't like wet feet but enjoy moisture, if you decide to grow them in pots, a broad pot with good drainage is ideal as they don't like being pot bound.

*Marie Knuckey*

Reprinted from the O.S.S.E.A. 1980.

# **Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**

**General Meeting Tuesday 24/6/2014**

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**Lucky Member:** 57 Jill Howes.

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

**Correspondence: In** = Newsletters, Redcliffe District Orchid Society Inc. Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc, Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc, Mackay District Orchid Society Inc. Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc. Pioneer River Orchid & plant Association Inc, Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Nightcliffe Orchid Society. Central QLD Bush house Orchid & Succulent. Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc, Nambour Orchid News, Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. STOC QLD, John Rees, Aon Insurance, Kennas Kapers, Mackay & District Orchid Society, Orchids Australia, Australian Orchid Review, Nambour Diamond of Orchids, Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Association Inc.  
**OUT** = . Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Pat March Carried.

**Treasurers Report:** No Report

**New Growers:** Keith Marsden thanked Carol & Mick Dahler for having us all go to their house Next one will be at Nat & Bobs house, please bring a plate for afternoon tea and a chair.

**General Business:** Bob Lakey has put a new web Page up. Sandra Rowcliffe suggested that the club set up a G.Mail. Show - Dinner for that night should be held at the show Peter explained what a closed show is as our show is closed. Show of hands to keep it as it is. The theme for the show will be "Diamond Jubilee" Don't forget the Cent Sale this year is on Sunday the 26 th October.

**Plant Commentary:** Terry Dean did the Commentary very informative talk, thanks Terry.

**Lucky exhibitor:** Graham Maunder.

**Raffle:** Gloria Wakefield, Sandra Rowcliffe, Jeff Bloxsom, Peter Jenkinson, Lorraine Weaver, Burnie Peters, Keith Marsden, Ted Page.

**Meeting closed:** 8.55 pm.

**Next Meeting:** 22nd July 2014

**Jeff Bloxsom President**

**Gloria Wakefield Secretary**

## Monthly Competition Results. June 2014

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 29. Novice: 16)

### Novice popular vote winners for May inadvertently omitted last newsletter:

<b>Cattleya</b>	<i>Rlc. California Girl</i>	P & T Jenkinson
<b>Vandaceous</b>	<i>V. Romance Choice x V. Varanth</i>	P & J Jenkinson
<b>Oncidiinae</b>	<i>Onc. Wildcat</i>	R. Wine

<b>Judges Choice:</b>	<i>Vasco. Asdornithee</i>	J. Bloxsom
	<i>Phal. Mt. Lip X Phal. I-Hsin Dreamer</i>	T & M Handley
	<i>C. Unknown</i>	Jill Howe

### **Popular Vote - Advanced:**

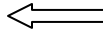
<b>Cattleya up to 75mm:</b>	<i>Rlc. Mem Gordon Vallance</i>	K & R Smith
<b>Cattleya over 75mm:</b>	<i>Blc. Village Chief North</i>	K & R Smith
<b>Vandaceous:</b>	<i>Vasco. Asdornithee</i>	<b>Tie</b> J. Bloxsom
<b>Vandaceous:</b>	<i>V. Laure Lynn House</i>	<b>Tie</b> T & E Dean
<b>Phalaenopsis:</b>	<i>Phal. Mt. Lip X Phal. I-Hsin Dreamer</i>	T & M Handley
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	<i>Psychopsis papillio</i>	P & J Shelton

### **Popular Vote – Novice:**

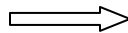
<b>Cattleya:</b>	<i>C. Unknown</i>	Jill Howe
<b>Vandaceous:</b>	<i>V. Black Beauty X V. coerulea</i>	P & T Jenkinson
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	<i>Phal. Toma Arenus X Phal. Tai Lin Queen</i>	P & T Jenkinson



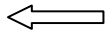
C. Unknown



*Vasco. Asdornithee*



*Phal. Mt. Lip X Phal. I-Hsin Dreamer*



# Orchid Pests and Diseases

## Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

by Sue Bottom, [sbottom15@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net) (Revision 1)



- **Plant Sap Feeding Insects**
  - Scale
  - Mealybugs
  - Thrips
  - Aphids
  - Whiteflies
- **Mites**                      Next month
- **Chewing Pests**
  - Snails and Slugs
  - Caterpillars
  - Roaches and Grasshoppers
- **Ants**

## Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects Aphids

**Symptoms:** Aphids are sucking insects that attack buds, flowers and new growths and transmit disease from plant to plant. Buds and flower may fail to open and leaves may have a sticky deposit.

**Treatment:** Wash aphids away from the plant with a jet of water. Plants can be sprayed with a pesticide like Malathion, Orthene or Safer Soap using the product in accordance with label instructions.

**Miscellaneous:** The honeydew excreted by aphids and other sucking insects is attractive to ants and is an ideal medium for sooty mold. When sooty mold is present, inspect the plants for aphids, mealybugs, scale and mites.

pictures courtesy of the American Orchid Society



## Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects Whiteflies

**Symptoms:** Whiteflies are small, moth-like insects that attack buds, flowers and new growth. The tell tale sign of whiteflies is a cloud of tiny white insects arising from an affected plant when it is moved or disturbed.

**Treatment:** Plants can be sprayed with Malathion, Orthene or Safer Soap following label instructions. Repeat applications at 4 day intervals until whiteflies are no longer present.

**Control:** Good sanitation and elimination of weeds will help prevent infestation as will keeping plant hosts separate from your orchids.

bottom picture courtesy of the American Orchid Society





## Garden pests & diseases

This article is from the ABC gardening files from the late Colin Campbell It is Episode 22 from series 20

When insect pests invade your plants you've got to get on the problem right away. Colin prefers to us home –made remedies where possible because they're generally safer for the environment and more economical. However he advises, "Be careful of these solutions around children, as they should not be ingested. Don't store them in soft drink bottles and make sure you keep them out of reach of children.

**Scale and Mealybugs:** Make an oil preparation that suffocates them by mixing four tablespoons of dishwashing liquid into one cup of vegetable oil. Mix one part of that mixture to about twenty parts of water, put it in your sprayer and spray the affected plants.

**Aphids, Caterpillars and other insects:** Add two tablespoons of soap flakes to one litre of water and stir thoroughly until completely dissolved (this is quicker in warm water). There is no need to dilute this further, just spray it on as is.

**Black Spot Fungicide:** In Queensland, Black Spot's a major problem with roses, but this fungicide mixture works miracles. Add three teaspoons of bicarb soda to one litre of water. Don't get carried away with the bicarb soda because if you make it too strong, it'll cause all sorts of problems. Add a few drops of either dishwashing liquid, or fish emulsion to help adhere to the leaf more effectively.

**Fungicide:** Mix one level teaspoon of bicarb soda into one litre of water. Add one litre of skim milk and a pinch of Condy's Crystals which you can get from a produce agent (someone that supplies horse owners). Shake thoroughly.

**All-round insecticide:** Chop four large onions, two cloves of garlic, and four hot chilies. Mix them together and cover with warm, soapy water and leave it to stand overnight. Strain off that liquid and add it to five litres of water to create an all round insecticide.

**Pesticide:** Crush a whole bulb of garlic and cover with vegetable oil. After two days strain off the liquid, add a couple of drops of dishwashing liquid and use one millilitre of concentrate to one litre of water.

**Herbicide:** Add a cup of common salt to a litre of vinegar. After it's dissolved, brush it directly onto weeds. Remember it's not a selective weed killer. It'll kill anything it touches so be very careful how you use it.

**Predator attack:** Predators that prey on pests are great things to have in the garden. Lacewings are particularly desirable because they consume aphids and many other pests. To encourage them into your garden, dissolve one teaspoon of yeast based sandwich spread in water and spray it all over the plants.

## What's wrong with my Orchid?

### Bud drop:-

There are many different reasons why buds fall off before flowering  
Under or over watering.

Temperature extremes and rapid temperature changes.

Fumes from natural gas leaks, paint and other chemicals.

Ethylene – high producers are Apple, Pear, Avocado, Peach, Plum, Melons, Figs and tomatoes.

Low humidity.

Genetics.

Aphids, Thrips and some mites.

Changing growing location. If you want to change a plant's location so that it will be enjoyed, wait until the flower is fully open.

### Ants can be responsible for infestations of more serious pests.

Ants seldom cause any direct damage to orchids; rather they indicate the possibility of infestation by scale, mealy bugs or aphids. To control ants it is usually adequate to remove the source of food that is attracting them so you must examine your plants and control the pests that attract ants. Some orchids, especially Cymbidiums produce sugary secretions on the flower spikes. In this case, the ants from reaching the plants by setting the legs of the bench into tins partly filled with oil or soapy water, to make an ant proof moat if you find evidence of aphids, scale or mealy bugs, you may try either straight 70% or 90% *Isopropyl* (rubbing alcohol) – touch the area with a soaked cotton swab, repeat every 3 days for about 2 weeks. If you want to use an insecticide while you have your plants outside you could use *Bifenthrin* which has been used very effectively against ants. Spray the benches, bench legs, the floors and walls where the ants can climb up to the plants. Avoid spraying the flowers, for this you can use Confidor. Another tip is to use bay leaves around the point of entry and in the pots. Ants are repelled by bay leaves.

Mealy Bugs. By Paul J. Johnson Of the Insect Research Collection of South Dakota State University.

Probably the most popular home remedy against this group of pests is to swab and daub plants with a cotton swab or ball of cotton dipped in *Isopropyl*. Do NOT use other alcohols, such as ethanol or methanol that will penetrate the plant tissues and cause considerable damage! The common 70% *Isopropyl* alcohol available in stores is satisfactory. On hard leaved plants, gentle rubbing with the fingers, cotton or a soft infant's toothbrush is effective. First remove all the visible insects, large and small. Then treat the affected area with alcohol. With scale insects and mealy bugs you will still need to repeat the alcohol treatment to remove the tiny yellowish spots which are the recently hatched crawlers. Spraying of alcohol solutions is not always effective against eggs which are often well hidden, hence the need for thoroughness and repetition. Pay particular attention to the folds, branch bases, midrib areas and roots. Spraying the alcohol with a misting bottle or small pump sprayer is effective but dribbling alcohol into tight areas is necessary.

## Hard scale.

Once hard scale is established it is hard to eradicate and can take several treatments. A potential rare problem with alcohol treatment is chilling of the plant. The rapid evaporation of alcohol cools the plant tissues, especially with air movement that increases evaporative cooling. This chilling is suspected of over cooling tissues and creating zones of dead cells that may become necrotic from bacteria or fungi. On warm or breezy days consider wiping any residual alcohol with a tissue instead of permitting it to evaporate off the plant. Such problems and tissue drying are found particularly on soft or thin leafed orchids such as the *Oncidium* alliance.

*Isopropyl* alcohol is readily available as rubbing alcohol in cosmetic and health areas at pharmacies. It is normally sold as a 70% solution (90% is also available) and this may be diluted considerably for use against insects. One recipe for a 1.5 litre spray bottle is to mix a 50/50 solution of alcohol with a few drops to about a teaspoonful of liquid soap to act as a wetter/spreader. Many home growers mix in a small amount of mineral oil, Neem oil or one of the horticultural oils (a tea spoonful of oil to a 1.5 litre sprayer). The actual proportions aren't critical; it seems that every grower has their own proportions none of which seem to work significantly better than another. Caution is urged; however as excessive amounts or too strong a detergent, or use of ammonia based chemical cleaners may damage your plants, particularly those in flower or in bud. This is particularly true of dish soaps and household detergents that could cause removal of natural protective waxes from plant tissue.



### **Important Notice**



**THIS YEAR YOUR SOCIETY THE ROCKHAMPTON ORCHID SOCIETY INC' WILL CELEBRATE ITS 60<sup>TH</sup> YEAR.**

**WE INTEND TO HOLD A 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DIAMOND JUBILEE SHOW ON THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AND 14<sup>TH</sup>.**

**THIS IS THE DATE OF OUR NORMAL SPRING SHOW. WE HAVE SENT OUT INVITATIONS TO VARIOUS CLUBS AND LIKE SOCIETIES TO COME AND JOIN WITH US FOR THE WEEKEND AND CELEBRATE THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION.**

**A GALA ANNIVERSARY DINNER WILL BE HELD ON THE SATURDAY NIGHT OF THE SHOW.**

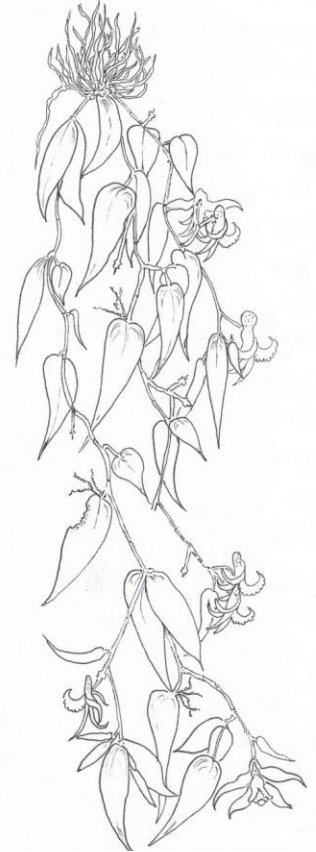
**SO KEEP THIS WEEKEND FREE AND HOPEFULLY ALL OUR MEMBERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER OVER THE WEEKEND.**

**WE HOPE TO MAKE THIS SHOW BIGGER AND BETTER THAN ANY OTHER.**

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*Den. pugioniforme* by Hymn

**Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**  
[www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au](http://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

**Your Orchid Diary 2014**

August 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Maroochydore O/S Show  
**August 26<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton O.S. General meeting**  
September 5<sup>th</sup> – 6 Nambour O/S Show  
**September 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton Spring Show**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup> - Rockhampton Jubilee Dinner.**  
September 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Nambour Spring Show  
September 19 – 21<sup>st</sup> Maryborough Show  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup> Rockhampton O.S. General meeting**  
September 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Glasshouse Country O/S Show  
**October 28<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton O.S. General meeting**  
**November 25<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton O.S. General meeting**

**November is the last meeting for the year 2014. Next meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup> - 2015.**

2015 TQOC Mackay