

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



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

Newsletter-June 2016

P O Box 5949

Red Hill Rockhampton 4701

*Founded 1955*

## Editors notes

We are now halfway through 2016, and it is the first month of winter. Not being a fan of the cold if it were to be a mild winter I would be extremely happy. But of course there is a negative side to this in that our beautiful softcane dendrobiums really appreciate extended cold nights. Last year was a mild winter with not enough continuous cold nights and as a consequent our softcanes did not bloom as well as previous years. On that note this month's newsletter features John Frisch in our member profile and John has written an excellent article on this beautiful genera giving growing and caring tips and sharing with us how he cares for his plants and also an insight into what caught his interest in orchid growing.

There are also articles by *Hymn* on \*Suggested trips for new growers \*The use of Potassium Permanganate & Hydrated Magnesium Sulphate & advice on deflasking seedlings which all make for very informative reading.

During May's new growers meeting we were fortunate to have Doug Chippendale and John Frisch advise on the types, use and handling of insecticides and fungicides, Doug also handed out an information sheet to members. Our club is fortunate to have such knowledgeable members in our society.

By the time this month's meeting occurs we would have returned from our bus trip to the Orchid Conference with most of us adding a few extra plants to our collections. Next month's newsletter will contain photos from this trip.

At home my collection of greenhouses is slowly growing with the third structure now completed. My husband, Michael, is doing an excellent job on constructing these.<sup>(46)</sup> As I write this he is still on the job hunting trail with it being seven months since he was made redundant from Sibelco, we are hopeful that it won't be too long before another job turns up, as a bonus, at least for me I have been able to keep him occupied at home.

*A recent photo of Michael and I.*



*My original orchid house partially wrapped for winter*



**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 8th of July 2016; articles received after that date will be included in the following month. *Ed.***

## Orchid Society Store

*For all your orchid supplies.*

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

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

*Barry and Faye English:*  
**Phone 4922 2637**

**FOR MEMBERS ONLY**  
*Closed Thursdays and  
Lunchtimes - 12.00 to 2.00pm.*

*(Please note: This work is carried out 6 days a week voluntarily)*



**Phone 4928 0199**  
1 Aquatic Place  
North Rockhampton

**Sponsors of the Rockhampton Orchid Society**

### Judges for the Meeting

Terry, Jeff & Bernard

Assistants will be

S Rowcliffe & Nat Lakey

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday. 28/06/16  
at 7.30pm**

**Plants to be tabled by  
7.15pm**

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom\_ 4928 6582  
[bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au)

**Vice President:** Peter Jenkinson\_ 0476 232 081  
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**Treasurer:** Bill Richardson\_ 4927 5759  
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Jeff Glover	4928 7701
Moyna Richardson	4927 5759
Sue Eggleshaw	4936 2293
Bob Lakey	4928 8093
Terry Dean	4928 2278
Alan White	Phone No ???

**New Grower's Leader:** Keith Marsden 4928 2752

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**Technical Advisers:** John Frisch / Jeff Glover

**Registrar:** Terry Dean 4928 2278

**Provider:** Maxine Maunder 4928 3212

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**Librarians:** Jack Martin / Trevor Handley

**Raffle Plant Caretaker:** Terry Dean

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Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

**General Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**New Members:** Richard & Julie Crosland 122

**Visitors:** Paul Devine

**Lucky Number:** 40 Brian & Loraine Weaver

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

Moved Ellie Dean                      Seconded Sandra Rowcliffe                      Carried

**Correspondence:**

**IN - NEWSLETTERS**

Pioneer River O & P Assn.

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.

Townsville Orchid Society Inc.

Caboolture Orchid Society Inc.

Blackwater & District O & F Club Inc.

Nightcliff Orchid Society

Gladstone O & F Society

Nambour Orchid News

Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc.

Redcliffe District Orchid Society Inc.

Boyne –Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society

Bankstown Orchid Society

The Orchid Society of NSW

Rockhampton Horticultural Society

Also received:

Email from John Rees - call to STOCQ and OQI meetings – 12/6/16 at The Diamond Festival of Orchids, Nambour

An invitation to Agnes Water Orchid & Foliage Club Inc. Inaugural Spring Show -13 & 14 August 2016

Rockhampton Presbyterian Church – notification of increased hire fees, and request for copy of our public liability insurance certificate of currency

Annual letter from 4 YOU

Orchids Australia – April 2016

Australian Orchid Review – April/May 2016

Thank you letter from Beryl Ledwy

**OUT:** Nil

Moved Trish Craig                      Seconded Sharyn Frisch                      Carried

**Treasurer's Report:**

Read and moved Bill Richardson                      Seconded Alan White                      Carried

**New Growers:** New growers' leader Keith Marsden thanked Terry & Gwen Breingan for hosting the April get together at their home. The next meeting will be at the home of Diane & Rod McKenzie, 215 Harrison Street, Frenchville. The meet will commence at 2.00pm with afternoon tea. Members are reminded to bring a plate of food for afternoon tea, and their own chairs if possible.

**General business:**

The president commented that quite a number of people have not renewed their membership this year.

As Karen & Peter Carr have moved to Western Australia we need to find a new member who is prepared to supervise the catering for our two shows each year.

Nambour trip – plans have been finalised for our trip to the STOCQ Diamond Festival of Orchids. Those going on the bus need to be at Lawrence Motors, Scott Street entrance at 4.30am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The bus leaves at 5.00 am. Again it was emphasised that to bring minimum luggage so we can fit more plants on the bus. Bring your own boxes.

**Plant Commentary:** John Frisch gave an informative talk on the plants tabled. He pointed out a plant which had some Boisduval scale infestation. A discussion regarding treatment and prevention followed.

**Exhibitor Raffle:** B Hilsie

**General Raffle:** R Wines, L Lucke, J Bloxsom, J Bloxsom (given to new members R & J Crosland), R Mann, T March, M Kydd and J Rawlings.

The next committee meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at the home of Michael & Sandra Rowcliffe

Meeting closed at 8.56 pm.

*Jeff Bloxsom* (President)

*Trish Craig* (Secretary)

**Monthly Competition Results – May 2016.**

(Plants tabled: Advanced 47; Novice 20)

<u>Judges Choice</u>	<i>Rlc. Rosella's Cherry Song</i> (1)	B&N Lakey
	<i>Van. Pine Rivers 'Esan'</i> (2)	W&M Richardson
	<i>Cycd. Jumbo Puff</i> (3)	T&M Handley
<u>Popular Vote</u>		
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Rlc. Chai Lin 'New City'</i>	J&S Frisch
Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Bsn. Maikai 'Miyumi'</i>	J&M Bloxsom
Vandaceous over 65mm	<i>V. Tubtim Velvet x V. Viraphandhu Glory</i>	J&M Bloxsom
Vandaceous up to 65mm	<i>Van. Pine Rivers 'Esan'</i>	W&M Richardson
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Anna Bibus x Den. Suranaree</i>	K&R Smith
Species	<i>Bulb. grandiflorum</i>	B&N Lakey
Miscellaneous	<i>Cycd. Jumbo Puff</i>	T&M Handley
<u>Novice</u>		
Cattleya	<i>Rlc. George King x Rlc. California Girl</i>	R.Wines
Vandaceous	<i>Prra. Bangkok Sunset</i>	Z. Kidman
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Kiku Orange</i>	R&L Mann
Miscellaneous	<i>Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. expansum</i>	A.White

In last months' newsletter I wrote congratulations to Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsom on their award for *Brassavola cordata*. The official publication of this came through after our newsletter was printed and I found the correct name of this species is *Brassavola subulifolia*. Jeff also changed its clonal name to 'Lilly'. The award now reads - *Brassavola subulifolia* 'Lilly' ACM/AOC-STOCQ. and ACA/ROSI.



*Congratulations again Jeff & Marilyn.*

**JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS**

(1)



(3)



(2 >)



# New Growers Report

The meeting for May was held at the home of Rod and Dianne MacKenzie. This is the first time we have had the pleasure of having the meeting at their home. Thank you Rod and Dianne for sharing your garden with us for our meeting.

Afternoon tea gave the members a chance to enjoy the afternoon before starting the meeting with the trouble plant session. We then moved on with a discussion on caring for your plants during the winter months. Next we had a discussion on insecticides and fungicides. We were fortunate to have both Doug Chippendale and John Frisch in attendance giving the members a chance to hear from our experienced members on this very important part of orchid growing. Thank you Doug and John for your time and information.

Drawing of the afternoons raffle completed the meeting. My thanks to Rod and Dianne again for hosting the afternoon and also thanks to all who donated to the raffle thus making the afternoon so enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at our place at 463 Crane Avenue starting at 2.00pm - weather permitting. We will not be visiting Jeff Bloxsom's place as first planned as he has too much on at the moment. The usual plate for afternoon tea and a folding chair. Donations for the raffle is always welcome and it doesn't always have to be orchids.

*Keith Marsden*

## Suggested tips for new growers.

The following articles have been submitted by *Hymn*.

1. If you purchase a plant anywhere other than reputable nurseries ensure they are disease and pest free. Scale, mites and other nasties are visible so you can offload them; it's what's in the mix that you can't see that can present an ongoing problem in your bush house. A bucket of insecticide in which you can dunk your pot will bring will bring most to the squashable surface. Don't however be too heavy handed with the dunk or you will float out a lot of loose mix. (Wear protective gloves) Isolation from your established plants is a good idea until you are absolutely sure the nasties (if any) have all departed.
2. When you bring "new" plants; to keep your watering regime on a level scale; they need to re-potted into your standard mix, which of course can differ with different genera. Repot when your plant is in active growth, which can be any time of the year with hybrids and a specific time with species.
3. In you bush house; have a bin (with a lid) so all the fallen leaves and spent flowers, along with their stems, which you always cut off with sterile cutters, can be placed daily.
4. A plant dies in the pot – get it out of the bush house! It may have died from a disease you have missed in your daily rounds. If you have plant on the suss side, take it out and have it checked by the advanced growers at you next new growers meeting, or let it take its chances outside.
5. After you discard the dead, diseased or dying plants NEVER reuse the medium, sterilise the pot with a strong bleach mixture before reusing. Old mixes of bark or sphagnum are great used on your garden beds as mulch or even dug in.
6. On inspecting you plants daily, if one is loose in the pot – stake it so it is firm, loose plants (of any genera) never flourish as they can't make a stable root system. Crooked plants don't bench well so ensure you have them staked firm and straight with room for forward growth.
7. Nobody can tell you when to water. Your bush house has its own distinctive microclimate. This is perhaps the hardest thing to learn (if one ever does). No two seasons are the same so you must study your plants. Dehydration, there can be two reasons, under watered or over watered. If you think you are over watering knock one out of its pot you will find some of the roots in the centre of the pot, black and going rotten, consequently they are not getting any sustenance to transfer to the plant. Under watered you will find the roots, dry, flaccid and lifeless.

## The use of Potassium Permanganate.

We know this product as Condy's Crystals and it has many uses. Although over the years it has been superseded by many other products, such as antibiotics and countless other modern medicines, for example when I was in the Army it was used as a treatment for tired or sore feet, especially as a preventative for Tinea, which was a chargeable disease to contract by Army law. Although some of these were classified as "old Grannies remedies" Condy's is still used as an astringent, bactericide and as a deodorant.

By now you are wondering what this has to do with orchids. I've been using Condy's for many years and have found it to be a remedy for many problems associated with orchids. When (in my younger days) I was de-flasking I would rinse the seedlings in a solution – about 2 gms Condy's to 4 1/2 litres of water, a much stronger mix can be used for sterilising used pots. Having scrubbed the pots first in soap and water, fill a container with Condy's and soak the pots for at least half an hour. (6 gms per litre)

If you have a plant that looks distressed, soak it in a mix of 5 gms per litre of Condy's before placing it in your bush house, (I put distressed plants under a bench, it's a cooler spot and gets quite a lot of air movement but your bush house would be different to mine) but find them a cool spot if you can it helps with their recovery. Also when you are spraying with a fertiliser or insecticide a few grains (note a few grains only) of Condy's can only do good, as it not only helps fight diseases but the plant uses the small amount of Potassium to make a stronger bloom/s.

I must warn you, don't get heavy handed with as the stain of Condy's is very hard to remove. The best way is to use gloves. Some of you may disagree with the quantities that I use, if so, a smaller amount will do nearly as much for you as the quantities I use. The choice is yours.

## The use of Hydrated Magnesium Sulphate.

More commonly known as Epsom salts it contains two crucial elements for plant growth. Sulphur (13%) is necessary to the inner workings of plants but is almost never lacking in soil, thanks in part to synthetic fertilisers. As we don't pot our orchids in soil there is a deficiency of trace elements required by them. In general, magnesium plays a role in the strengthening of the plant walls (you will experience the absence of flaccid growths; also it allows the plant to take in nutrients supplied by us to the potting mix. Magnesium is critical to the flower initiation process in orchids. Below are a few suggestions should you decide to use it.

1. 1teasponful to 5 litres every time you water
2. If you fertilise once a week, use 1 tablespoon to 5 litres of your solution.
3. Seasonal application same as above
4. For *Phalaenopsis* growers the recommended dose is 5 teaspoons to 5litres of fertiliser mix. **Apply this twice in a row in May.**

**Do NOT mix the two together - EVER**

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## Taking Seedlings Out of a Flask.

Well I've finally got my hands on that orchid that I've wanted for so long, the problem is it's in a bottle and how do I get it out of that and up to flowering size?

Not as easy as I would hope. The babies are fragile and delicate, so I check the bottle to see if they are big enough to face the big bold world, if they aren't I place the bottle near a southern window or if you wish to keep it in the bush house in a well-lit area with filtered sunlight, if I want fried seedlings I'd put them in the hottest, sunniest place in the house.

When the seedlings are big enough to face the big bad world and if they're in a jar I wash them out with tepid water and keep washing until no signs of the agar (the mix they were growing in), if they are in a bottle, wrap the bottle in newspaper and strike firmly the top of the bottle until it breaks. With much care sort the seedlings from the broken glass and wash thoroughly. I soak mine in a mix of Condy's then put the seedlings on a clean sheet of newspaper and allow to dry only until they are damp.

Prepare the work area with a sheet of newspaper on the bench, select your pot that you are going to house them in (clean and sterile of course) prepare your chosen mix, I like very small bark mixed with Perlite and a small amount of shredded Sphagnum. Sphagnum Moss is used by a lot of experienced growers but I found it didn't suit the environment that I was growing in.

The biggest dangers to seedlings are soil and water borne diseases, so keep everything scrupulously clean. Having your selected pot at the ready you then start the finicky job of potting them up, the seedlings like to be together and will do a lot better than potted singly, I find that about an inch (30mm) of potting mix is all that is required, water the pot well and make sure it drains well. Some growers use the product called *Envy* which is misted onto the seedlings leaves. This product leaves a coating on the leaves and supposed to help stop the seedlings from drying out. I must point out this is an aid and not essential. Although I dare say everything helps.

To protect the seedlings, I have used a humidicrib which I bought at Bunnings to grow garden seedlings in but you can use whatever you desire to boost the humidity, there are many things you can use *Glad Wrap* with a couple of holes punched in it for ventilation as can a sheet of glass providing you once again make sure it is well ventilated. The majority of seedlings are killed by **too much water** so for the next few days only mist the leaves and very lightly at that.

Frequent light misting will encourage new root growth, without keeping the mix wet. Keep them in heavy shade, once again under the bench is ideal. Just remember **too much water kills**.

After three days, the cover can be removed and the seedlings watered to the point of being damp and not wet. Maybe a growth factor and **very** weak fertiliser can then be applied and as the seedlings get themselves established the *Glad Wrap* or glass cover can be removed.

Whatever you do don't use fungicides on your babies as a growth inhibiting effect can be caused by the use of these. If you notice a problem arising such as fungus or mould, you will find you have your mix too wet, so cut the amount of water, make sure your babies are getting enough ventilation and let them dry out a bit.

Once the seedlings are established and the second leaf or a new larger leaf appears they can then be potted singly into small pots. From there you treat them like adults but **don't** get them too wet, it's fatal.

Growing seedlings from a flask is a tricky business and one you have to learn but once you've got the hang of it you'll find it very rewarding, especially when they flower. Late autumn or early spring is the best time for deflasking, as then there is little danger of cooking them. If your babies are trying to push the stopper out of the bottle, you have no choice but deflask.

*Hymn*

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## **JUNE MEMBER PROFILE – JOHN FRISCH**



Both myself and my horticultural assistant, Sharyn, are long-time residents of the central Queensland region. Sharyn was reared among peanuts, grain crops and Hereford cattle on the family farm at Callide before she moved to Biloela to further her education. When she made the move she took with her a love of all things country including a keen interest in floriculture. Fortunately for me, she has never lost that interest.

I spent my childhood in Rockhampton then moved to a small-crops farm at Tanby. That move reinforced my budding interest in all things horticultural and it seemed inevitable that I would pursue that interest throughout my life.

The first major step was to undertake an Agricultural Science degree at UQ. That gave me an understanding of the factors, including pests, diseases, nutritional requirements and genetics, that influence growth, reproduction and survival of organisms, including plants. That understanding was influential in my later pursuit of my hobby of growing orchids. After UQ, I joined CSIRO in Rockhampton. That was a pivotal moment in my life. While with CSIRO I gained my PhD in Animal Breeding and Genetics. That expanded my interest in the breeding of both animals and plants while the laboratory facilities enabled me to express those interests.

More importantly from the point of view of orchid growing, in 1968 I married the lovely young technician, Sharyn, from the laboratory next to mine. The centrepiece of her wedding bouquet was a large mauve *Cattleya* that originated from the collection of the late Alan Stenlake, one of the founders of the ROS. Although we had previously seen “bush orchids”, that *Cattleya* was the first “real” orchid either of us had ever seen and it certainly piqued our interest in all things orchidaceous. More orchid delights followed during our honeymoon. We were hooked!. However, that passion had to wait while we established ourselves and raised our two children, Shelley, who has three wonderful children and Ashley, who is an expectant father.

In 1976, a CSIRO colleague and ROS member, the late Col Hamilton, showed me some of his orchids. I was ready to try my skills at orchid growing! Col directed me to Bambrick's Nursery where we purchased our first “*Cattleya*” hybrid, BLC Mem. Crispin Rosales “No.2”. Other hybrids soon followed and to this day the *cattleya* alliance remains high on our list of favourite genera.

Our initial success in growing and flowering these plants prompted us to expand our collection to include several other genera and before long we were the proud owners of a range of plants including *Dendrobiums*, *Oncidium* alliance and *Vandaceous* groups, all of which we continue to grow. To house these plants I constructed a rudimentary 8x4.5m fibreglass-roofed orchid house. To expand our knowledge base and share our love of plants, we joined the Capricorn Orchid and Foliage Club and soon after, the Rockhampton Orchid Society. In 1981 I added another 9x5m shadecloth-covered section to the original orchid house. Though showing their age, both structures are still in everyday use and house a wide range of tropical plants including several different genera of tropical orchids. However, by far the majority of our orchid collection is grown outdoors. These plants are predominantly softcane *dendrobiums* but also include a few plants from both the *Oncidium* and *Cattleya* alliances.



My love affair with softcane *dendrobiums* began in 1981 when I purchased two Den. Malones clones and two Den. Yukidaruma clones. I initially positioned these plants on the bench in the orchid house where they grew well enough but, as I had been previously told by experienced ROS members, they flowered rather poorly. There was no justification for allowing these plants to occupy precious orchid house space so I hung them outdoors where, I was assured, they would be destroyed by the ever-present *dendrobium* beetles. To my amazement, the softcanes were totally ignored by the dreaded beetles, tolerated both full sun and the icy blast of winter and in the following spring flowered in profusion. That situation has never changed so as I have continued to expand our collection, which is now quite extensive, all softcanes have remained outdoors.

Most softcanes hang on barbed wire strung about 2-3m above ground level between the various trees that flourish in our suburban yard. All of our orchids are watered automatically by overhead sprinklers. Because most of our orchids, including all softcanes, are hanging well above the ground, they receive good air movement and in the case of the softcanes, lots of sun. This results in quite rapid drying of the plant surfaces which significantly reduces the risk of fungal infection. The softcanes are exposed to both maximum sun and maximum cold during autumn-winter, requirements that are essential for prolific flowering of these beauties. All of our orchids, regardless of genus, are grown in a medium that is a 2:1 mix of 7-15mm diatomite and jumbo perlite. This medium never breaks down which is an essential requirement for our system of growing orchids.





Nutrients are supplied in the form of a 50:50 mixture of powdered dolomite and gypsum (to supply calcium) plus 8-9mth, high potassium (15.9%K), controlled release fertiliser (to supply all additional essential elements) added directly to the surface of the medium, a practice that results in an increased rate of breakdown of organic media but which has no effect on the inorganic medium we use. Our softcanes are fertilised annually, late winter to late spring as time permits, while all other genera are fertilised bi-annually in spring and autumn. Integrity of the medium allows me to pot-on for many years without the need to divide and re-pot. In addition, the medium deters pot-dwelling pests including slugs, snails, mealybugs and cockroaches, so much so that I have never had to treat any of our softcanes for any of these pests. However, we are also extremely conscious of the need to practice strict quarantine and so avoid the introduction of unwanted pests. Almost all plants from genera that are susceptible to dendrobium beetle attack remain in the orchid house. As the need arises, I treat these plants with the appropriate fungicides or insecticides.

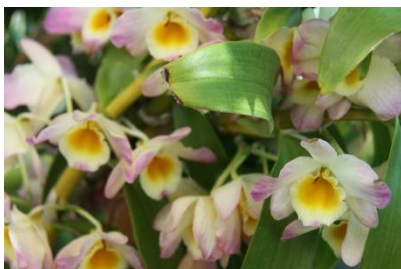
Many of our orchids are progeny from a crossbreeding program that I began in 1984 when I flaked the first of my Cattleya crosses. While I have flaked crosses from within several different genera, by far the majority have been softcanes and crosses from within the Cattleya alliance.

Since departing CSIRO in 1999 I have continued crossing and flaking at an ever decreasing rate and now restrict myself to the odd softcane or hardcane dendrobium cross. Nevertheless, it gives me great satisfaction when each new cross flowers and expresses the characteristics in which I am interested. One of these characteristics is floriferousness. My favourite plants are those with lots of long-lasting flowers. The result is that a high proportion of our plants, regardless of genus, are grown to specimen size. The success of this practice is very dependent on the cultural system we use to grow our plants.



I have been an ROS cultural advisor for several years. The interaction with other members that this position entails has significantly increased my understanding of the orchid world. Over the years it has given me great satisfaction to see how ROS members have improved their orchid-growing skills, how they have assisted and encouraged others by sharing those skills and how well ROS members co-operate during significant events. My contribution to the skills within the Society was rewarded several years ago with a much appreciated Life Membership. I have given presentations at several other Orchid Societies and have always enjoyed representing ROSI at these functions. We offer our heart-felt thanks to all ROS members for the part they have played in making our membership of the Society so memorable, enjoyable and informative and sincerely hope that while ever we can, we continue as active members of what we consider to be a great Society.

*Friendii.*



## Ellie's Corner



Hello everyone. Welcome to Ellie' Corner for June 2016.

My 80th Birthday fell on 19<sup>th</sup> May and I am still "on a high" after celebrating for 10 days. My sister Kay and her husband Rodger flew over from Auckland for eight days, and three of Terry's sisters and his brother plus spouses travelled to Rockhampton to join in the festivities. We went out to Birthday lunches, had a family party at home on 19<sup>th</sup> May, and then a larger party for family and friends with a Chinese Banquet at the Wah Hah Restaurant on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone present described this evening as "magic" and Terry and I felt surrounded by so much love and joy.

I was very thrilled when Sandra Rowcliffe presented me with a beautiful book she had created containing photos she had taken of Terry and me and our orchids at recent Shows. Thank you Sandra, I will treasure it. Naturally I had some long sleeps after the excitement had died down! I would like to thank those Orchid Society members who sent cards and expressed Birthday Greetings to me.



I received an e mail from Sharyn Frisch "Because John Frisch had to undergo some urgent exploratory surgery that very evening, he and Sharyn had to decline a welcome invitation to Ellie's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. It turned out that John and Bruce McCamley were there in recovery together and Sharyn and Fay were with their menfolk.

When the staff heard that all four were missing such an important occasion, they were all given double issues of ice cream tubs and they celebrated Ellie's occasion at a distance !!!" I know we all are praying for John as he undergoes further treatment.

Sharyn also wrote about taking her 98 year old Mum to Townsville to visit her grandson Ashley and his wife Katie. This was a sentimental journey as Townsville is where Ruth, affectionately known as Dahmie, started her married life after a long trip over the Pacific from Canada to marry her wartime love. It is where Sharyn was born and where now some of her family live. They were having a wonderful time when Dahmie got sick and had to be admitted to hospital. Sharyn had to return early to be with John, so Ashley escorted his grandmother home and she is now safely back in Leinster Place and is quite well.

We were all very sad to learn at our last meeting that Karen and Peter Carr are leaving to live in Perth because of job opportunities. Peter will be working with WATCO (train maintenance), and Karen hopes to obtain a job at Channel 7 in Perth. Karen has been the Kitchen Convenor at our recent Shows and has done a great job in her efficient, cheery way. I'll miss her breezy manner and sweet smile. They are keeping their home here and hope to return to us in about 4 years. We are missing you already, Karen and Peter.

We welcomed Richard and Julie Crosland as new members at our last Meeting. Julie is Richard and Lynne Mann's daughter. Between them they have 7 sons and 1 daughter. Richard and Julie work together doing book keeping for a Rockhampton Property Group. Julie loves gardening, patchwork, quilting, and family history. Richard enjoys gardening and camping. He was a Bank Manager for many years prior to his present career.

Jeff and Norma Glover have just returned home from an 8 day holiday in Hong Kong. They were accompanied by Max and Susan Rawlings of Sarina, well known by society members as the proprietors of M&S Orchids. While there was no orchid-event as such while there, they enjoyed visiting the Mong Kok flower market.

It is a sprawling market across many street blocks especially dedicated to selling plants and cut flowers. Jeff said, "All manner of things relating to the plant trade were to be found and he especially liked the many bonsai that were for sale, ranging from being able to be carried in one hand to needing a crane-truck to shift." Other highlights were riding a glass bottomed cable-car into the mountains to visit a monastery-garden and huge Buddha statue.

Likewise, visiting Macau with its opulent casinos and ruins of its colonial past from when it was once a Portuguese colony was a highpoint, and a real look at a contrasting society. The masses of people in Hong Kong (9 million in 30 sq. km.) and the efficiency at which they are moved by subways, trams, ferry, busses and taxis, was also a wonderment in itself. Seeing pandas at the zoo, the conglomeration of buildings with 50 stories being average height, a shopping centre with 450 shops, 50 restaurants and 2 cinemas in which they got lost, and the partially constructed high level road across the ocean to link Hong Kong with China were all 'jaw -dropping' sights to be remembered.



**Birthday Greetings** to those members who celebrated in MAY and to those who will celebrate in JUNE.

**MAY:** Lorraine Weaver 3: Ray Bills 6: Sue Eggleshaw 13: Tom Robb 14: Ellie Dean 19: Tony March and Margaret Kydd 27.

**JUNE:** Don Howes 2: Diane Hughes 4: Gay Bills 6: Ken Smith and Barry English 8: Margaret Stegemann 11: Nat Lakey and June Shelton 13: Dianne MacKenzie 20: Margaret Warner 21: Julie Crosland 24.

I wish all those members travelling to Nambour by coach for the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June, a very happy and safe journey. With President Jeff organising this weekend we all know you will have an exciting and fun filled time, and will return with the coach laden with orchids.

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

*Ellie*

### **SEVERAL "POPULAR VOTE" TABLED ORCHIDS – MAY MEETING**



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### **Your 2016 Orchid Diary**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July – Caboolture Orchid Show
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> August – Maroochydore Orchid Show
- 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> August – Agnes Waters O & FS Show
- 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Nambour Orchid Show
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Childers & Isis DOS Spring Show
- 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September – Glasshouse Country OS Show
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October – ROSI Spring Show
- 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October – Hervey Bay OS Show
- 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> October – Bribie Island OS Show
- 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October – Nambour OS species show
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> November – Pumicestone O&FS Show Caboolture
- 12<sup>th</sup> November – STOCQ & OQI Meeting Bundaberg  
At Bargara Community Centre 160 Hughes Street

**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**

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