



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

Newsletter November 2014

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

Editors notes.

As you will all know this is the last newsletter for the year 2014, so being I shall take this opportunity to thank the few contributors who helped to make it what it was, with special thanks to Friendii and Ellie, maybe I shouldn't do that but I do appreciate their input. Being editor of your newsletter is a demanding job and whoever takes it on will find the task a hard one, finding interesting articles about orchids is a challenge..

Before I go any further I must thank my dear daughter for her expertise with a computer and for giving of her time (which is considerable) not many of you would know Kate but she was a member of the society also an editor of your news letter in years gone by but she spends most of her time now in a wheel chair so can no longer enjoy the wonderful hobby we have. So my dear, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

At this point we would like to wish you and yours a very merry Xmas and a happy new year. If you are going on a journey, make it a safe one, all our members are special to us,

We have decided that February's newsletter will be our **final one**. Anybody interested think about putting your name in next year, Kate & I will happily give you the format we are using & any help in the change over.

Pete, June & Kate.



*Merry Christmas to all
from your newsletter editors.*

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 14th of January; articles received after that date will be included in the following month. *Ed.*

Orchid Society Stores

For all your orchid supplies.

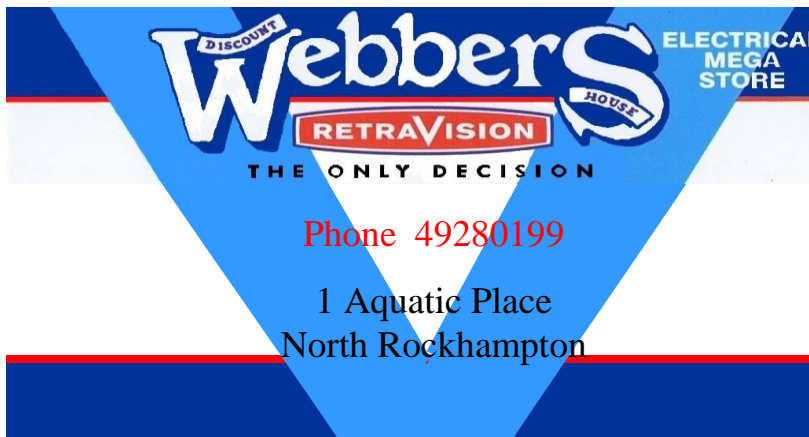
Pots many & various as well as many different potting mixes.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

*Barry and Faye English:
Ph 49222637*

FOR MEMBERS ONLY
*Closed Thursday and lunchtime
12 – 2pm.*

(Please note: This work is carried out 7 days a week voluntarily)



Sponsors of the Rockhampton Orchid Society

Judges for the Meeting

J. Glover T. Dean

B Hilse D. Hughes

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday. 25/11/14

at 7.30pm

**Plants to be tabled by
7.15pm**

President: Jeff Bloxsom
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Technical Advisers: John Frisch / J.Glover

Registrar: Terry Dean 49282278

Provider: Maxine Maunder 49283212

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Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

Librarians: Jack Martin / P.Shelton

Raffle Plant Caretaker: Terry Dean

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New Growers Report.

Saturday the 1st the new growers gathered at the home of Owen and Pat March for their yearly repotting workshop, Pat and Owen kindly invited the members to have their meeting at their home as their back yard is an ideal place to conduct the repotting workshop. Their trees created an ideal location for such an event at this time of year.

The members were made welcome and invited to look over the gardens and orchid collection housed in three bush houses.

It was a pleasant surprise to me to see the number of advanced growers who came along to the afternoon and help the new growers repot their orchids. This I think just shows how well our society is running at the moment.

After enjoying afternoon tea we discussed the troubled plant section for the members who had concerns before they started to repot.

My thanks to our experienced growers for your time in helping our new members repot, your involvement is so important in making our new members feel welcome and a part of our society.

The afternoon raffle completed a very busy and enjoyable afternoon.

My sincere thanks to Owen and Pat and to all who came along and helped in making the afternoon the success that it was and to all the growers who have so generously opened up their homes over the period of the year.

As the year is coming to an end for me as new growers leader I would like to thank you one and all who helped again this year in so many ways, without your help my job would be that much harder, believe me, I do appreciate you help.

The barbeque at Terry and Gwen's will be over by the time you receive this newsletter so I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry and Gwen on behalf of all the members who were able to attend for a good night spent at their home once again.

I will give my thanks and report at the November meeting.

I would like, on behalf of my wife Pam and myself I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Keith Marsden

The logo features the words "Seasons Greetings" in a large, blue, serif font with a light blue drop shadow. Above the text are several stylized blue snowflakes of varying sizes, scattered across the top of the letters.

Seasons Greetings

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

General Meeting Tuesday 28/10/2014

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

Lucky Member: No 4 - Keith and Pam Marsden

Minutes: of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Bernie Peters, Seconded Peter Shelton. Carried

Correspondence: In – Newsletters Townsville Orchid Society Inc., Rockhampton Horticultural Society, Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc., Mackay District Orchid Society Inc., Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc., NSW Orchid News, Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society, Pioneer River Orchid & Plant, Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc., Nightcliffe Orchid Society, Redcliffe District Orchid Society Inc., Central QLD Bush house Orchid & Succulent Society, Nambour Orchid News. Email from Ted asking for attendance numbers on behalf of John Rees for the upcoming STOCQ Meeting to be held by Noosa Society. Statement from The Rock. Orchids Australia and Australian Orchid Review books and Orchids in Paradise.

Out – Sympathy card to Jeff & Norma Glover.

- Check with Gloria that a letter of thanks has been sent to David of Peel Jewellers.

Sandra Rowcliffe moved that the correspondence be accepted and this was seconded by Pat Marsh. Carried.

Treasurers Report - Bill Richardson read and moved and seconded by Sue Eggleshaw. Carried.

New Growers – Keith Marsden thanked Graham and Maxine Maunders for hosting the last new growers. The next new grower meeting is to be held at Pat & Owen Marsh's home. It will be a repotting workshop with the club supplying the pots and potting mix. Members are invited to bring along a plant to repot. Experienced growers will assist with this. The Christmas Barbecue is at Gwen & Terry Breingan's home on Saturday 15th November commencing at 4.00pm. Cooking will start around 6.00pm. Members are asked to bring their own food, a dessert to share, chairs and maybe a folding table. Also bring along donations for the rolling raffle. For further inquiries check with Keith/Pam or Gwen/Terry.

General Business –

- Following a recent committee meeting which recommended making a donation to the Australian Orchid Foundation, Jeff read out the details of this Foundation for the information of members. Bill Richardson moved the motion that our Society donate \$1,000 to the foundation. This was seconded by Ellie Dean and all were in favour.
- Jeff Bloxsom mentioned another item discussed at the committee meeting with regards to new memberships with our Society. He mentioned that he and several senior members would like to see it advocated that new members attend the night meeting to be presented with their "new member kit". He also said that he would like to see new members only join at night meetings and not at new growers or the shows. This created much discussion. Bill Richardson mentioned that this could be discrimination against members from out of town or as Ken Smith mentioned older people who would not like attending night meetings. Jeff mentioned that some southern clubs hold an occasional general meeting during the day to address this. Moyna Richardson talked about a recently widowed older friend who she would take to new growers, and that she would also be happy to bring her to a night meeting. Moyna said that people who haven't attended night meetings previously may like to. It was clarified that this is for new members joining in 2015 and not existing members. Jeff said that we are a club that promotes and grows orchids not just a social new growers club. Keith Marsden spoke on new growers, as far as he is concerned there is nothing wrong with new members joining through new growers. He feels that it is part of holding our club together. It allows new members to meet members in a social environment. Jenny Moore asked for more clarification. Trish Craig asked if we had statistic on who attends new grower meetings, Jeff said that no statistics were kept. Trish made the comment that there is no promotion during new growers informing attendees of the night meetings. Sue Eggleshaw suggested maybe new growers should be the Saturday prior and not after the night meeting. Jeff Glover said that the club has become very lapse in accepting new members, and that the formal process is

that they should attend a night meeting. Dave Eggleshaw suggested that the constitution be checked. Bill Richardson moved that this issue should be held over until the next general meeting, this was seconded by Peter Shelton and all were in favour, carried.

- Ellie Dean mentioned that she interviews new members and that she writes a paragraph about them in “Ellie’s Corner”, introducing them to members.
- Cent Sale – Jeff Bloxsom thanked everyone who participated, cooked, donated etc. One thing he brought to notice is that some of the donated groceries were out of date by 2 to 6 years. And also some sickly plants had also been donated. Maxine Maunders suggested that the club could perhaps purchase the groceries to ensure that this does not happen, but Jeff said that this will not be done. The Cent Sale raised \$2565. Next year there will have to be more promotion to increase numbers. It did clash with Pinefest and Bathurst due to the change of dates. Jeff praised the amount of work that Gloria Wakefield does for it.
- The annual competition on tabled plants concludes at the November meeting. Jeff is still to organise trophies for the end of year awards. He will keep them the same as previous years.
- The 2015 Tri Annual Get Together will be held on 14th & 15th March and will be held in Rockhampton hosted by our society.
- The 2015 AOC Conference is being held in Mackay from 18th September. If members are wishing to register for this it is \$200 and due by 31st January otherwise it increases. Our Society is organising a Coach Trip and it will be a three-night weekend – Saturday 19th, Sunday 20th & Monday 21st September, returning Tuesday 22nd September. The Club will be putting in a display to support the conference. It is the following weekend after our Spring Show. Terry and Ellie Dean are planning to go up for the full week. Jeff has booked a motel for 25 double rooms at Coral Cay Resort 16-18 Nebo Road. The costings he has are:- \$185 per room twin share per night which includes a buffet breakfast each morning, North’s Coach \$4,000 plus meals and accommodation for the driver approximately \$800. Official dinner on the Saturday evening \$90 and the BBQ on the Monday evening \$25. Jeff said that time would possibly allow a bus trip to Eungella on the Sunday. It works out at approximately \$485 each. For those who wish to register that will be extra. The club would subsidise this trip from funds received from the 2013 and 2014 cent sales. There will be no other trips next year. It will be on a first in basis for the trip as far as 50 motel rooms/52 coach seats available. Anyone extra will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation. Moyna Richardson moved that the club subsidises members \$200 per person, this was seconded by Bev Powell, all agreed and this was carried.
- Christmas Party Sunday 30th November. Jeff said that he will need numbers quickly for this. Only late names will be taken at the November Meeting and anyone who puts their name down and cancels following this meeting will be expected to pay the subsidised dinner cost of \$15. Jeff has received some plants for the multi-draw raffle with others arriving soon. The club will also buy some locally so if you have good flowering plants let Jeff know.
- Jeff showed the club’s 50th Anniversary booklet which he found 6 copies of and these will be in our library to borrow. There were booklets done for the clubs 25th, 40th & 50th years.
- Discussion about club shirts and it was decided rather than having the same shirt for members that members will still continue to organise their own shirts at the moment.

Plant Commentary – Jeff Glover

Lucky Exhibitor – Trish Craig

Raffle Winners – Craig Schultz x 2, Jeff Bloxsom, Keith Marsden, Gwen Breingan, Dianne Hughes, Craig Schultz but he asked for this to be redrawn and this was won by Bob Lakey.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 25th November

Meeting Closed at – 9.50pm

Jeff Bloxsom President

Sandra Rowcliffe Stand in Secretary

Monthly Competition Results. October 2014

(Plants tabled: Advanced 49: Novice 33:)

Judges Choice:	<i>Brs.</i> Rex	G Maunder
	<i>Phrag.</i> Olaf Grubb X <i>P. sargentianum</i>	B & H Hilse
	<i>Vasco.</i> Pine Rivers	P & J Shelton

Popular Vote - Advanced:

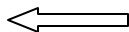
Cattleya up to 75mm:	<i>Ctna.</i> Why Not X <i>Lc.</i> Scarlet Imp	J & S Frisch
Vandaceous over 60:	<i>Ascda.</i> Fuchs Sunset X <i>V.</i> Keereeboon	J Bloxsom
Vandaceous up to 60:	<i>Vasco.</i> Pine Rivers	P & J Shelton
Dendrobium:	<i>Den.</i> Airy Crimson (NR)	J & S Frisch
Paphiopedilum:	<i>Paph.</i> Vanguard	T & E. Dean
Phalaenopsis:	<i>Phal.</i> Unknown	M & T Handley
Oncidiinae:	Tie <i>Onc.</i> Space Race	J & S Frisch
	Tie <i>Colm.</i> Sphacetante X <i>Onc.</i> Igustre (NR)	J & S Frisch
Species:	<i>Asctm.</i> <i>miniatum</i>	J & M Bloxsom
Miscellaneous:	<i>Epi.</i> Max Valley	M & T Handley

Popular Vote – Novice:

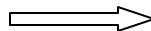
Cattleya:	<i>Pot.</i> C.R.B's Paradise	P & T Jenkinson
Vandaceous:	<i>Ascda.</i> Butterfly X <i>V.</i> Udom Gold	P & J Moore
Dendrobium:	<i>Den.</i> Waiainae Valley	R & L Mann
Oncidiinae:	<i>Pyychopsis.</i> Kalihi	C Schultz & A White
Species:	<i>Coelogyne.</i> <i>pandurata</i>	Sandra Rowcliffe
Miscellaneous:	<i>Phal.</i> Queen's Brother X <i>Phal.</i> Lucky Grief ParFang (NR)	P & T Jenkinson



Brs. Rex



Vasco. Pine Rivers



Please check your plant names & registrations before benching. ED



Phrag. Olaf Grubb X
P. sargentianum

PERLITE and PEAT POTTING MIX. By Bruce Bennett

Perlite and peat is an alternative potting mix to use when things go wrong with your orchids. It's easy to use, it's cheaper and more readily available than good quality bark, its components are not broken down by bacteria (which rob plants of nitrogen), it's easily removed without damaging roots during repotting and it's suitable for use with a low nitrogen fertiliser.

Chillagoe Queensland perlite is sold in 100 litre bags and is available in a number of grades. 'Super Coarse' is suitable for most plants, while 'Jumbo' is better for plants with large roots. Tip the perlite into water and screen off to remove dust. Perlite is neutral (ph 7) and sterile. Canadian peat is sold in 275 litre bales, rather large for an individual but two or more growers could share a bale. When sieving perlite and breaking up peat, use a face mask to avoid breathing the dust. For general use, mix 8 parts perlite to 1 part screened peat, adding 5 gms of lime per litre of peat to give a ph of about 6.5 (a more water- retentive mix comprising only 5 parts to 1 part of peat has been used during drought conditions like we've experienced lately). Add any fertiliser of your choice. Mix damp peat (not wet) so that the resultant mix flows easily. Peat holds water very effectively and releases it reluctantly.

Hold the plant in the pot and fill around the roots with the potting mix. Bump the pot on the bench to settle the mix but don't try to compress it as you may do with a bark mix, or you might block drainage and aeration. You may add a long acting fertiliser, then top the pot with small round river gravel to improve the appearance and deter weed growth. High light levels and good air movement will help prevent bacterial and fungal infections. Plants potted in this mix seem to tolerate higher light levels than similar plants grown in other media. Paphiopedilums, Coelogynes, Bulbophyllums, Dendrochyllums, Oncidiums, Prostheceas, Lycastes, Catasetums, and many other genera will all grow satisfactorily in this mix.

REPOTTING and MOUNTING TIPS.

Surprisingly your orchids are amazingly adaptive plants, and while we have a rather large variation in climate, no matter where you put them your orchids will do their utmost to grow and produce flowers but naturally if you try to emulate their natural habitat they'll perform much better. When repotting, after removing the orchid out of it's pot where it has been residing for up to 3 happy years, you'll find that you will have damaged roots no matter how careful you've been, trim these off to the base. ⁽⁷³⁾ (Some growers advocate just cutting the root back to a healthy butt but the trimmed root will never grow a green tip again, so I cut it right back.) If you, like me have a small bush house and you have to back cut the plant to make it a reasonable size that you can handle, do so with care making sure you have not damaged the new shoot/s, you now have two or more plants to repot. Choose the one you are going to keep but don't discard the others, look them over to see if they have a nice healthy eye which should develop into a shoot and pot it up to give to your friend or put it under the bench and wait for it to develop. I should say here that you NEVER repot a cut plant without treating the cuts with a good fungicide or as I do dust with Cinnamon powder. (Make sure when you buy Cinnamon it is the real thing not a substitute.) If you have a plant that's grown out of the pot and has aerial roots cut them off don't try to put them in the pot they will not do well. When you repot make sure you leave enough room in the pot for at least 2 years growth, because every time you repot your orchid it sets it back and if you pot it every year it doesn't recover in time to bloom. (Of course there are exceptions.)

Hymn

GROWING ORCHIDS ON MOUNTS.

This is taken from an article written by **Sydney Monkhouse** who was a successful grower of many genera and lived in Adelaide.

Epiphytic orchids are adapted to grow on the bark of certain trees and one way to ensure healthy existence is for us to grow them on trees, tree branches or even blocks of tree fern. In my experience, the orchid must be attached to the mount in the most natural manner possible.

First I select an epiphyte that suits my growing conditions. (Ours is a wet humid summer, mild dry winter.) I have had success with most Laelias, some Cattleyas, *Miltonia. spectabilis* and it's hybrids, many Oncidiums and most Australian epiphytes. I can grow all of these without any special housing, just a little light shade during the hottest weather. The most successful host materials are blocks of paper bark or tree fern and Casuarina tree trunks.

Remove all roots from the plant to be attached – this means ALL of the roots – just leaving a bare rhizome with, of course, its leaves and shoots attached. Place the rhizome firmly against the host block but never a pad of sphagnum moss coconut fibre between the rhizome and the block, as this is the main cause of failure with mounted plants. I then firmly attach the the orchid to the block with nylon corn, criss crossing over the rhizome several times until the whole plant is firmly held in place. Never run the cord over any new shoots. I mount orchids in spring so that the new shoots will quickly appear and from these a whole new root system will develop and quickly attach itself to the block or log.

Editor's comment: From my own experience with mounted orchids I find cork bark an exceptional host (albeit a bit on the expensive side) as well as weathered hard wood, don't use pine as it breaks down very quickly. I also place a pad of sphagnum on the outside of the rhizome then bind very tightly with old nylon stocking, I find this breaks down over time and leaves the orchid suspended by its own roots. However that is how I do it but I'm a novice compared to Sydney Monkhouse.

<<< NOTICE >>>

R.O.S.I. CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

SUNDAY 30/11/14 AT FRENCHVILLE SPORTS CLUB

FULL DETAILS IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

LAST CHANCE TO PUT YOUR NAME DOWN FOR THE FUNCTION

MUST BE BOOKED BY OUR GENERAL MEETING 25/11/14

NO NAMES WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THAT DATE

DUE TO CATERING REQUIREMENTS

IF YOU PUT YOUR NAME DOWN FOR THE DINNER

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE \$15 IF YOU DON'T ATTEND

JEFF BLOXSOM - PRESIDENT

Orchid Pests and Diseases

Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net (Revision 1)



Common Orchid Pests

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

Symptoms and Treatment of Pests

Ants

Symptoms: Ants cause little direct damage. Any damage present is more likely caused by a sucking pest that caused the plant to exude honeydew (basically plant sap) to which the ant is attracted.

Treatment: Pour a solution of Orthene or Liquid Sevin at 1 tsp/gallon through the pot. Do this outdoors because it should cause ants (and other hiding pests like roaches) to rapidly exit the pot. If you notice ants, check your plants for aphids, mealybugs, scale and mites and treat accordingly.

Prevention: Keep plants and the growing area free of sucking pests to minimize the honeydew attractant, although sometimes healthy vigorous orchids exude honeydew naturally.



This is the last of Sue's article, Thank You Sue for allowing us to reprint it.



Ellie's Corner

Hello every one. Welcome to Ellie's Corner. It is incredible that this is my last column for 2014 and we are all in the middle of pre-Christmas parties.

We have some new members to welcome. Pam Walker and her late husband Ray were members previously and Ray sadly passed away seven

years ago. Their four sons and four grandchildren all live in Rockhampton. Pam says they bring her great joy. She is also involved in charity work.

Pam's good friend Lyn Hopes also joined at the same time. Lyn told me she worked for 18 years at the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin and the Capricorn Local News, and she knew many of our present members from those days. Lyn lives next door to her son Ron and his wife Paula and two beautiful granddaughters, Sarah and Shanae. She enjoys gardening and scrap booking.

Another new member is Ann-Maree Hemsall. She and her husband Paul have three daughters and five grandchildren who all live in Rockhampton. Ann-Maree became interested in orchids through her friendship with Craig Schultz and she has a small collection. She works at the Mater Hospital in Hospitality Services. She and Paul love to go fishing together and spending precious time with their grandbabies.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Don Howes. He was suddenly taken ill whilst on holidays in Brisbane and spent four weeks in Wesley Hospital. He is now recuperating at home being tenderly cared for by Jill. All the best from all of us, Don.

Paxia and Laurie Lucke are thrilled that all their family will be home for Christmas (this only happens once every two years). They will have two daughters and one son and their spouses and three grandchildren aged 11, 10, and 5 visiting. What a grand time they will have together. Their son Peter lives in Townsville and presently is building a bigger orchid house. He knows Alice well as he is often at her nursery buying orchids. Sounds good!

Ray and Gay Bills are looking forward to a super family Christmas. Their two daughters, Karen and Mandy and their children will arrive just before Christmas. Their son Craig and his family will also be there to join in the festivities.

Terry and I attended a momentous event in our lives on 10th September at the Rockhampton Leagues Club. Representatives from Diabetes Australia travelled to Rockhampton and awarded me the KILLEON GOLD VICTORY MEDAL in recognition of my living 60 years with Diabetes Type A (insulin dependent). I was also presented with a Certificate and a beautiful bouquet of spring flowers. As I said at the function I wouldn't have made this goal without the loving support of Terry and our family and friends.

Bev McArthur has moved house. She is now at 3 Emery Street, Gracemere. The house and garden are smaller than her previous ones and she is very happy there and much more able to cope. Her orchid house has been moved and she still has a good sized collection to enjoy. She has been giving her orchids and garden lots of TLC and would welcome any visitors who would like to call.

This Christmas will be a sad one for Jan and Terry Connolly as Jan's mother died on 5 May aged 92. They spent last Christmas with her and will be remembering those happy times. We all know how sad it is to lose a loved one and they always remain in our hearts, and we remember them especially at times like Christmas. Jan had a knee replacement two weeks after she lost her mother. She said she is doing well these days, back to her bright cheerful self, walking and exercising.

Pat and Owen March's grandson Nathaniel, aged 2 is currently having two cochlear ear implants inserted for the second time in Sydney. He will be there for 4 to 6 weeks. This should make a wonderful difference to his hearing and to his speaking. I am sure our thoughts and prayers are with this dear little boy and his family. Pat is going into Hillcrest Hospital for surgery on her foot on Monday 24th November so we will all miss her at our Christmas Party. We wish you well Pat.

Bernie and Shirley Peters are very thrilled with the success of two of their granddaughters. Teagan gained Outstanding Studentship Award, Academic Excellence Award, Accounting, Japanese and Legal Studies Awards, Community Service Award and the Don Brown Memorial Award (which entitles her to \$1000.00 towards her university fees next year). She attends the Catholic High School in Mackay and is the daughter of their son Wayne and his wife Janelle. Her sister Phoebe who is in Grade 9 was awarded for Japanese and Dance, and earned the Outstanding Studentship Award and the Academic Excellence Award. No wonder their family is so proud of these lovely, talented young ladies.

Terry joins me in wishing you and your loved ones blessings of peace and happiness at Christmas and always.

ELLIE DEAN.



If undelivered return to
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Den tetragynum var giganteum
by Hymn

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

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

Disclaimer

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

Your Orchid Diary 2014

November 25th Rockhampton O.S. General meeting
November 30th R.O.S.I. Xmas Function

November is the last meeting for the year 2014. Next meeting is January 27th - 2015.

**2015 TQOC Mackay
Tri Annual = March 14th & 15th**

