

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

Newsletter-November 2017

P O Box 5949

Red Hill Rockhampton 4701

Founded 1955

Editors notes



Where has 2017 gone?? It is almost Christmas once more and what this means for me is that this is my last newsletter for the year; I now get a couple of months break until the next one which is due in January. **“Wishing all our members and newsletter readers “A very Happy and Safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year”.**

Many thanks to all the members who have contributed during the year - David Eggleshaw has done a fantastic job in his first year as New Growers Leader and I must thank him for the New Grower's Report he sends me each month. Thanks go to the members who have hosted New Grower's Meetings at their homes during the year and don't forget to give Dave your preferred month to host a meeting in 2018. Bob Lakey does an exceptional job creating and maintaining our Website and he is currently working on our new updated website.

A big thank you and hugs for our lovely Ellie Dean who does a wonderful job with Ellie's Corner, her positivity and assistance in compiling this newsy article each month is great, sadly Ellie is currently not well and I am sure we all send her our best wishes for a return to better health. Many thanks to all members who have assisted me with their member profiles, sharing their journey into orchid growing with members, I will be chasing more member profiles in 2018.

Terry Dean does a fantastic job as our Show Registrar; he emails me the meeting competition results for inclusion in the newsletter and is the caretaker of our raffle plants. Thank you to Trish Craig for the fantastic job you do as our Secretary and getting the minutes to me for inclusion each month, Bill Richardson, our Treasurer, does a wonderful job keeping track with the Society's finances. Jenny Moore my assistant editor does a great job ensuring the circulation of the newsletters each month. Thank you to all contributors of articles and it would be appreciated if you could please continue this assistance in 2018. In this edition Jeffrey Glover has submitted an article on Catasetums which I am sure you will all enjoy & learn from.

An enormous thank you to Barry and Faye English for the fantastic job they do running our Orchid Store, it can't be easy having so many interruptions to your life, your effort is greatly appreciated by all in the Society. (55)

And huge thanks must go to our President Jeff Bloxsom for the enormous job he does with organising everything - trips away, shows etc., even though he is backed by a fantastic hardworking committee it is his organisational skills that greatly enhances the success of our society. And for those I may have forgotten many thanks for your assistance & contributions in 2017.

At our November General Meeting Jeff Glover will be doing an informative presentation on *Paphiopedilum* (Slipper) Orchids.

R.O.S.I. Christmas Barbecue Saturday 18th November

The Barbecue will be held at the home of Terry and Gwen Breingan 28 Dowling Street North Rockhampton commencing at 5.00pm. As per usual bring your own BBQ meat & salads and there will be BBQs supplied for the cooking, nibblies if you wish, a dessert plate to share and raffle prizes as we hold a free raffle on the night and the more prizes the better. You will also need to bring your own drinks, a chair & possibly a small table.



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 4th January 2018; 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 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
& all Associate Judges

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28/11/17
at 7.30pm

Plants to be tabled by
7.15pm

President: Jeff Bloxsom_
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R.O.S.I. CHRISTMAS PARTY PRESENTATION NIGHT

VENUE - FRENCHVILLE SPORTS CLUB - FUNCTION ROOMS

DATE - SUNDAY 10TH DEC TIME - 6PM PRE-DINNER DRINKS & NIBBLES

DINNER 7PM -2 COURSE CHRISTMAS BUFFET - COFFEE/TEA

DRINKS SUPPLIED - FRUIT PUNCH & POST MIX SOFT DRINKS

CANNED SOFTDRINKS AND ALCOHOL AT OWN EXPENSE

THERE WILL BE THE USUAL LUCKY DOOR PRIZES AS WELL AS LUCKY SPOTS

OUR USUAL HUGE CHRISTMAS MULTI DRAW RAFFLE - PRIZES UP TO \$2,000

REMEMBER WE DO NOT HAVE A SECRET SANTA PRESENT ANYMORE

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY PUT YOUR NAME DOWN FOR THE DINNER

NAMES WILL BE REQUIRED BY OUR NOVEMBER MEETING 28TH

**YOU MAY BOOK TABLES OF 10 OR 12 AND THESE LISTS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED BY OUR
NOVEMBER MEETING.**

COST OF THE EVENING IS \$35 PER PERSON

WITH SUBSIDY FROM CLUB YOU ONLY PAY \$15-00 EACH

COME ALONG AND ENJOY A GREAT NIGHT WITH YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS



Merry Christmas

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

General Meeting Tuesday 24th October 2017

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: Nil

Visitors: Len & Emily Hill

Lucky Number: 67 L & P Lucke

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

Moved P Rankin Seconded M Kydd **Carried**

Correspondence:

IN – NEWSLETTERS

Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club Inc.

Childers & Isis District Orchid Soc. Inc.

Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc.

Maroochydore Orchid Society Inc.

Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc.

Mid Murray Orchid Club Inc.

Nightcliff Orchid Society

Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. – September & October

The Orchid Society of NSW

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.

Emails re:

STOCQ - minutes and by-law amendments from the general meeting held at Glasshouse Mountains on 21st October 2017

OQI – minutes of general meeting held at Glasshouse Mountains on 21st October 2017

Mail

Rock – Statement & Cheque Book

Orchids Australia - October

OUT

Emails to the following Orchid Societies: Gladstone, Boyne Tannum, Agnes Water, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay inviting their members to attend the 2018 triennial weekend on 10th & 11th March 2018.

A motion that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward correspondence endorsed:

Moved T Craig Seconded D McKenzie **Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Read and moved for acceptance by B Richardson Seconded K Smith **Carried**

General Business:

Tropicana: Our display stand manned by Terry Dean, Jeff Glover and Sue Eggleshaw was popular. Many people wanted to buy the orchids on display.

STOCQ Orchid Fest 2019: We now have confirmation of venue, on the dates we require, for the Schwarten Pavilion. We will need to hire it for four days to allow set up and pull down time. We have received a cheque from STOCQ for \$600 to be used as prize money for the Champion Orchid at the Orchid Fest.

R.O.S.I Christmas Dinner and Awards Night: Frenchville Sports Club on 10th December. The cost per person will be \$15. We will have the usual lucky door prizes, lucky spots and of course the great plant raffle.

New Growers Report:

New grower's co-ordinator, David Eggleshaw, thanked Richard & Lyn Mann for hosting the previous new grower's event. The next one will be the new grower's barbeque breakup at Terry & Gwen Breingen's home on 18th November commencing at 5.00pm. Bring own chair, meat for the BBQ and salad. Bring a dessert to share and plants for the free raffle.

Plant Commentary:

Terry Dean gave an interesting and informative commentary on the orchids tabled.

Exhibiter Raffle: M Kydd

General Raffle: J Rawlings ,A Mikkelsen x 2, J Moore, T Dean, S Rowcliffe, R Stegemann

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Next committee meeting will be held at Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsom's home on Tuesday 31st October commencing at 7.00pm.

Jeff Bloxsom (President)

Trish Craig (Secretary)

Monthly Competition Results – October 2017.

(Plants tabled: Advanced 43; Novice 27.)

Judges Choice

C. Aloha Case 'Hawaiian Style'
Paph. Saint Swithin 'Ellie'
Onc. Ruth's Rainbow

P&T Jenkinson
T&E Dean
M&S Rowcliffe

Popular Vote, Advanced.

Cattleya over 100mm

Rth. Twentyfour Carat x R/c. Donna Kimura
'Capricorn's Pink Cameo'

J&S Frisch

Cattleya up to 100mm

Grt. Why Not

K&R Smith

Vandaceous over 65mm

V. Somsri Sunset

T&E Dean

Vandaceous up to 65mm

Van. Pine Rivers 'H&R'

J&M Bloxsom

Dendrobium

Den. Peach Blossom

K&R Smith

Paphiopedilum

Paph. Saint Swithin 'Ellie'

T&E Dean

Phalaenopsis

Phal. Charming Melody 'Pocketman'

T&M Handley

Oncidiinae

Onc. Ruth's Rainbow

M&S Rowcliffe

Species

Den. parishii

K&R Smith

Miscellaneous

Cym. name unknown

J&M Bloxsom

Novice.

Cattleya

Rth. Aussie Daffodil T'nt x Ctt. Aussie Sunset

R.Wines

Dendrobium

Den. Sonia

D&L Humble

Phalaenopsis

Phal. Bedford Lawrence Budding x Phal. Golden ? ?

D&L Humble

Miscellaneous

Den. lindleyi

D. MacKenzie

JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS



< *C. Aloha Case 'Hawaiian Style'*
P & T Jenkinson



Onc. Ruth's Rainbow
M & S Rowcliffe >

< *Paph. Saint Swithin 'Ellie'*
T & E Dean



My *Catasetums* and Their Relatives – by Jeffrey T Glover- *article written 2004*)

Before I start this article I feel it is necessary to firstly expand on the title. Indeed, the article is about *Catasetums* and their close relatives such as *Cycnoches* and *Clowesia*. However, the photos and the text along with some anecdotes, in the main, concern the 'modern hybrids'; my 'relatives' and inter-generics that are primarily derived from the *Catasetum* species *pileatum*, *expansum* and *fimbriatum*. Now having got that of my chest and subsequently lost all the species buffs, we shall sally forth into the contextualisation of my passion for what can be arguably described as the most sanguinely exotic of all orchids.



Ctsm. pileatum



Ctsm. expansum



Ctsm. fimbriatum

I first became 'really interested' in the genus *Catasetum* in 1988. Well known hybridiser and grower Dr. Greg Williams and wife Claire, were selling some of their collection prior to a proposed move from Rockhampton to Western Australia. Consequently, it was a visit to their place with some purchases in mind that sparked an abiding admiration of this genus that remains to this day. Previously, like many novice growers I had not bothered with *Catasetums*, because of initially receiving some 'bad advice'. The discussions that take place at the monthly meetings, weekend workshops and while musing over the show displays, are often the crucibles that produce well-meaning but often biased advice. Many times this 'advice' is founded on personal growing experiences realised through disappointment. Unfortunately, this can often be the way when starting out in any collecting endeavor and so it was with this skewed perception given to me by my senior orchid growing peers that I also sub-consciously began to view *Catasetums*.

The story went something like this, “Yep, very attractive, but not worth bothering with as the flowers only lasted a few days”. While this was a very generalist statement with some element of fact, alas; it was not the complete story. Regrettably, the uninformed, as I was then, tend to go along with what information the supposedly more knowledgeable growers choose to impart. Often the denegation of a particular genus or species is not intentional and can be just a matter of a grower’s exuberance for another genus; a state which after this article, you may consider me to be in, –hopefully not yet! Ok you get the message, don’t always believe what you are told if you want to try growing a particular orchid, ask someone who grows that genus! To place this in a chronological context and cut to the chase, my early enthusiasm for *Catasetums* was unintentionally duded!

Now let’s travel back to 1988, most notable for being the year of the bi-centenary, Expo 88 in Brisbane, Bob Hawke was in power, John Howard was mister 16% in the popularity stakes, INXS rode the top of the music charts, Christopher Skase was making plans for an extended Spanish holiday, Bondy owned XXXX, if only tenuously, and Joh Bjelke-Petersen had been toppled from power –enough Queensland parochialism you say! Meanwhile in the orchid world, it would be fair to suggest that around this time, hitherto unknown spectacular results were being achieved worldwide in hybrids and clones of the three most commonly grown genera in the Rockhampton area; *Cattleya*, *Vanda* and *Dendrobium*. For example, these were the days of the evolution of the famous Hazel Boyd clones, Fuchs’s *Vandas* and multiple Thai produced clones of super- floriferous *Dendrobiums*; ah! - the1980’s an age of excess. Hence, very few growers in our area had time for weird looking flowers that lasted a few days and literally spat part of their body at you when being transported or bumped in the greenhouse and then died even quicker – sometimes overnight.

Now back to one of my first experiences with *Catasetums*. Always harboring a desire to be that little bit different in every endeavor I undertake; I subsequently purchased a *Catasetum* Susan Fuchs and a *Catasetum*. Davie Ranches seedling, along with the other orchids from my first visit to Greg and Claire’s - both were in spike! Greg explained to me that often when well grown and given a mandatory dry spell over winter you could achieve up to four spikes or more from the one bulb. So what! You might say, as I did then. Greg further espoused that I should think about doing some mathematical calculations about the flowering time from a pseudo-bulb that can produce multiple spikes with up to 20 flowers each and over a 3-6 month period. Compare that to a *Cattleya* that often only flowers once from each pseudobulb for 2-3 weeks per year and your worried about a 5-7day flowering time. Now he had me thinking; as I said goodbye with the two extra unplanned purchases in the box; I now confide as I got into my car a fleeting thought crossed my mind that I may be returning soon for more *Catasetums*.



In about three weeks’ time, after the *Catasetums*’ flowering, plus a recent overtime payment and after mowing the lawn, I told my wife Norma I was going to visit the Williams again. I remember her later telling her sister in a subsequent family BBQ conversation ‘it could be worse it could be the pub’, as a dutiful smile filed my face while trying to hide the stubby behind my back! Greg welcomed me as usual, no doubt thinking here goes a few more I won’t have to worry about shifting. “Did the *Catasetums* flower he asked?” “Why do you think I am here again,” was my reply. As I cast my eyes around his greenhouse, knowing that some of my fellow orchid collectors had also been visiting Greg recently and wondering what those ‘carcass pickers’ had denied me, naturally I didn’t put myself in this class, Greg said “come over here I have something to show you.” Well I remember it must have been the gravel on the floor that was irritating my tongue combined with the excessive salivating that made me regain my senses enough to gurgle a response. Even though I may be guilty of a slight over description of my reaction; it was still a severely embarrassing event when I reflect on this episode today. *Catasetum. pileatum* ‘Green Giant’ was the object of my disgusting loss of self-control. Consisting of two inflorescences with ten and eight sparkling lime-green 6-7inch wide flowers respectively, I think it remains to this day in 24 years of collecting and judging orchids perhaps one of the most stunning examples of orchid beauty I have ever seen. Did Greg sell me the orchid? I might tell you at the end of the article.

Ok, let's leave the anecdotal narrative for a while and discuss some of the history of modern hybrids and their culture. The genus *Catasetum* (pronounced kat-uh- see tum) and derived from combining the Greek word *cata* meaning 'downward direction' and the Latin *seta* meaning 'bristles', belong to the sub-tribe Catasetinae which in turn is a member of the tribe Cymbidieae (Holst, 1999).

That they are relatives of Cymbidiums may come as a revelation to some growers as it first was to me. I now boast to my southern compatriots that I grow and flower cymbidiums in the tropics; to many this is naturally a source of much surprise, doubt and mirth. After some enjoyable ribbing I usually reveal my deception and many are equally surprised as I was with the genetic connection. However, back on to some more serious matters; the four members included in Catasetinae sub-tribe are *Clowesia*, *Cycnoches* (the renowned swan orchids), *Mormodes* (the goblin orchid) and *Dressleria*.

From the derivation of the name *Catasetum* and for anyone who has grown them, it is easy to understand that perhaps the feature that attracts most interest is the explosive-like release of the pollinarium in an attempt to fasten to any visiting insect. The two bristles or antennae found in the male flower extend downward to the lip cavity and when touched trigger this amazing process, which never ceases to produce wonderment and awe for first-time observers. The speed at which this process occurs has been measured at 10ft. or 300cm per second (Holtz, 1999). The fact that the members of this sub-tribe produce male and female flowers as a means of avoiding the production of inferior progeny through self-pollination; combined with the pollination method identifies these orchids as advanced members of orchid evolution and qualifies their uniqueness in the orchid world. (Holst, 1999).

The detailed description of the pollination process and other features is beyond the scope of this article and it is probably now timely to direct readers to what is considered by many as the foremost contemporary publication on Catasetums, *The World of Catasetums*, by Arthur W. Holst, Timber Press 1999 USA. The title given to Chapter 4 by the author, 'The Miracle of Pollination' is perhaps paramount testament to the uniqueness of this process.

While discussing this most wondrous feature, please allow me to digress with another anecdotal experience. My daughter Kristy who is now 22 and engaged to be married next year; as a child was what is endearingly referred to as a 'tom boy'. Having grown up as an 'orchid-kid' being dragged to shows, waiting in cars with her brother and mother on family holidays while dad visited orchid nurseries; events I am sure many readers can relate to, leaves me with an enduring *Catasetum* related memory. I can still see her and three of her mates as 7 year olds running around our backyard with pollina stuck all over their arms and faces with her yelling to me as they excitedly ran by "I showed them the spitting orchids daddy" ! Needless to say I didn't exhibit any *Catasetums* at the show that was on the following week. Ah well! These things happen; it is much easier to appreciate the funnier side 15 years later.

Our knowledge of *Catasetums* in the modern world can be traced to being first mentioned by Linnaeus as one of the 69 species described in his seminal 1753 publication *Species Plantarum* (Holtz, 1999). Over the next few centuries despite the areas of South America most notably Brazil, being restricted for centuries to exploration by only people from each country's respective colonial masters; some contact was made by explorers/adventurers with an interest in nature rather than precious metals and trade goods. For example, Australians will be surprised that Sir Joseph Banks and Solander while accompanying Captain Cook on his voyage in which he is overtly credited with discovering Australia; collected plants around the Rio de Janeiro coastline in 1768, even after being refused entry by the Portuguese. It is thought that *Catasetums* may have been among the plants collected by these eminent scientists (Holst 1999). However, it is in the nineteenth century, and the age of the 'aristocrat collector, inspired explorations, and after Brazil became independent and opened to 'foreigners', that our formal knowledge of *Catasetums* comes into being. Again I direct readers to Holst's book for a fascinating read on historical aspects of the genus *Catasetum*.

I prefaced that in the article I would mostly discuss modern hybrids but to get hybrids of course you must have the natural species. The main species contributing to the 'modern hybrids' are *Catasetum pileatum*, *expansum*, and *fimbriatum*. Gene Monnier the owner of JEM Orchids in Florida who is a hybridizer at the forefront of *Catasetum* breeding, states in '*Hybrids and Breeding Trends*, 'Chapter 9' in *Holst's World of Catasetums*, that 'modern breeding of *Catasetums* only began in the 1950's'. This is fairly recent considering other orchid hybridization such as in the *Paphiopedilum* genus began in the early 1800's. He also declares that *pileatum* is the species that is most widely used in breeding, a fact that for anyone who is familiar with the genus would readily concur. Admired especially for its size, it is actually the largest flowered of all *Catasetums*.

At the end of 1996, 55 hybrids had been registered with *Ctsm. pileatum* in their background (Monnier, 1996). Being mindful that this statistic is now 10 years old a quick look through recent Sander's addendums will attest as to how popular the breeding of new *catatasetinae* hybrids has been over the last decade. *Catasetum expansum* is the second most commonly used *Catasetum* species. Its popularity can also be attributed to its flat lip and overall size. Perhaps the most widely known of all *Catasetum* hybrids is *Ctsm. Orchidglade* (*Ctsm. pileatum* x *Ctsm. expansum*) registered in 1974. This orchid became very popular because of the size of its lip inherited from *Ctsm. pileatum* and the wide range of colour the progeny produced. The next level of breeding crossing *Orchidglade* back to *pileatum* and with *expansum* and *fimbriatum* also produced some enduring hybrids. *Ctsm. Orchidglade* x *Ctsm. pileatum* becomes the well-known *Ctsm. Bound for Glory* and *Ctsm. Orchidglade* x *Ctsm. expansum* becomes the even more widely known *Ctsm. Susan Fuchs*. *Catasetum Spotted Dragon* is yet another *Ctsm. Orchidglade* cross materializing with the infusion of *Ctsm. fimbriatum*.

Unfortunately, it is this line of breeding that produces the shorter-lived flowers, a point that I discussed previously which I believe is compensated for the flowers' showiness and repeat flowering from the one pseudobulb. Of the *pileatum* crosses produced in the 1980's and now classed as an intergeneric, Clowsetum Raymond Lerner (*Clowesia russelliana* x *Catasetum pileatum*) became one of the most sought after hybrids. It makes a beautiful display as a mature plant and I have flowered my specimen with over 80 flowers on 4 inflorescences - a sight to behold. Two other very popular and enduring *Ctism pileatum* crosses of the 1980's were, *Ctism. Penang* (*Ctism. pileatum* x *Ctism. Susan Fuchs*) and *Ctism. Doris's Choice* (*Ctism. fimbriatum* x *Ctism. pileatum*) while *Ctism. Fuchs Delight* (*Ctism. Susan Fuchs* X *Ctism. expansum*) is the most widely seen 1980's *expansum* hybrid. There have been many hybrids both intra and intergeneric made in the last decade and we are now starting to see them imported into Australia as most breeding is done in America and Taiwan. A quick look through Sander's recent addendums listings in the Catasetine hybrids sections will give you an insight into the current breeding trends and an indication of the increasing popularity of these plants.



Without wanting to be accused of making rash statements Catasetums and their relatives are troubled by very few pests and diseases bar one extremely troublesome pest. Their nemesis is without doubt the spider-mites. These mites will literally crawl over other orchids to get to Catasetums. The problems these pests cause to Catasetums throughout a season can be relentless if not controlled. They rasp and suck the undersides of the leaves, hence destroying the photosynthetic cells, stressing the plant, rendering the leaves devoid of life and useless until they eventually come away from the pseudo bulb. Fortunately, combined with constant vigilance and Miticides they can be controlled. Again referring to Arthur Holst's book, he also recommends a constant watch (eternal vigilance) for this pest as the best method of pro-active management. Being able to see the telltale signs and acting quickly is the best approach. I have included a photo showing the telltale silver appearance on the underside of leaves that equates to spider-mite damage. One of the best tools you can use to confirm their presence is a magnifying glass. Young eyes and maybe if you have still have good eye sight not commensurate with your age you may be able to see them

with the naked eye. However, a magnifying glass will allow you to confirm their presence and act appropriately. Kelthane is the active constituent in most commercially available miticides and will control them; but the problem with these pests is that they can quickly develop resistance to the constant use of the same chemical agent. The pests thrive in hot dry weather and we have had plenty of that this summer in Rockhampton. I have had lasting success of late rotating the use of Kelthane with an insecticide and miticide soap product. Your spraying regime should be carried out over a three-week period from the first spraying. The eggs have a ten-day hatching period and are not susceptible to chemical control. Thus 2-3 sprayings in a 3week period kills all of the infestation not just the adults present when the damage is first noticed but also the ones that hatch ten days after the first treatment.

The only other real problem is rotting of the bulbs and dormant eyes during winter. Many Catasetums in their natural habitat are deciduous and during winter go into a distinct dormant phase. (Horst, 1999), classifies Catasetum species into natural geographical climatic zones which have several species overlapping and should you be interested in growing specific species, again I direct you to his seminal work. However, the point to consider here is because we are in the most concerned with growing hybrids the sensible regime to undertake in winter is to enforce a complete dry rest on all your Catasetums to be on the safe side. I have had plants with withered pseudo bulbs in July you would swear have gone to 'join their maker', shoot again almost magically in the first week in September, as if some mystical switch was thrown. Whilst on the other hand early in my passion for Catasetums, I have continued watering thinking they were drying out too quickly and come the 'cold' in late June and July these bulbs have turned into black evil smelling plant- cadavers. So the upshot of this melodramatic description is to avoid the rots associated with climatic change, err on the side of dryness and if they drop their leaves this winter and not the next, go with it, overall dryness in winter, is the best answer to avoid the 'rots'.

Potting mixes are always a contentious subject, while I have grown Catasetums in bark; sphagnum moss mixed with granulated polystyrene has been the best performer for me. The only problem is when growing in a mixed collection; care is needed with the amount of water used. Catasetums during the growing season will handle all the water you can give them provided it is accompanied with good air movement. The problems will be with the other orchids in your collection resenting the copious amounts of water. Vandas and Phalaenopsis make good companions as these genera also appreciate lots of water and fertilizer in the tropical summer growing season. Division is the most popular method of repotting followed by potting on 'pups' or plantlets which are produced by many Catasetum hybrids and species. The obvious thick green velum tipped roots produced at the onset of the growing season make the timing for repotting almost foolproof.

Well I hope along with the text and photos I have whet your appetite to give these majestic beauties a try as an alternative to some of the more commonly grown genera. I am conscious that our more southern comrades will need to give them artificial heat in winter, but many growers of tropical genera in the south of the country already have this facility so putting a few among your collection could give you a surprise come summer. However, they are tropical orchids and when I was considering my advice on where to get some plants I thought of all the nurseries from which I have made Catasetum purchases. They range from Sydney to Cairns and most admittedly were in Queensland.

Many of the well-known multiple genera nurseries have been listing *Catasetum* seedlings for some time in their catalogues, these include Aranbeem Orchids, Charm Orchids, P&R Orchids, Robertson Orchids, Royale Orchids and Wolf Orchid Culture to name a few. To get a copy of Holst's book you need to look no further than the Australian Orchid Foundation's bookshop and our great traveling orchid book store Orchidaceous Books, both have stocked and advertised it in the past.

Before I close there was the result of a potential sale I was going to let you in on wasn't there; I did purchase *Ctasm. pileatum* 'Green Giant' one of the two plants Greg had at the time, the other I believe went to a commercial nursery. Unfortunately, I also have a confession to make, remembering that this was early in my lusting for *Catesetums*; sadly, it became a victim of the winter rots. I can't begin to tell you the quantities and varieties of fungicides I put on those pseudobulbs trying to re-ignite a dormant eye but alas it was to no avail. I did learn a valuable lesson though -if your culture is right you don't need chemicals, a point I now appreciate applies to all orchids. Greg and Claire didn't move away, he still talks to me, but not about *Ctasm. pileatum* 'Green Giant'. I don't know the fate of the second plant, and Kristy, well she still teases me that one day when I am not home, she will again show her now decidedly 'young lady' friends' the 'spitters'.

References:

Holst, A. W., 1999. *The World of Catasetums*, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon USA.

Monnier, G., 1999. 'Hybrids and Breeding Trends', Chapter 9 in A. W. Holst's *World of Catesetums*, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon USA.

New Growers Report

David Eggleshaw

Thanks to Carolyn and Michael Dahler for hosting the last new growers meeting, even though it was an extremely warm afternoon I am sure everyone enjoyed the extensive range of orchids and ferns that they have.

Thanks to Carolyn for telling us about her nursery and once again thanks to John Frisch for talking about red spider mites and how to treat them.

We also spoke about the storage of your chemicals, keep them in a cool dark place and they will last a lot longer. UNDER 25 deg c and in the dark.

I would like to ask that if anyone can host and run the new growers meeting for the end of April next year please let me know as Sue and I have already booked a holiday at this time.

The end of year BBQ will be held on the 18th of November at Terry and Gwen Breingan's home at 28 Dowling Street, North Rockhampton starting at 5.00 pm. (red area marks the home)

Please Bring The Following – Chair, Table if required, your own

meat to BBQ & your own salads. Maybe some nibblies

A Desert to share with everyone (I love home-made!!!)

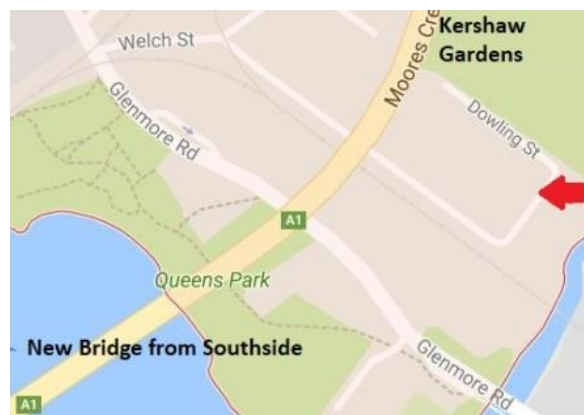
The most important thing is a prizes for the raffle table - orchid, plants or maybe a item Christmas gift wrapped.

Everyone that comes along gets a lucky ticket in our free raffle, so the more prizes donated the more prizes to be won.

I hope to see you all at our end of year new grower's party as this will be our last get together for this 2017.

Until the next meeting - happy growing.

David Eggleshaw (New Growers Leader)



NOVEMBER MEMBER PROFILE ROSEMARY WINES

My interest in orchids was something that sort of "happened" over time due mostly to my brother, Allan, giving me plants from his collection. Allan and his wife Dianne had been members of the Rockhampton Orchid Society for some years.

My husband Geoff and I had been working and living in the Canberra area for many years and we decided to move to warmer climes in the early 1990's. My garden in Canberra was the typical "English Cottage" type with all the glorious roses, spring bulbs and blossom trees that the cooler climate gardens are noted for.

Coming back to the Rockhampton area meant a complete rethink of garden plants and growing technique. Building a new house and establishing a garden from scratch in the back blocks near Raglan was a bit of a challenge but over the years, with a lot of work it did happen, and of course the orchids from Allan were accumulating. Sadly they received little attention, the cattle and farm work came first.

Geoff and I sold our property in 2004 and moved to Rockyview. So more time to spend in the garden – "not really". While Geoff was happily "retired" I was still in the "I need to work" frame of mind. So the orchids now strung up under a child's shade cloth covered sand pit still weren't doing that well, exposed to any happy dendrobium beetle or other orchid destroying creature that happened by. The result of a bemoaning "I don't know what's wrong with this orchid" conversation with my dear brother saw me "go over the paddock to see a bloke called Smithy" whose advice more or less suggested, in a nice way, that if my plant was a child I should be arrested for abuse. So I thought I had better see about joining the Rockhampton Orchid Society, and get some help.

The idea "that growing orchids can't be all that hard" was soon changed when I began learning about the many types of orchids there are, and that my insignificant little Dendrobium and Cattleya collection were just a minute selection of what's out there to learn about and try to grow. With the help, advice and generosity of the more experienced club members, Peter and June Shelton, Terry Dean, John Frisch, Jeff Bloxson, Keith Marsden, Barry and Fay English, and some bloke called Smithy (and Mrs Smithy) to name just a few, I can now actually say I have actually won a blue ribbon or two (even if it did take a few years to do so). ***Judges Choice August – V. (Neost) Pinky >***



In 2009 I acquired a former ROSIs members orchid house and part of an orchid collection. Geoff reconstructed the orchid house and I recorded all the orchids in my orchid "bible". My collection now numbers around 300 plants and features mostly Cattleya and Dendrobiums, with some Oncidiinae, Vandas, Catasetum and Phalaenopsis plants. I don't "specialise" in any one particular species, I just try to grow and flower a plant to its best.

< Judges Choice April – Rlc. Donna Kimura

We grow orchids for their beauty, their colour, shape, their unusualness and perhaps bonus fragrance. And when the stars all align and we manage to get the fertilizer, potting mix, bugs and germs under control, they bring a smile, because we got it right. I also smile because there are special plants in my collection given over the years by some very special people. I am reminded of them and the joy their gift continues to give.



Ellie's Corner



Hello everyone. Welcome to Ellie's Corner for November 2017. It seems incredible that this is our pre-Christmas newsletter.

Many of our members have family reunions during the holidays. Jack and Jan Martin are travelling to Mackay early December to see their granddaughter Georgina perform with the Sarina Dance School. Jan turns 80 on 14th December. Friends have already organised a Luncheon on 13th December and there will no doubt be many more celebrations involving family and friends. More to follow next newsletter!

Marilyn and Jeff Bloxsom went out to dinner with friends to celebrate Marilyn's Birthday on November 2nd. A very happy time was had by all. Marilyn and Jeff are looking forward to a family Christmas at their home.

Bryan Weaver celebrated his Birthday on October 20th. His family came from Blackwater and there was also a surprise visit from his son who lives in Brisbane. The family enjoyed a High Tea at Bryan and Lorraine's home. There was much merriment and family love. We wish Bryan and Lorraine many more such happy occasions.

John and Jan Hogan are going to their daughter's home in Mackay over Christmas and are really looking forward to spending precious time with their gorgeous little granddaughter, Lily.

Bev McArthur tells me she is happily in residence at Settler's and is looking forward to spending Christmas with her daughter in Gladstone.

Joy McCartney is travelling to Agnes Water for Christmas to spend some festive time with her elder son John and his wife Julie and their family. Joy said she is really looking forward to meeting her two new great granddaughters – Maggie Rose and Elizabeth. The little girls are cousins. What a lot of cuddles Joy will share with them.

Bev Powell is spending Christmas at home. Her son Clinton works in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia in a gold and copper mine. His Australian base is Melbourne and he spends three weeks there and three weeks overseas. He is flying back to Australia on Christmas Day. Bev is looking forward to going to Melbourne to see him in the near future.

Ron and Helen Rowcliffe (Michael's parents), are a lovely bright couple seeking to enjoy the best in life. Ron retired on 20th October, and Helen retired a couple of weeks later. They are flying to Perth in the near future and then will cruise around the top of Australia and down the east coast. What a lovely trip. Terry and I did a cruise like that some years ago but in reverse order and had a great time. When they are back home at Sarina, Ron is building a greenhouse for Helen's broms. We are looking forward to seeing Ron and Helen at our Christmas Party.

Happy Birthday to Shirley Kuhn for 3rd December. She tells me she is 21 again!! Shirley, her partner Bob and Mum, Bobby, will celebrate Christmas at home "waiting for Santa to come".

Paxia and Laurie Lucke mark their Birthdays a few days apart – Paxia on 26th November and Laurie on 30th November. It has not been

a good year for Laurie health wise and we all pray things will improve for him. Hopefully they will be able to celebrate their two Birthdays with their daughters in Brisbane and also see their son Peter in Townsville. Laurie told me that Peter (an electrician by trade), is a commercial orchid grower with over 28,000 plants. He owns Sunny View Orchids, Townsville.

Karen Carr told me that she and Peter are going to Brisbane the Saturday before Christmas and staying in the City in an apartment until the following Saturday. They haven't been away for Christmas for quite a few years and are really looking forward to just wandering around relaxing and seeing the sights. They are looking forward to catching up with Karen's favourite uncle, and a couple of cousins. Sounds fun.



Happy Birthday to those members celebrating in December. Shirley Kuhl 3rd; Cheryl Hannaway 4th; Jeni Scott 5th; Kerry Wilson 10th; Alan Hine 13th; Jan Martin 14th; Jeff Glover 15th; Yvonne Manning 18th; Ron Rowcliffe 19th; Pam Marsden 31st.

Terry and I are spending Christmas at home. We wish you and your loved ones safe travelling and all the blessings of the Christmas Season.

Till next time my love and prayers are with you.

Ellie

Popular Vote Winners – October Meeting



Phal. Charming Melody 'Pocketman'
T & M Handley



Den Parish Blossom - K & R Smith



Rth. Twentyfour Carat x Rlc. Donna Kimura
'Capricorn's Pink Cameo' - J & S Frisch



Cym. Name Unknown
J & M Bloxson



Phal. Bedford Lawrence Budding x Phal. Golden ??
D & L Humble



V. Somsri Sunset - T & E Dean



Van. Pine Rivers 'H&R'
J & M Bloxson



Den. parishii - K & R Smith



Den. Sonia - D & L Humble



Den. lindleyi - D MacKenzie

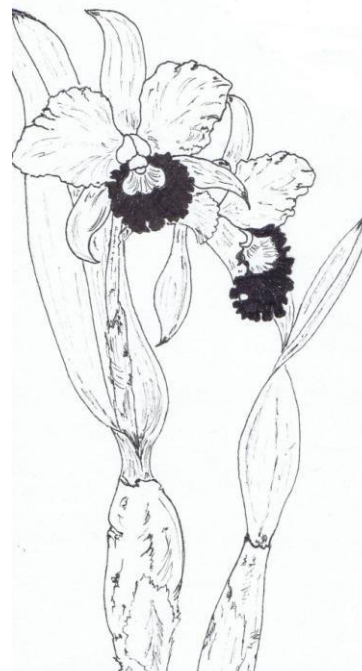


Grt. Why Not - K & R Smith

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Queensland. 4701

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Your 2017 ROSI Orchid Diary

18th November – ROSI Christmas Barbecue

**10th 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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