

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

Newsletter-August 2016

P O Box 5949

Red Hill Rockhampton 4701

Founded 1955

Editors notes

Another month has flown past as we inch closer to our Spring Show on the 1st & 2nd October, in this issue there are details on **Preparing Plants for Exhibition** which gives tips on cleaning pots & plants, labelling, arranging displays, transporting of plants and security. This is great reading for all of our members thinking of entering plants in the show. It is the perfect time now to start considering what you would like to do for the show, maybe a display especially if you have a few orchids - a small display is just the right size to do this. If you are interested but need help or advice our more experienced members would be happy to give you a hand, you just need to ask!

I mentioned last month about it being great weather for our Soft Cane Dendrobiums but a lot of growers including myself are finding that they are not flowering as well as we would have liked even with having a good number of continual cold nights under 10 degrees to assist with their budding. Quite a few growers are also experiencing an abundance of kikas appearing on the spikes. I have three plants in flower but all have sparse buds to still open on the stems. Last year the disappointment in their blooming was put down to a warm winter, but this year we have had a mixed bag of continual cold weather, lots of rain then going back to almost spring weather and now another burst of cold temperatures, no doubt our orchids are as confused as are their growers.

Our member profile for August is Terry Dean who shares on how he became interested in orchids and also his methods for growing and caring for his collection. Terry and his lovely wife Ellie are long time members of the Society and we really appreciate their contribution over many decades.

I am still seeking a Person to be the September Grower Profile, so if you would like to share your orchid experience please contact me, you can share as much or as little of your personal life as you wish in the article.

CORRECTION FROM LAST NEWSLETTER – The below photo is actually of Jeffrey Glover presenting Certificate to Jeff Bloxsom on our recent bus trip. I had the names the wrong way around - too many Jeffreys'.



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 3rd September 2016; articles received after that date will be included in the following month. *Ed.*

Rockhampton Orchid Society - Orchid Store

Property Officers - Faye & Barry English
110 Murray Street Rockhampton 4700

PHONE 4922 2637
Email - englishf@aapt.net.au
Closed Thursdays & Daily 12pm to 2pm

LARGE RANGE OF ORCHID SUPPLIES
FOR ROSI MEMBERS ONLY

SALES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



With the closing of Webber's Retravision there is the opportunity for another local business to be the sponsor of our Society. If you are interested & know someone who would be interested please contact the editor on svpsli@bigpond.net.au

Sponsors of the Rockhampton Orchid Society

Judges for the Meeting

Terry, Jeff & Bernard

Assistants - Peter Jenkinson
& Doug Chippendale

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday. 23/08/16
at 7.30pm
Plants to be tabled by
7.15pm

President: Jeff Bloxsom_ 4928 6582
bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au

Vice President: Peter Jenkinson_ 0476 232 081
pe.oni@hotmail.com

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Moyna Richardson	4927 5759
Sue Eggleshaw	4936 2293
Bob Lakey	4928 8093
Terry Dean	4928 2278
Alan White	0419 580 086
Doug Chippendale.....	0418 793 153

New Grower's Leader: Keith Marsden 4928 2752

Public Relations: Ellie Dean 4928 2278

Technical Advisers: John Frisch / Jeff Glover

Registrar: Terry Dean 4928 2278

Provider: Maxine Maunder 4928 3212

Door Monitors/ Hostesses: Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

Librarians: Jack Martin / Trevor Handley

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Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

General Meeting Tuesday 26th July 2016

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: Nil

Visitors: Nil

Lucky Number: 50 - B & H Hilsie

Minutes of previous monthly meeting were approved as correct and accurate.

Moved Ellie Dean Seconded Alan White **Carried**

Correspondence:

IN - NEWSLETTERS

Pioneer River O & P Assn.

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc. – June & July

Townsville Orchid Society Inc. June & July

Caboolture Orchid Society Inc. - June

Childers & District Orchid Society -July

Blackwater & District O & F Club Inc. - July

Nightcliff Orchid Society – June & July

Nambour Orchid News – June & July

Maryborough district Orchid Society Inc. – July

Bankstown Orchid Society June/July

The Orchid Society of NSW June & July

Boyne-Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society - June

Also received:

Email – AOCI Agenda for 56th AGM

Letters – re Association Liability Insurance also Australian Orchid Council membership renewal and Orchids Queensland membership renewal

Nambour Orchid Society Inc. –cheque for \$375 – refund of sponsorship

The Rock – bank statement – June 2016

AON – Community Organisations Insurance Renewal documentation

OUT – Email to PROPA – R.O.S.I. unable to attend Field Day

Moved Trish Craig Seconded Sandra Rowcliffe **Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Read and moved by Bill Richardson Seconded Zoe Kidman **Carried**

New Growers:

Keith Marsden reported that there was a good roll up of members at the last new growers at his home. The next new growers will be at the home of David & Sue Eggleshaw on Saturday 30th July commencing at 2.00 pm.

General business:

The President congratulated the four student judges, Nat Lakey, Sandra Rowcliffe, Peter Jenkinson and Trish Craig, on passing their theory exam.

STOCQ Conference 2019 - Preliminary costings indicate that the hiring of the Schwarten Pavilion (enclosed area only) would be around \$1200 per day. As we would probably need it for three days, this would be a very expensive option. This would be one of the major expenses. Schwarten Pavilion is ideally located for the purpose however other options will be explored.

As we need to give the STOCQ a decision as soon as possible, Sandra Rowcliffe moved that we do agree to hold the STOCQ Conference on 13th to 15th September 2019. Seconded Margaret Kydd **Carried**

The secretary will now inform STOCQ and OQI of this decision.

Jeff Bloxsom reminded us that the Spring Show is getting close. The theme is 'Symphony of Orchids'. At next month's general meeting Jeff will require numbers of large and small displays tables, and volunteers for the roster on both days.

Plant Commentary: Terry Dean gave an informative talk on the plants tabled.

Exhibitor Raffle: R & L Mann

General Raffle: Y Manning, R Wines, D Chippendale, T Craig, L Humble, M Richardson, P Jenkinson.

Meeting closed at 8.44pm.

The next committee meeting will be held at Trish Craig's home on Tuesday 2nd August commencing at 7.00 pm.

Jeff Bloxsom (President)

Trish Craig (Secretary)

Monthly Competition Results, July 2016

(Plants tabled: Advanced 44; Novice 21)

Judges Choice

<i>Rhy. Kultana</i>	J&M Bloxsom
<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	K&R Smith
<i>Mo. Jumbo World. x Ctsm spitzii</i>	M&S Rowcliffe

Popular Vote, Advanced

Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Rlc. Karen's Sunrise</i>	K&R Smith
Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>C. Love Castle 'KK'</i>	P&T Jenkinson
Vandaceous	<i>Rhy. Kultana</i>	J&M Bloxsom
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph. Michael Koopowitz</i>	T&E Dean
Phalaenopsis	<i>Phal. Lightning</i>	B&H Hilze
Species	<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	K&R Smith
Miscellaneous	<i>Mo. Jumbo World x Ctsm. spitzii</i>	M&S Rowcliffe

Novice

Cattleya	<i>Rlc. Little Toshie 'Golden Dream'</i>	C. Christensen
Vandaceous	<i>V. New ? Pralor ??</i>	R&L Mann
Miscellaneous	<i>Clo. Delightful</i>	D&S Eggleshaw

JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS

Rhy. Kultana – J & M Bloxsom



Rhy. gigantea – K & R Smith





< *Mo. Jumbo World* x *Ctsm. Spitzii*
M & S Rowcliffe

New Growers Report

On Saturday 30th July the new growers had their meeting at the home of David and Sue Eggleshaw. The afternoon started as usual with the members being invited by David and Sue to look over their orchids and gardens and enjoy a cuppa before the start of the meeting.

The first discussion for the afternoon was on any plants that the members had a concern with. This is an important part of each meeting as it gives the members a chance to receive the answers of their concerns and the remainder of growers also have a chance to give their opinions on what may be the problem.

We then had a discussion on Vanda growing and we were fortunate to have our president Jeff Bloxsum with us and were able to have his input on the growing of these beautiful orchids. His prize winning Vandas are quite often on show at our monthly meetings.

My thanks to David and Sue for having us again this year and thank you members for your raffle donations and help in making the afternoon so enjoyable. The afternoon raffle completed the meeting.

The next meeting is to be held on Saturday 27th August at the home of Graham and Maxine Maunder at 184 Stamford Street North Rockhampton starting at 2.00pm. This meeting will be our annual repotting workshop meeting with the society supplying the pots and mix and you bring along your plants and any extras you may require. Please DON'T BRING large overgrown plants as they will take too long to repot. Please bring the usual plate for afternoon tea, a folding chair and raffle prize or two if possible.

PLEASE NOTE:- SEPTEMBER NEW GROWERS MEETING WILL BE A WEEK EARLY AND IS ON SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER AT THE HOME OF TREVOR AND MARG HANDLEY AT 16 FLINDERS CLOSE LAMMERMOOR (PREVIOUSLY CALLED COOEE BAY) COMMENCING 2.00PM

Keith Marsden



Congratulations

Four of our members have recently passed their Orchid Judging Theory Exam which was held on Sunday 17th July and Supervised by Terry Dean.

Jeffrey Glover is to be acknowledged for organising & running this course over several months. These student judges will now proceed to the next stage ultimately becoming Associate Judges after they complete the necessary number of show attendance requirements in the coming months.

Congratulations to Trish Craig, Nat Lakey, Peter Jenkinson and Sandra Rowcliffe

Doug Chippendale who joined the group later is studying and will complete his theory exam at a later date.

AUGUST MEMBER PROFILE – TERRY DEAN



My first interest in orchids came not long after Eleanor (Ellie) and I were married in 1961. I had been interested in fossicking for gemstones in local creek beds with a group of friends and my attention was drawn over time towards a few ferns and native orchids which I collected and took home to try to grow. I eventually went to an orchid meeting in May 1964 to try and learn something about my few natives and decided to join the Society that night. A couple of meetings later I won the raffle prize of a flowering *Cattleya* and from then on I was hooked and we both became active members of the Society, taking on office positions, helping at shows, social events etc.

My collection grew slowly at first with bits and pieces given by members, the occasional purchase (money was very scarce) and a special plant or two from Ellie for Xmas, birthdays etc. She always knew what I would like.

At our first home where we lived for 12 years, I built our first real orchid house, extending it as the collection grew. Our neighbours were lovely people but they also loved trees and our small suburban back yard was very much in danger of becoming fully shaded in. In the North and East by Mango trees and our high blocked house in the West and this prompted a move in 1977 to our current home.

I cut up and moved the orchid house, which was then quite large, together with its' contents and with the help of many ROS members, to where I rebuilt it on the lower level of our new house block. It is steel construction with 70% shadecloth all over. About 8 years ago I built a smaller (6m. x 4m.) orchid house on our upper level with solarweave roof and 70% shadecloth on roof and walls. This house was to be mainly for *Paphiopedilums* and *Phalaenopsis*. I started wrapping it in plastic for winters but found that made little difference to inside temperatures and caused problems with air circulation and extra shade. For the last 4 or 5 winters the plants have survived quite well without the wrapping and with only an occasional plant dropping a leaf. I do take care that the plants are kept on the dry side when it's a bit colder.

I have a relatively large collection of orchids and it covers most genera suited to our tropical area. (Also a few others that should not grow well here.) I like all the different types and enjoy the challenge of growing and flowering every one of them to the very best of its capability. As a judge I have a keen interest in species and the role they play in hybridization and in keeping abreast of new trends in breeding.

Van. Trevor Rathbone (below)



Perhaps to pick favourite orchids, I guess *Vandas* and *Paphiopedilums* would be high on the list. *Vandas*, for their ease of growing and multiple flowering per year. Downside is that they are often large plants with long roots which make them difficult to transport and display.

Paphiopedilums. Why? Just for the challenge of growing and flowering them. They are not the easiest genus for the beginner and maybe not every-ones "cup of tea" but for me, I love them. Get it right and the results are always very rewarding.

Paph. Vanguard (below)



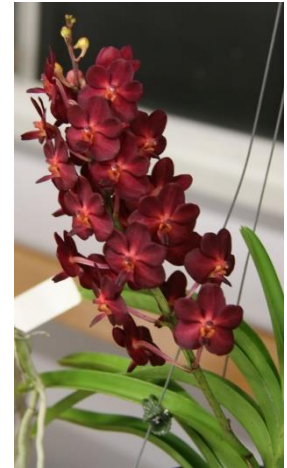


My present general potting mix for most genera is 2 parts orchid bark, 1 part coconut chips, 1 part perlite and 1 part scoria. The bark and coconut size differs according to pot size. All plants seem to be OK with this however it is only the successful combination with all the elements, ie. **Light, Air, Water, and Nutrition**, that will give good culture in any mix. I am currently trialling a mixture of sphagnum moss and scoria for my Phalaenopsis and multi-planting them when I get a couple of kiekies or plants of the same mericlone. My plan/hope is to produce more flowers per pot and only repot or just top the plant every 2 or 3 years.

Van. Laksi 'Red Ruby'>

I fertilise all plants approximately every third watering all year round at about half

recommended strength, using mainly Scotts "all rounder" (spring/ summer) and "blossom booster" (autumn/winter). When repotting I add a little 8-12 month granular fertiliser to the mix to start them off. Not with sphagnum moss though as over fertilising will kill and rot sphagnum.



Now for our history..... Ellie & I married in 1961 and have lived in Rockhampton ever since. Ellie was secretary at St. Pauls Anglican Cathedral from 1956, retiring in 1996. It was her love and dedication to helping people within the community and her involvement in many organisations (including R.O.S.) that led to her being awarded a medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1992. She was also recognised 3 years

ago by Diabetes Australia with the Kellion Gold Victory Medal for living 60 years with type 1 diabetes.



< Van. Fuchs Spotted Cat

I retired from Queensland Rail as purchasing officer in 2000, after serving 45 years with them.

Orchid growing is my hobby that has been wholly supported and encouraged by Ellie. She says I supply the perspiration, she supplies the inspiration...

Our involvement in R.O.S. though is another matter. We support each other in all the various offices we have taken on. In 1980 we co-wrote, with Col Hamilton, the 25 year history of the society and we updated this for the 40th anniversary in 1985. In 2004 the committee produced the 50th anniversary booklet, encompassing and enlarging on the history of our society. This booklet is still available in our library and well worth the read by our newer members. Ellie and I were honoured with both of us being presented with life membership of R.O.S. at the 25th anniversary dinner in March 1980.

I became an accredited A.O.C. Judge in 1993 after 20 odd years of "training". In early days, the Q.O.S. rules on training and the tyranny of distance were major obstacles in gaining accreditation. I still did a lot of "unofficial" judging in the district. Gladstone, Emerald, Biloela and Capricorn O&F all needed a judge for their shows from time to time and I volunteered or was conscripted. A highlight of my judging career was representing R.O.S. together with Col Hamilton and Brian Maxwell, in judging at the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver in 1999. Ellie & I followed this with a 6 week fabulous holiday in Canada and Alaska.



Ellie's contribution to the society has been as Editor 1968 – 1980 (13 years) Publicity 1968 – 1988 (21 years) and again 2005- 2015 (11 years) and writing "Ellie's Corner" from 2005 to the present.(11 years) . This gives members an insight into the "people" side of our society rather than cultural advice. Oh how things have changed since we were editors. Those days of cutting a stencil on our manual typewriter and printing newsletters with a hand operated duplicator, to the current computer age with cut and paste and colour printing of photographs etc. One can only wonder what it may be like in another 50 years.

< Terry & Ellie's Large Display – April 2016 Show – "First Place"

And now, with advancing years, we are happy to be easing back a bit and seeing a new generation of orchid enthusiasts continue with the support and promotion of the society we have enjoyed for so long. When we look back on our 50 plus years as members of R.O.S. we are grateful for the many life-long friendships we treasure, the adventure of so many trips away and the excitement of being part of nearly every show during that period.

Clow. White Magic 'Ellie' >



Ellie's Corner



Hello everyone. Welcome to Ellie's Corner for August 2016.

It has been a happy time for Jeff and Marilyn Bloxsom as they celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary. They were married at St. Paul's Cathedral by Dean John Bayton on 30th July 1971. It was a double wedding with Marilyn's sister Elaine as the other bride. Jeff and Marilyn have two daughters and 7 grandchildren. Family and friends celebrated at The Edge Restaurant. We wish them many more happy years together.

Bill and Moyna Richardson recently had their annual trip to Canberra to celebrate their granddaughter Jasmyn's 10th Birthday. They have travelled to Canberra for this special occasion every year since she was born. Moyna said that they had a week of drizzly rain which turned into snow in the second week! This was their first visit that it actually snowed on them at the home instead of on the nearby ranges! They still had a great family time together and did all sorts of "girlie" things with Jasmyn such as shopping and going to the movies.

Allan White has become a real "do it yourself" person. He told me he has repainted his house and is very pleased with the result. He has also built a new fence and car port.

We welcome Paul De Vine who joined our Society recently. I was talking with him at our last meeting and he told me he had always been interested in gardening, particularly roses, shrubs, vegies etc. He has been to our Shows and is interested in cultivating orchids. We wish him a happy association with us.

Ron and Jeanette Macmaster recently became members. They have three children, Cassy, Trish and Luke, all grown up, and five grandchildren. Ron said he has always been interested in plants and has been coming to our Shows and getting more interested in orchids. He is building an orchid house, and has the frame up. He also loves his model railways. What a great way to relax with orchids and model railways! Welcome Rod and Jeanette.

Doug Chippendale recently drove to the far north and visited lots of collections around Innisfail, Cairns, Mossman and Kuranda. He came home with a huge load of plants. He said there was barely room for his other luggage! At the present time Doug is "baby sitting" his 97 year old grandmother while his parents are away in Europe for seven weeks.

Norma and Jeff Glover celebrated their 36th Wedding Anniversary on 26th July. They went out to lunch and dinner. Best wishes to a lovely couple.

We send our love and sympathy to Sandra Rowcliffe and family on the passing of her beloved aunt, Eris Kirwin recently. Eris was a member of our Society and I will write more about her next month.

We have had great sadness in our family this week. Terry is one of a family of nine and his elder brother, Barry died in Brisbane on 28th July. He had been in poor health for some time but his death was unexpected. Terry is travelling to Brisbane to deliver the Eulogy on behalf of his five sisters and surviving brother. His younger brother, Danny died in a car crash as a young man many years ago. My cousin Helen and her husband Eddie are coming to "baby sit" me while Terry is away.



Happy Birthday to those celebrating in AUGUST. Mirella Sorensen 1st; George and David L'Anson 19th; Keith Marsden 25th; Bill Richardson 29th.

Till next time my love and prayers are with you all. *Ellie*

With our spring show not too far away below are some guidelines for member information from AOS Guidelines.

EXHIBITING AT SHOWS AND SHOW RULES

SHOW RULES

Regardless of whether you intend to exhibit your plant as an individual exhibit against others of the same or similar kind in a class at a show, or as your contribution to one of many plants and supporting materials in a display, it is essential that you read the rules of the show before you commence planning any actions. Clubs or organisations conducting shows will have conditions that exhibitors must meet to exhibit plants or displays. The show schedule and rules may contain information on:

- The deadline for entry of plants and displays;
- When plants must be presented for inclusion in the exhibition;
- When plants must be removed after the show has finished;
- What classes are set down for exhibition;
- Staking and tying to support inflorescences;
- The size restrictions are placed on each type of display; e.g. a 10-plant display; or a display 3 metres long by 2 metres deep by no more than 2 metres high.
- The type of accompanying plants and materials that can be used in displays.
- The type of tags that must be used and the information that must be included on them
- Invariably they will contain a statement that all plants must be in "show bench condition". The AOC guidelines for "show bench condition" are listed below.

SHOW BENCH CONDITION

For award judging, all the following rules are obligatory, especially when plants are being assessed for cultural awards. However it is preferable if the rules are followed even when quality awards are being assessed and judges will not be assessing the vegetative parts of the plant. When exhibiting at shows, remember that the viewing public have come to see well-presented plants, and every effort needs to be made to present all plants in “show bench condition”.

The AOC *Guidelines for Judging Handbook* lists the following rules for Show Bench Condition; viz:

1. The plant being exhibited should be well established in a pot, or a basket or similar container, secured to a mount, or otherwise exhibited.
2. The container is to be clean or covered. If mounted, or otherwise exhibited, then it should be clean and presentable and free of weeds.
3. Plants should be clean — dust wiped from leaves and dried husks removed from the pseudobulbs etc.
4. Dead pseudobulbs and leaves should be carefully removed. Any trimming of damaged leaves should look as if they grew that way naturally. Excessive grooming of leaves or trimming of the leaves to reveal flowers that would otherwise be hidden will be penalized, depending on the severity of the mutilation.
5. All leaves are to be clean; nor treated to produce an artificial shine.
6. The plant should be clearly and correctly labelled, using a card or tag.
7. The plant must be free of pests and/or diseases and show no symptoms of virus or transmissible bacterial contamination.
8. It is desirable that the plant and all inflorescences should not exhibit significant mechanical damage or blemish that detracts from the overall affect.
9. Inflorescences may be staked, if appropriate, to meet the particular needs of the genus so that it is displayed to the best advantage. The staking should be as unobtrusive as possible, and be capable of being removed during judging, if necessary, to allow for detailed evaluation. Additional staking and supports used for transportation must be removed prior to submission for judging.
10. Plants/inflorescences/flowers must not exhibit evidence of any attempt, other than staking, to manipulate them by use of aids such as packing material, to mechanically force the flowers to a more desirable form, or to enhance the presentation of individual flowers or their arrangement.
11. Plants which do not meet the above requirements will be disqualified from Award evaluation. In Show Judging, the degree of penalty will be at the discretion of the judges.

PREPARING PLANTS FOR EXHIBITION

Early preparation of plants for exhibition and of plants and materials needed for displays is essential.

Staking:

Staking must be commenced early in the development of the inflorescence to achieve the best presentation of the flowers. Some tips to consider:

- Do not attempt any work on your plants until mid to late morning as the inflorescences and buds will often be too brittle and buds or flowers can be easily broken off.
- If the inflorescence requires a stake, try to allow the inflorescence to follow its natural inclination. To position a flower or stems to a more visually acceptable direction is quite complicated and if not done in stages may detract from the final appearance of the inflorescence and flowers. Pulling an arching or pendulous raceme upright when the flowers are partially or fully open will look unnatural, and may lead to depreciation of assessment by judges.
- Try to use stakes of the same diameter and colour, preferably an inconspicuous green, and ties that also match each other and are as inconspicuous as possible. Butterfly clips, while easy to use, are not inconspicuous.
- Never use more ties than necessary.
- Most importantly, read the show schedule for any rules referring to staking and tying of inflorescences; and comply with those rules.

Clean your plant and pot:

In the week before the show, prepare the plant for display. Although in most cases it is the flower quality that is being judged, the condition of the plant does affect the judge's subconscious evaluation of the flowers. However, in a display, the condition of the plants is of major importance and will greatly affect the exhibit score. A well-groomed and presented plant is an excellent start to getting it noticed by the judges. Some tips to consider:

- It is probably best to start with the inflorescence, which should have all brown sheaths removed.
- Remove all dead leaves, dried flower sheaths and dead plant material. If any leaves have black tips or unsightly damage, you can trim them to a natural leaf-tip shape. Ensure that you sterilise any scissors or secateurs used, especially if you intend to use them on more than one plant. It's a good idea to have several pairs soaking in a sterilising solution.
- Remove any weeds that grow in the plant medium.
- Put a covering of new medium on the top if you think it would improve the appearance.
- Check for and remove insects and carefully spray if necessary.
- Clean the leaves with your favourite mixture, such as lemon juice, milk, or try this one: one cup water, one tablespoon powdered milk, one tablespoon liquid dishwashing soap. Wipe on with cotton or a soft paper towel and dry with a clean piece. To remove lime deposits or resistant water spotting, try: one cup water with two tablespoons vinegar, before you shine with the above mixture. Be careful to not let any of these items get on your flowers.
- Inspect flowers for bits of foreign matter, potting medium, webs, etc. and try gently blowing it off.
- Note the best position for viewing the plant and insert a removable label to help you place the pot in the best orientation at set-up time.
- Clean the outside of the pot thoroughly, or place it in a slightly larger, new pot, but, please, not a decorative pot, especially when the plant is going into a display. Some exhibitors place a layer of damp moss in the outer pot; this helps to prevent the exhibit becoming dry during the show.
- A final tip: On the day before show set-up, give all your plants a good soaking and top dress their pots with moss if the show is to be held in an air-conditioned shopping centre, where the atmosphere is very dry.

Labelling:

Labelling is a very important element in a display. Again, a list of tips to consider:

- Prepare your plant labels carefully.
- Check the schedule to ensure that you use the specified size and colour. If no colour is specified, then you may choose your own. Many exhibitors use white card and a black pen, but this can appear like white tombstones dancing across the display and detract from the overall appearance. Leaf-green card is less conspicuous.
- Print the correct name of the plant neatly, making sure that it can be read from a distance of two metres.
- Your label may also need to show your exhibitor number, a plant number and also a coloured disc if you need to nominate your plant as, for example, a novice exhibit or a seedling flowering for the first time – this requirement will be spelt out in the show schedule.
- Finally, make sure that your label is placed on the plant in such a position that it clearly indicates the flowers to which it applies. Often this aim is better achieved by fastening the label to a separate stake rather than fastening it to the foliage – labels attached to the foliage sometimes 'disappear' beneath other leaves.

Arranging your Display:

You are usually required to build your own stands. Prefabricated shelving and supplies of foam boxes and empty pots of various sizes are useful to adjust the height of various exhibits. The show schedule may allow for theme displays. Use your wit and ingenuity. Props such as ladders, wheelbarrows, hat racks and pipes standing on end are sometimes used to advantage. Carefully plan the best location and height for your feature plants and give thought to their most suitable neighbours.

Neutralise the background with a drape in green, black or earth colours. You will also need some black or green covering to hide the boxes and perhaps to disguise the pots. Cloth, paper, hessian, moss, wood chips, or plastic sheeting. Foliage plants or ferns are often used to hide pots so long as they do not compete with the orchids for attention. Finally, consider the use of a formal boundary to frame your display. Some exhibitors use a low fence, which also serves to protect their plants from members of the public. A well designed and cleverly constructed display will add another dimension to your orchid hobby.

Put your best orchid in a position where it can be clearly seen - probably in the centre at eye level. If you have a plant with pendulous spikes that extend below the base of the pot, it can be better displayed by placing the pot in a stack of pots of the same size. Alternatively, you can place the pot on top of another up-turned pot. However, in this case you will need to tape the pots together to avoid the possibility of the plant falling if its pot is bumped or moved during judging.

Aside from expressing yourself creatively and artistically, building your own display allows you to display your plants to their best advantage, often providing you with a distinct advantage over orchids placed on the club stand. Make sure that your best plants stand out from their neighbours. Relate the size of each exhibit to the optimum level for viewing it. Small orchids such as *Masdevallia* or *Paphiopedilum* should never be placed on the floor – judges on their knees are not a pretty sight and the extent of their grovelling may be reflected in your level of success!

Transport of Plants to Show

Within a few days of the show, prepare your plant for travel to the show or exhibition. In most cases the stake and ties will already be in place and you will have only to trim the ends of any ties that protrude. For travel, a more elaborate staking of the inflorescence and flowers may be necessary so that the flowers do not bump or rub anything. Sometimes a little light shredded paper will help protect them. If you have used heavier stakes for travelling, remove the heavier stakes before bringing the plant to the show bench and check that the stakes used for display are positioned to display the inflorescence and flowers to maximum advantage.

Before loading your plants in the car, pack the inflorescences with soft tissue paper or florist's wrapping paper to minimise chafing by leaves etc. Use temporary stakes to support arching or pendulous spikes and wedge the pots into foam or cardboard boxes to prevent them falling over when you 'hit the brakes'. On arrival at the venue, don't forget to remove all temporary stakes, tissue paper and other grooming materials. Then label all your plants, especially if you are building a display (the back row can be very hard to reach after the display is built!).

Security

If you are concerned about losing your plants at the end of the show or exhibition, it is a good idea to push an extra tag down into the pot with your name or use a return address sticker on the side of the pot with your name to help identify it at the end of the show.

Popular Vote Winners – July Meeting

Den. Hilda Poxson – J & M Bloxsom



C. Love Castle 'KK' – P & T Jenkinson



Phal. Lightning – B & H Hilse



Rlc. Karen's Sunrise – K & R Smith



Paph. Michael Koopowitz – T & E Dean



>

Rlc. Little Toshie 'Golden Dream' – C Christensen



Clo. Delightful D&S Eggleshaw



Van. New ??? Pralor ??? R & L Mann



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AUSTRALIA



Your 2016 Orchid Diary

13th & 14th August – Agnes Waters O & FS Show

1st to 3rd September – Nambour Orchid Show

2nd & 3rd September – Childers & Isis DOS Spring Show

23rd & 24th September – Glasshouse Country OS Show

1st & 2nd October – ROSI Spring Show

8th & 9th October – Hervey Bay OS Show

15th & 16th October – Bribie Island OS Show

27th to 29th October – Nambour OS species show

5th & 6th November – Pumicestone O&FS Show Caboolture

12th November – STOCQ & OQI Meeting Bundaberg
At Bargara Community Centre 160 Hughes Street

4th December – ROSI Christmas Dinner & Awards Evening
Frenchville Sports Club

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

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