

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

Newsletter-May 2016

P O Box 5949

Red Hill Rockhampton 4701

Founded 1955

Editors notes

Another month has passed, what is happening to the years? Our next show will be here before we know it.

Our bus trip to Nambour is now getting much closer; I am really looking forward to the three day trip. Last newsletter I mentioned that our bus was at capacity, but with the withdrawal of a couple of members there are now still some seats available. If you would like to attend please contact Jeff Bloxsom as early as possible.

The agenda for the weekend as usual promises to be a great trip. All attendees will need to be at Lawrence's Holden by 4.30am on Saturday 11th June, with the bus departing at 5.00am. On the way we will have a comfort stop and breakfast arriving at the Kawana Waters Conference venue at 1.00pm. Members will spend the afternoon at the show and at 4.00pm we will leave for our motel for a rest. The conference dinner is at 6.30pm that night. A reminder for all to bring minimal luggage to allow maximum room for our plant purchases.

On Sunday after breakfast we will attend the Caloundra Street Fair Markets and at 9.30am depart for Montville calling into Robertson's Orchids at Woombye. Lunch will be 12.00pm at the Montville Café and afterwards there will be leisure time to check out the attractions and shops. At 3.00pm we will depart for Caloundra with Dinner that night at 6.30pm at Caloundra RSL Club.

On Monday we depart for home after breakfast. There will be lunch and a comfort shop on the way and we should arrive back in Rockhampton around 4.00pm. (40) More on the trip will be discussed at our May Meeting.

For this month's member profile I am pleased that Jeff Bloxsom agreed to assist. He writes a great article on his experience with growing Vandas. *Below are photos of several entries in our floral art from our April show.*



APRIL SHOW RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1ST – Mrs L Howard North Rockhampton
- 2ND – Mrs E Nolan North Rockhampton
- 3RD – Mrs P Drew North Rockhampton

LUCKY DOOR WINNER

Mrs Gail Biddulph The Range



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 5th of June 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)



Sponsors of the Rockhampton Orchid Society

Judges for the Meeting

Terry, Jeff & Bernard

Assistants will be

P Jenkinson & Tony March

NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday. 24/05/16
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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Bob Lakey 4928 8093
Terry Dean 4928 2278
Alan White Phone No ???

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Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

General Meeting Tuesday 26th April 2016

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: Nil

Visitors: Nil

Lucky Number: 11 Shae Tjerkstra

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.

Townsville Orchid Society Inc.

Caboolture Orchid Society Inc.

Childers & District Orchid Society

Blackwater & District O & F Club Inc.

Nightcliff Orchid Society

Gladstone O & F Society

Nambour Orchid News

Maryborough district Orchid Society Inc.

Also received:

An invitation from The Boyne Tannum Orchid & Foliage Soc. Inc. to their Expo on 21st & 22nd May 2016 at St. Francis State School, Hampton Drive, Tannum Sands:

A letter and some flyers re the re-launch of Down Under Native Orchids to Newcastle NSW:

Flyers promoting a trip to Singapore with Jerry Colby-Williams in July 2016:

An update from STOCQ re Diamond Festival of Orchids in June 2016:

Payment of 2016 membership from Dianne Berrill:

Receipt from Bundaberg Orchid Society – payment for 50 orchid books.

OUT – Nil

Moved Trish Craig Seconded Zoe Kidman Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Prepared by Bill Richardson, read by Jeff Bloxsom

Moved Jeff Bloxsom Seconded Margaret Kydd Carried

New Growers: There was no meeting of new growers in March due to the Autumn Show and Easter filling up the calendar. Keith invited everyone to the next one to be held at Terry and Gwen Breingan's home at 28 Dowling Street, North Rockhampton at 2.00 pm on Saturday 30th April 2016.

General business: Jeff Bloxsom has received an invitation for the society to do a display of orchids at the Multicultural Festival on Saturday 28th May 2016 and enquired if anyone was interested. No one was keen. The society has also been invited to do a display at The Rockhampton Show in June. Again no one expressed interest. The general feeling at the meeting was that our two shows a year are all members can cope with and that no useful purpose would be served by attempting to do more.

Nambour Trip – Jeff had asked for a deposit of \$150 per participant to be paid at the meeting. As this was causing problems for some members he requested they pay enough to cover the \$55 per head cost of the conference dinner.

Plant Commentary: John Frisch gave an informative talk on the plants tabled.

Exhibitor Raffle: K & R Smith

General Raffle: Y'vonne Manning, Jan Rawlings, Alan White, Shae Tjerkstra, Jeff Glover, K Smith.

As the President, Treasurer and a committee member will be away there will be no committee meeting this month.

Meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Jeff Bloxsom (President)

Trish Craig (Secretary)

Monthly Competition Results – April 2016 (Plants tabled: Advanced 38; Novice 18)

Judges Choice
 (1) *Den. Zilzie Variable 'Capricorn'* J&S Frisch
 (2) *B. cordata* J&M Bloxsom
 (3) *Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Huckleberry'* B&N Lakey

Popular Vote, Advanced
 Cattleya over 100mm *Rlc. California Girl x Rlc. Dal's Horizon* K&R Smith
 Cattleya up to 100mm *Grt. (Ctna.) Why Not 'Round and Red'* J&S Frisch
 Vandaceous *V. Robert's Delight 'Red'* J&M Bloxsom
 Dendrobium *Den. Alice's Stewart Zierk 'Super Stripe'* J&S Frisch
 Paphiopedilum *Paph. Vanguard* T&E Dean
 Oncidiinae *Onc. Ruth's Rainbow 'Dark'* J&M Bloxsom
 Species *B. cordata* J&M Bloxsom
 Miscellaneous *Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Huckleberry'* B&N Lakey

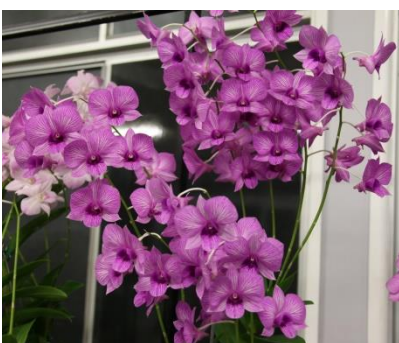
Novice
 Cattleya *Bc. (Rolf) Hawaii Stars* Z.Kidman
 Dendrobium *Den. Udom???? X* T&J Rawlings
 Oncidiinae *Brat. (Mtssa.) Aztec* R.Wines
 Miscellaneous *Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Huckleberry'* G&M Maunder

Congratulations to Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsom on their flowering of *Brassavola cordata* which was tabled at the April meeting. Our AOC Judging team met a few days later to judge this plant and awarded it a Cultural Certificate with 80 points. Jeff has given his mothers' name of "Thelma" for its clonal name. The plant tag can now show the name as *B. cordata 'Thelma' ACM/AOC - STOCQ*. (It also receives our club cultural award ACA/ROSI.)



JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS

(1)



(2)



(3 >)



New Growers Report

On Saturday the 30th April the new growers were invited to have their meeting at the home of Terry and Gwen Breingan. On arrival the members were able to look over Terry and Gwen's gardens and orchid collection before enjoying afternoon tea.

The trouble plant section was next and the members were able to get answers to the concerns they had with their plants.

We then discussed the idea of changing the starting times to a later time next summer. This Saturday was a good example of how hot it can be even at this time of the year. The new starting time will be 3pm and will be advised next summer.

We then discussed the requirements of growing soft-cane Dendrobiums. These are a few of the main requirements when growing soft-canines.

- Water and fertilise freely all summer
- Stop fertilizing no later than mid-March
- Water all year if conditions are dry
- Grow under plenty of light and air movement.

They do require 10 to 14 days of cold weather below 13°C to flower to their best.

The afternoon raffle completed the meeting. My sincere thanks to Terry and Gwen for having us again this year. Thank you to all who donated plants for the raffle and for helping to make the afternoon so enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Rod and Diane MacKenzie at 215 Harrison Drive North Rockhampton starting at 2.00pm on the 28th May. The usual plate for afternoon tea, a folding chair and raffle prizes if possible.

Keith Marsden

MAY MEMBER PROFILE – JEFFREY BLOXSOM



I joined the Society in February 1976 some forty years ago at a young 23 years of age. How time flies. I still remember Keith Marsden introducing me to Orchids, and getting me to join the Society

My very first orchid was a large formal Cattleya named – Lc. Queen Mary. I think I still have a piece of the original plant today.

My wife Marilyn and myself are both locally born and bred in Rockhampton. We were married at St Pauls Cathedral on 30/07/1971. This year marks our 45th wedding anniversary. We actually had a double wedding ceremony with my wife's sister Elaine. At that time the Dean of the Anglican Church was Dean Baynton and he actually almost married me to the wrong sister. He was a little embarrassed at the time but we saw the funny side of it.

We have two daughters, Jeanette and Renee. And now have seven grandchildren. My wife Marilyn, is not as interested in Orchids as I am but more into the craft world or embroidery.

I became very involved with the Society and served on the committee for many years. I was elected as secretary in '87 and served 2 years, then was elected to the Vice president's position in '94 and held this position for 4 years after which in '97 I was elected to the President's position, and still hold this position today some 19 years later. In December 1994 I was awarded the honour of Life Membership of The Rockhampton Orchid Society.

Like most members I grow a variety of Genera, but my passion is the Vandaceous alliance. It has taken quite some years to acquire the collection of mature Vandas I have today.

We grow orchids for their blooms and I find the Vandaceous alliance the most rewarding as they can flower many times in a year with very long lasting flowers of many sizes and colours. Not like some orchids which flower once a year and have short lasting blooms. Following I have included an article on how I grow my Vandaceous orchids.



HOW I GROW VANDACEOUS ORCHIDS – *by Jeffrey Bloxson*

(photo below is V Blue Hawaii x V. coerulea, taken during March 2016 Meeting)



Vandas are a *monopodial* orchid – this means they have a single stem and growing point at the tip or crown of the orchid. Damage of disease getting into the crown of the Vanda usually results in the death of the plant. Their growth is generally upright in habit, but sometimes requires strong staking to achieve this. The main stem can have lateral buds which can develop into plantlets (“keikis”). These small plants can be removed from the mother plant when they have attained sufficient size with their own root system. Remove with a sterile blade and I usually treat the area on the mother plant with a fungicide paste to prevent infections getting

in. As Vandas continually grow up, a mature plant can get very tall and unmanageable in a collection. Another means of controlling this and propagating a new plant is by a means we call “topping the plant”. Sometimes a mature plant will develop roots along the stem of the plant. Wait until there are at least three to four roots and then you can cut the top of the plant off, of course below these new roots. Treat both cuts with a fungicide paste and re-pot the new plant. The base of the plant left behind will not grow from the cut top but usually will send out new plants from the side.

The leaves on Vandas are arranged in two rows or ranks along the main stem, and the inflorescences emerge from the leaf axils (the angle where a leaf is attached to the main stem). Some Vandas will flower from every new leaf axil or at least every second one, if you have strong healthy plants. There are three broad types of leaf shapes among Vandaceous orchids – Strap-leaf (V-shaped, leathery leaves) Terete (tapering, pencil-shaped leaves that are circular in cross section) Semi-terete (Hybrid combination – leaves somewhat pencil-shaped and tapered but not always completely round like the teretes). The strap-leaf type is the ones I mainly grow and require to be grown in a shade house or could be hung under a tree providing shade. Whereas terete vandas and their semi-terete hybrids are sun lovers. They can be grown in the full sun out in the open. The only thing is if you have dendrobium beetle problems, they do love the flowers on the vandas and can be a problem.

Vandaceous plants will grow well in any porous medium if properly aerated. The mix I use which I have found suits my purposes is 2 parts hard bark – 1 part coarse charcoal – 1 part stone (scoria) I have found this mix to last a long time, something you require for vandas as they last many years in the same container and medium. I use plastic baskets of various sizes for all my plants. Wood baskets look good but rot in time which can cause problems for your plants. Vandaceous orchids are epiphytes and need good air circulation. Air movement also reduces the incidence of leaf-spotting fungal and bacterial infestations. Plants should be suspended so that the areal roots are free to hang down. Otherwise the roots attach themselves to the bench or wall and are damaged when the plants need to be moved. Vandas are vigorous growers and will soon move into their neighbour's basket if too close. A trick I use on my mature plants is to lightly tie the hanging roots closely together to stop this problem.

Vandas are not like other orchids when it comes time to re-pot. They do not like to have their roots trimmed. The large aerial roots don't like to be disturbed. All the same, you won't kill your plants if you do trim the roots but will inhibit the plants growth for some time. Of course trim off any old dry dead roots and clean up plant as much as possible. I then turn the plant upside down and shake out as much of the old mix as possible, especially any decayed bark. Instead of removing plants from their smaller, older baskets at re-potting time, I "elevate" plants from smaller to larger baskets. This is the reason I use plastic baskets that don't break down. I soak the roots and plant in water and weak growth formula solution until they become pliable, and then work the roots through the slats in the larger basket so that I place the smaller basket and plant intact into the larger basket. Never coil the roots around the old basket because vandaceous plants will feed better with an unrestricted root system. I then top up and cover the old basket with my potting medium. This method minimizes shock to the plant and permits continued, uninterrupted growth. Late spring to early summer is the best season for re-potting vandaceous plants, but these orchids may be re-potted at almost any time of the year.

I water my Vandas at least once a day in summer, sometimes twice on very hot days. As I water with overhead sprayers this helps in keeping the humidity in the green house. In any season avoid watering plants late in the afternoon. Vandaceous plants should be dry before nightfall.

Vandaceous orchids are heavy feeders and should be fertilized at least once a week with a complete, balanced fertilizer. I alternate my fertilizers - organic (seaweed – blood & bone etc) with commercial fertilizers (I use peter's all purpose). Once a month I will give my plants a concentrated vitamin and hormone solution to promote vigorous growth. If time permits I fertilize more than once a week but at a weaker solution. As I also use my over-head sprayers to fertilize I try to give my plants a good flush out every month to help remove excess salts and minerals.

The problem I have had with my earlier collection of Vandas is a fungal disease known as *Phyllosticta* Leaf Spot. This blight is also known as *Guignardia*. Although a lot of different orchid genera are prone to this disease, it is more common in the vandaceous and dendrobium alliance. Although *Phyllosticta* does not kill an orchid, it may weaken the plant to the point where it easily falls prey to other pests or diseases. This blight can quickly be carried from diseased plants to healthy ones by splashing rainwater, sprinklers or watering. In addition the spores are discharged into the air and can travel between plants on a breeze. If this disease gets into your collection it is very hard to eradicate. You have to be ruthless in the control of this disease. I removed any plants that showed a lot of *guignardia* because it is almost impossible to eliminate from an infected plant which then could spread to your healthy plants. I destroyed these plants. While the plants with only a little spotting on leaves, these leaves must be removed and treat the area with a fungus paste. Usually it affects the older lower leaves, so if left untreated these leaves will only die and fall off anyway. This is the reason why in a lot of vandaceous collections you see these stems with only some leaves at the top. I call this the "palm tree

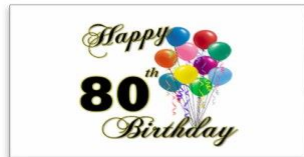
syndrome". Unless you can promote root growth along the stem allowing you to eventually top the plant and re-pot, I feel these plants take up valuable space in my collection so I usually put these out in the garden.

The first signs of a Phyllosticta infection in vandaceous orchids appear as elongated tiny purplish or black spots along the veins of the leaves. These lesions gradually grow in size; appear as long, blackish, diamond-shaped streaks. So after you have eliminated this blight from your collection I control any re-infection by a dose of a good fungicide every couple of months. I use 'Triforine', this is a thiophanate-methylbased systemic fungicide. Also sold as a rose spray. Of course when you purchase a vanda make sure it has none of this spotting as you could easily introduce this disease into your collection. So the object of growing a good Vanda is to have a strong healthy plant with all its leaves all the way down the stem with no spotting. So ideal vandaceous culture is plenty of room for their robust root system, good light, plenty of water, and a regular fertilizer program.



Ellie's Corner

Ellie has been a bit busy lately so this month she hasn't compiled her usual newsy article but with her celebrating her 80th Birthday during May I am sure she will make up for this with lots of news of this and other items in our June newsletter.



We wish her a very Happy 80th Birthday and hope she has a great time celebrating this special occasion.

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during May we wish you all the best.. And a very belated Happy Mother's Day to all of our members.

To fill Ellie's space following are more photos from our April Show & Awards Presentations Dinner.

Sandra

John Hughes & Terry Breinegan



John Hughes, Jan Hogan & Terry Breinegan



Jenny Scott & Jeff Bloxsom >



John Hughes, Nat & Bob Lakey



Lynne & Richard Mann & John Hughes



Maxine Maunder & Jeff Bloxsom



Margaret Lyons, John Hughes, Zoe Kidman & Moyna Richardson



Jeff Bloxsom and John Hughes



ENTRIES FROM THE CONTAINER DISPLAY SECTION



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AUSTRALIA



Your 2016 Orchid Diary

21st & 22nd May – Boyne Tannum Orchid Show

11th & 12th June – STOCQ Orchid Conference - Nambour
12th June STOCQ & OQI Meeting

22nd to 24th July – Caboolture Orchid Show

5th & 6th August – Maroochydore Orchid Show

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

1st to 3rd September – Nambour Orchid Show

1st & 2nd October – ROSI Spring Show

27th to 29th October – Nambour OS species show

November – STOCQ & OQI Meeting Bundaberg

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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

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