



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



PO Box 5949
Red Hill Rockhampton 4701

Founded 1955



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc

Newsletter – June 2023

Brrrrrrr!!!! Here we are in the first month of Winter. The cold weather is appreciated by some but not by all, me included. Having already had a few cold days through May I must admit I am already looking forward to the return of warmer and longer days. As I am writing this, we have had a bit of warmer weather with a couple of days of showers and overcast skies, no doubt coolness will return when the skies clear.



For new growers watering must be cut back for your orchids to alleviate rotted roots occurring over winter, and keep an eye out for pests – mealy bugs, scale, thrips etc.

Sadly, in the period between our April and May meetings our longest continual serving member, Terry Dean, a total of 59 years membership, passed. Jeff Glover who knew Terry and his wife Ellie for almost forty years has compiled a tribute in this newsletter. Our club offers its sincerest condolences to Shirley and Terry's family. It was great to see so many of our members attending his funeral service and the following wake at the Glenmore Hotel.

In our last newsletter I mentioned that in the coming months our Treasurer Diane MacKenzie is leaving Rockhampton to move to Brisbane to be closer to their family. I had mentioned that her position would need filling, Jeff asked all attendees at our May General Meeting with no one putting up their hand. He had spoken to Karen Carr prior who is currently our Assistant Editor, and she has agreed to fill the role up to our next Annual General Meeting. Many thanks to Karen!!!!

THANK YOU

In this newsletter the Orchid of the Month is Bulbophyllums. If there are any genera that members would like to see me cover just drop me a line. Any member who would like to submit an article is also encouraged to do so.

We have a couple of Grower's Group Meetings coming up, details following in newsletter.

Numbers are now being taken for our Mid-Year Function at Kershaw Gardens on the 30th of July. Details are in this newsletter.

Numbers are also being taken for our Society's attendance at the STOCQ Conference at Hervey Bay in September. We had hoped to take a coach but on current numbers this may not be viable, please give it some thought before our June Meeting when the decision will be made. 11

Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor.

**Next Monthly Meeting: Saturday 24th June 2023.
Starts 1:30pm.**

Notice to Members: Please assist if you can with cleaning the hall after the meeting.

Any original article contained in a Rockhampton Orchid Society Newsletter may be re-printed for educational or information purposes, if, the Author and Newsletter & Edition are referenced.

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
General Meeting Saturday 27th May 2023 commencing 1.30pm

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: #77 Lauren & Thor Noller

Visitors: NIL

Lucky Number: 37 – Jan Hogan

Next General Meeting – Saturday 24th June 2023

Minutes of April 2023 monthly meeting as published in the newsletter were approved as correct and accurate.

Moved Daphne Jenkinson **Seconded** Kay Ratcliffe **Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE FOR GENERAL MEETING OF R.O.S.I. ON SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2023

IN –

- Newsletters – Australian Orchid Foundation, Blackwater Garden Club Orchid & Foliage Society, Bribie Island Orchid Society, Bundaberg Orchid Society, Caboolture Orchid Society, Calliope Orchid & Foliage Society, Caloundra Orchid Society, Childers & Isis District Orchid Society, Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society, Glasshouse Country Orchid Society, Gympie Orchid Society, Hervey Bay Orchid Society, Nambour Orchid Society, North Queensland Orchid Society, Townsville Orchid Society.
- Membership Renewal and Cheque from Jill Howes
- Statement from Big Colour Works
- Email Statement Notification from Bendigo Bank
- Email from Lavina Rees re: Show Dates
- Email from Lavina Rees re: Upcoming STOCQ Meeting Caloundra
- Email from Lavina Rees re: RSVP date for upcoming STOCQ Meeting
- Condolences Email for Terry Dean from Len and Irene Dowling
- Email from Caloundra Orchid Society re: Passing of their member Neville Douglas
- Thank you card from Marg & Trevor Handley re: Marg's mothers sympathy card sent.

OUT –

- Notice sent to members re: Terry Dean passing.
- Copies of various clubs' newsletters emailed to members.
- Sympathy card to Marg & Trevor Handley

Inwards correspondence acknowledged as received and outwards correspondence endorsed as sent.

Moved by Jan Rawlings **Seconded** Kerrie Green **Carried**

Treasurer's Report read and moved for adoption by Di MacKenzie.

Seconded Karen Carr **Carried**

Growers Group: Nothing to report this month but will be discussed at the May committee meeting.

Business Arising from the last meeting: NIL

General Business:

- New plant tabling system for general meetings commences for May Meeting. Moyna Richardson still felt it was not the way to go. Jeff explained that it was brought in to make tabling of plants quicker, he asked for a show of hands on this and the majority approved.
- Margaret Handley spoke about a lot of plants are incorrectly labelled and has offered to assist to correct orchid names. It was discussed that Orchid Wiz was a great tool to ensure plant names were correct and gave the information of the breeding parents etc., of plants, sadly this program has now been discontinued. Paul Bennett mentioned that he uses <https://orchidroots.com> and finds it a very informative site. Jeff suggested that at the next meeting he will bring his computer with Orchid Wiz on it for all to check out.
- Jeff Bloxom spoke about Terry Dean's passing. The committee made an executive decision that the Society would pay for the orchid casket arrangement that was completed by Allentown Florist which cost \$120, all at the meeting agreed with this decision. Jeff then thanked Tony March, Ray Bills, Jeff Glover, and Sandra Rowcliffe for their donation of orchid flowers used in the arrangement. *(Photo of arrangement next page)*

Terry Dean's Casket Arrangement



- Jeff spoke about the need for tools when setting up shows, Tony March had suggested that the club purchase a tool bag of specific tools for this purpose, Jeff agreed for Tony to purchase this which has been done at a cost of \$92.32. All at the meeting agreed.
- Jeff sent around two clipboards for members to add names.
 1. **Mid-Year Function – 30th July** – Jeff spoke about the suitable location the event would be held in Kershaw Gardens. It is at the Dowling Street Entrance. The area is close to toilets but does not have a barbecue, so it was suggested an outside caterer be used. He had spoken to Robyn from Dunlop's Catering who would do up a cold meat and salad lunch. The cost is \$16.50 a head and it was moved by Carolyn Dahler that with a club subsidy the cost would be \$10 each and this was seconded by Dennis Ratcliffe. All agreed.

Members would need to bring their own chairs, small table (if they wish), plate for morning tea and something sweet for dessert. The club would set up gazebos. Tea and coffee will be provided as well as cold fruit punch/cold water. There will be games and competitions. There will also be a very large multidraw raffle. It would commence at 10.00am.
 2. **STOCQ Conference – Hervey Bay – Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September.** The Society had hoped that there would be enough for a coach to be arranged, at \$5,000 it would need a minimum of 30 to travel on the coach, at this stage there were only 15 wishing to travel on the coach. There were a lot of members attending but driving down themselves, especially those who will enter plants in the show or those who wish to judge which would require them to be down there on the Thursday and some leave after the Show ends on the Sunday.

Jeff spoke about the costs to members who went on the coach – (30) \$430 for singles (twin share room), \$860 for couples, (35) \$355, (40) \$335 and (50) \$310. The single prices are for twin share, any singles wishing to attend but take the room by themselves it is an additional \$80 per night. The costs include coach travel, two nights' accommodation with breakfast both mornings and the conference dinner on the Saturday night.

Jeff mentioned that the Saturday is a free day, with lectures on the Sunday for registrants. Jenni Scott mentioned that John Rees had discussed organising a Bundaberg Green House Visit on that day. It was suggested maybe a visit to the Hervey Bay Botanical Gardens Orchid House. This will be further investigated. \$100 deposit per person must be done by our June Meeting to lock in the accommodation/dinner numbers. It was mentioned that the Society could possibly subsidise attending members \$50 each to help with costs.
- As the conference falls on the weekend that our September General Meeting would be, that Meeting will now be held on the 16th of September.
- Members attending the conference were reminded that our Spring Show is on the weekend following the conference so that they would need to start preparing earlier for the show.
- Tony March and Bob Jenkins will be the Society's designated raffle plant buyers. Tony has an upcoming trip to Brisbane and hopes to be able to purchase plants then, which he will house in his greenhouse. Shirley Cantwell has approached Jeff about Terry's Orchids. Most of his family are taking orchids but any that are left Jeff will meet with one of Terry's sisters in June and will check out remaining plants and purchase for the Society. These will be then used for raffles.
- As Diane MacKenzie is leaving us soon Jeff asked if there was anyone at the meeting interested in taking on the Treasurer's role. No one put their hands up, Jeff said he had spoken to Karen Carr who has agreed to take on the role until the next AGM.

Plant Commentary: In the absence of Jeff Glover, Jeni Scott completed the plant commentary.

Exhibitor's Raffle: Jackie Graham

General Raffle: Bob Jenkins x 3, Jeff Bloxsom x 3, Trish Craig x 2, Jan Rawlings x 2, Jackie Graham x 2, Rod Green x 2, Laurie Lucke, Tony O'Connor, Jana Bennett, Rosemary Wines and Di MacKenzie.

Meeting closed at 3.10pm for afternoon tea.

Next Committee meeting 6.30 pm on Wednesday 31st May at Jeff Bloxsom's Residence 12 Harden Street North Rockhampton. Bring a plate for supper.

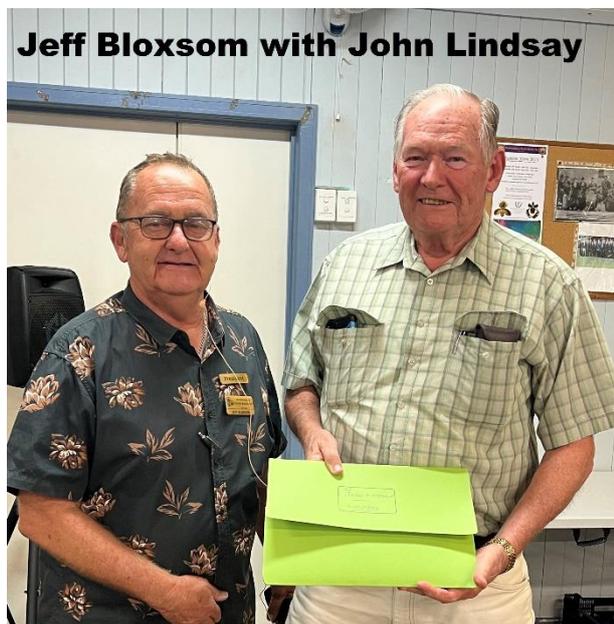
Jeff Bloxsom

President

Sandra Rowcliffe

Secretary

New Members



Mid-Year Function



- DATE -** SUNDAY 30TH JULY
WHERE - KERSHAW GARDENS -CARPARK ENTRY OFF DOWLING STREET
TIME - 10.00AM TO 3.00PM - *(Members can leave earlier if they so wish).*
COST - \$10.00 (\$16.50 before subsidy) includes cold meat & salad lunch, Tea/Coffee, Cold Fruit Punch and Cold Water will be supplied. Lunch around 12.30pm. We currently have 60 names down. Final numbers are required by 22nd July for catering.
- PAYMENT -** BY JUNE MEETING
Payment prior to day by transfer (include Member No.) or cash at June Meeting
- WHAT TO BRING -** Chair, Small Table, Plate for Morning Tea, Something sweet for dessert, coffee cup, cutlery, hat, sunscreen, raffle money.
THERE WILL BE PERGOLAS FOR SHADE.
FUN GAMES AND COMPETIONS, AND A VERY LARGE MULTI DRAW RAFFLE.
COME ALONG AND ENJOY A GREAT SOCIAL DAY WITH YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS!!!

Annual Competition – May 2023 Results

Judges Choice

* <i>Bulb. Rothschildiana</i> (possibly - <i>Bulb. rothschildianum</i> x <i>Bulb. lasiochilum</i>)	R Wines
<i>C. walkeriana</i> var. <i>flamea</i> 'Tokutsu'	J Scott
<i>C. Jungle Queen</i> 'Southern Cross'	J Scott

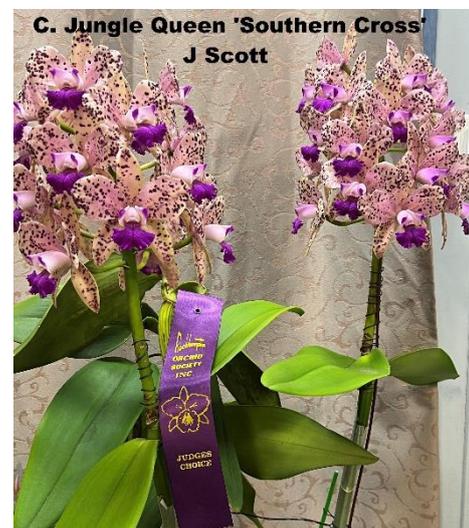
Popular Vote

Advanced (Plants Tabled: 41)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>C. Jungle Queen</i> 'Southern Cross'	J Scott
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Rlc. Goldenzelle</i> 'Golden Pumpkin'	J & P Bennett
Vandaceous up to 65mm	<i>Vanda Viboon Velvet</i> 'Korat'	J Scott
Vandaceous over 65mm	<i>Vanda Crownfox</i> x <i>Vanda Diva</i>	J & M Bloxsom
Dendrobium	<i>Dendrobium</i> Brighton Pansy	B Jenkins
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph. Sioux</i> x <i>Paph. Hsinying Book</i>	K & R Smith
Catasetinae	<i>Clowesetum</i> Penang Waltz	J & P Bennett
Oncidiinae	<i>Gom. Moon Shadow</i>	J Scott
Species	<i>C. walkeriana</i> var. <i>flamea</i> 'Tokutsu'	J Scott
Miscellaneous	* <i>Bulb. Rothschildiana</i> (possibly - <i>Bulb. rothschildianum</i> x <i>Bulb. lasiochilum</i>)	R Wines

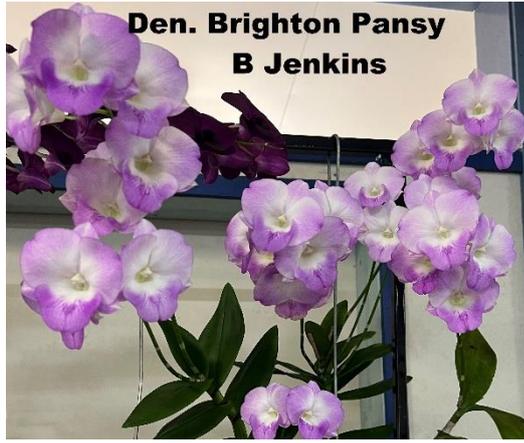
Novice (Plants Tabled: 21)

Cattleya up to 100mm & Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Grx. Sogo Doll</i> 'Little Angel'	D & K Ratcliffe
Dendrobium	<i>Dendrobium</i> . Name Unknown	R & K Green
Miscellaneous	<i>Phal.</i> Name Unknown	J Graham

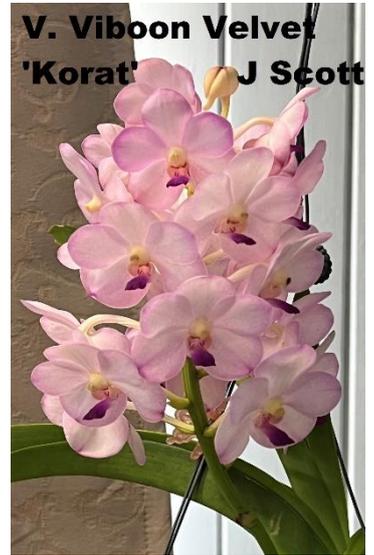




Clow. Penang Waltz
J & P Bennett



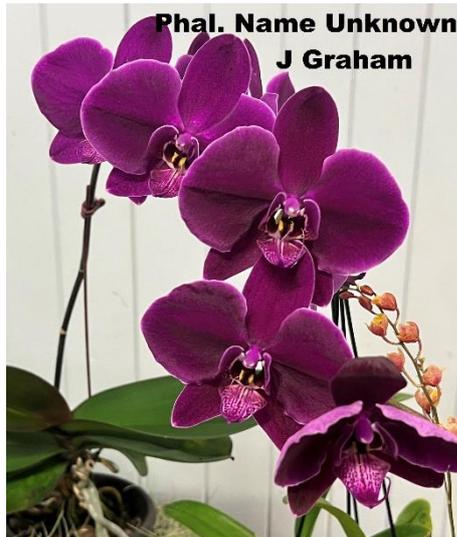
Den. Brighton Pansy
B Jenkins



V. Viboon Velvet
'Korat' J Scott



Grx. Sogo Doll 'Little Angel'
D & K Ratcliffe



Phal. Name Unknown
J Graham



Paph. Sioux x Paph.
Hsinying Book - K & R Smith



V. Crownfox
x V Diva
J & M Bloxsum



Den. Name Unknown
R & K Green



Gom. Moon Shadow
J Scott



Ric. Goldenzelle 'Golden Pumpkin'
J&P Bennett

Vale Terry Dean

Terence Stanley Dean 21-03-1941 to 16-05-2023 – by Jeffrey Glover



I first met Terry Dean and Ellie in 1984 almost 40 years ago when they came to judge the Capricorn Orchid and Foliage Club show held at Lawrence Motors. In 1986 along with Norma I joined the Rockhampton Orchid society which heralded a long and enduring friendship with Terry and Ellie. Terry and Ellie attended both our children's weddings having known them from babies. In the early days of this friendship Terry was a mentor in my orchid journey. Terry was the Society Registrar at that time and did some of the plant commentaries where he would pass on his knowledge to those assembled at the monthly meetings which in those days were held in St Barnabas Anglican Church Hall in Musgrave Street. This expertise he freely continued to impart to anyone for decades to come. Over the years Terry amassed what can only be described as an immense collection with Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, and Vandas being the mainstay and of latter years a sizable Paphiopedilum collection being established in a new greenhouse as he attempted to downsize somewhat. Over the years so many of these plants made their way to our meetings and likewise were exhibited at our Shows.

In 1988 a move amongst the CQ orchid community was made to establish a Central Queensland Orchid Council of which Terry was an inaugural member. This was as a response to what was then perceived as the lack of grower recognition outside of the SE Queensland; to facilitate awards. It was before the formation of the Australian Orchid Council which overtime has addressed these issues. As a result, the state body at the time, The Queensland Orchid Society started classes for growers who had an interest in becoming judges and Terry and I were present at the initial meeting in Rockhampton and went on to become members of the first group of judges to qualify in the CQ area. Of this original group of five, sadly with Terry's passing now only one remains. As judges this further enhanced our friendship with us traveling together to many shows and conferences over the ensuing years both to judge and as visitors to enjoy our common bond of loving everything to do with orchids.

Along with Ellie and Norma, it even saw us on somewhat of a whim one time travel to Melbourne in the height of Winter to attend a conference that mainly featured Cymbidiums, a genus admired by both, but which had alluded our combined growing prowess. On a downside our travels saw us almost killed one morning while travelling to judge the Gladstone Easter Show something we consistently did together for over twenty years until Ellie's health deteriorate to a level where Terry could not be away for extended periods. In the early morning-fog we collided with a horse south of Marmor on Highway One; I was driving and the passenger's side containing Terry took the full force. Apart from a few scratches we were lucky that day and avoided what could have been a lot worse.

Terry's reputation as an orchid grower was well known throughout Queensland. Perhaps his greatest achievement along with the awards he received for his plants and his Life Membership, given to both he and Ellie in 1980, was his unwavering commitment to ROSI. Most openly, this was expressed by his staging of beautiful, extensive large displays at our Shows continuously for over 50 years. This commitment was only broken in the last few years with our move to a tabled-plant format.

Before his passing he was ROSI's longest serving member joining in 1964. During this time, he held the positions of Secretary/Treasurer 1968-1971, Vice President 2003-2013, Co-Newsletter Editor with Ellie, a Committee Member continuously from 1966 -2021 and Society Registrar and Show Marshall for many years.

For his beloved Ellie to whom he was married and devoted to for 52 years, health was an issue all their lives together and the last 10 years of her life saw Terry become her full-time carer. They had no children and were constant companions. Ellie passed away in 2018 and for a while Terry was lost in grief. However, for the last two and a half years his life took a wonderful upturn when he developed a relationship with long-time friend Shirley Cantwell. Shirley's husband Ken a workmate of Terry's, both of whom were clerks in the Railway Department together for many years, had passed away not long before Ellie. Shirley integrated well into Terry's 'Orchid Life' in the ROSI, and his many friends were happy to see him back to his old self.

But sadly, their happy time together was to be all too brief. Terry developed a lung condition soon after Ellie's passing, and a bout of legionnaire's disease three years ago exacerbated this condition. In early May, Terry was admitted to hospital and treated for double pneumonia brought on by a subsequent infection with COVID. Unfortunately, this was all too much on his system and he passed away very quickly on the morning of 16th May. Terry's funeral was attended by many members of the society and his coffin was most fittingly adorned with a beautiful wreath of orchids, supplied by his friends and fellow members of the Rockhampton Orchid Society.

Rest in Peace, my good friend Terry Dean.

**First Prize Large Display
2017 Spring Show
T & E Dean**



Grand Champion 2013 Gympie Show



Scooping the pool at the 2016 ROSI Spring Show



Mel with Ellie & Terry Dean



STOCQ Orchidfest Conference *22nd to 24th September 2023*

The Rockhampton Orchid Society will be attending the 2023 STOCQ Orchidfest in Hervey Bay from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September. The Society was hoping to take a coach to this event. There will be up to 50 seats available, if you wish to attend and travel down on the bus, please give your name to Jeff Bloxsom as early as possible. At our May we had only 13 members who had put their names down for the trip to date. We need a minimum of 25-30 members travelling on the coach to make this option viable. If we do not have enough members nominating to travel on the bus by our next meeting on 24th of June, we will have to cancel the coach component.

Cost for the weekend twin-share would be \$460 each with subsidy \$410 each This includes coach fare, 2 nights' accommodation with breakfast and entry into show and the Show dinner Saturday night. The trip will involve leaving on Friday 22nd September and driving to Hervey Bay. Two nights' accommodation with breakfast each day. Drive back to Rockhampton on Sunday 24th September.

There are quite a few of our members attending in their own vehicles, some because they are entering plants in the show and the judges are going early for the judging of the conference on the Thursday. Jeff has booked 25 rooms at the Ramada by Wyndham at Hervey Bay. Those going in cars but wishing to stay at the Ramada please let Jeff know. A \$100 Deposit will need to be paid by the June Meeting to secure a room. The motel has an 8.1 rating out of 10 and includes breakfast each morning and is 16 minutes from the Conference Venue.

We want to show our support for the STOCQ conference and may still offer a subsidy for those travelling by car. Definite costing will be advised as soon as numbers are known.

As per usual our trips away are very social weekends with lots of interaction with other orchid growing individuals. There will also be multiple vendors at the conference to stock up our greenhouses with more purchases. So, if you wish to attend, please give your name to Jeff.

Final information at our next General Meeting in June.

Growers Group News

Our Grower's Group Meetings were discussed at our May Committee Meeting, and it was decided to hold grower's group gatherings in July and August. The reason we haven't had any previously this year is there was too much happening, especially with the Field Days & Autumn Show and we could not arrange suitable dates. Maxine Robinson (previously Maunder) coordinates with the assistance of Gwen Breingan and Jan Hogan, but anyone else who would like to assist would be gratefully welcomed.

- **Sunday 2nd July – Robyn Bentley's home at 34 Hopkins Road Stanwell**
- **Saturday 19th August – Sandra & Michael Rowcliffe's home at 53 Constance Avenue Rockyview**

They are still looking for homes to visit later this year, if you can open your home and greenhouse for a members visit, please give Maxine a call on 0439 206 576 or speak to her at the meetings.

Orchid of the month

For this month's newsletter I will cover the genera *Bulbophyllum*. Rosemary Wines tabled a plant of this genera at our May meeting - *Bulbophyllum Rothschildiana*. Jenni Scott asked on the Facebook page of Orchid Growers Australia if anyone could give the correct name for this plant. Below are the comments received: -



Below are the photos of three of the species suggested may have been in the cross.



Source – www.orchidden.com.au

BULBOPHYLLUM ORCHID CARE

Bulbophyllum orchids, also known as “Bulbos,” are the largest genus of orchids with more than 2000 species. They are named after their bulbous leaves and are known for having an incredible range of flower shapes and colours. The bizarre species are considered to be excellent specimens for orchid collectors. *Bulbophyllum*s can usually be found in the warmer parts of the world, such as Thailand and Vietnam. Various species have adapted to grow on diverse habitats from high mountains to sea level. Similar to the majority of other orchid types, *Bulbos* are epiphytic plants, (they grow on the tree trunks in forests). In general, as most *Bulbophyllum* orchids come from the rainforests, they require high humidity and good air movement.

As most **Bulbophyllum** species are warm growing and should see a winter temperature of no less than 18C at night. Species from more temperate regions can be grown 5-10 degrees cooler. Humidity should be kept at 60%, which can be difficult to do outside of the greenhouse. However, many growers have found that their *Bulbos* seem to tolerate humidity as low as 18%.

Water frequently, as both mounted (at least daily) and potted plants (several times a week) will thrive under wetter conditions than most orchids and they have a fine root system. *Bulbophyllum* may be the exception to the rule “when in doubt, don’t water”. Species from more temperate regions often have a dry period, and watering should be adjusted accordingly. *Bulbophyllum* orchids enjoy moderate to bright lighting, with the morning being the best time for receiving sunshine. You should try to shield your plant from direct sunlight around midday when the sun is too intense. This is not necessary on cloudy days and after 3pm. Depending on the species, *Bulbos* can tolerate lower light conditions, however, you will see less flowering if that is the case. Due to their ability to grow in diverse habitats, you should check specific instructions for the species you are trying to grow. You can use the website orchidspecies.com to check the climate characteristics for your particular plant. Regardless of the species, avoid placing your orchid near any cold draft of air, as this will soon damage your plant.

Use a balanced fertilizer at quarter strength once a week during the summer. This can be reduced to once a month in the winter. *Bulbophyllums* enjoy regular, slow-release fertilizers, particularly during the summer months.

Bulbophyllum species tend to prefer a minimum of repotting. Mounting (tree fern or cork slabs) and shallow pots can all be used successfully. The recommended potting media are sphagnum moss, bark with perlite, coir (coconut chips or fibers) and tree fern. The choice of potting will often be dictated by the very long rhizomes of some species. If you have planted your *Bulbophyllum* in bark, it will need more frequent watering, as bark tends to dry faster. On the flip side, if you have planted your orchid in moss mix, check that the moss has just dried, before watering it again. To initiate flowering, some types of *Bulbophyllum* require a period of drought. Remember that these are epiphytic plants, and they have adapted to drought between the rainfalls.

As an epiphytic plant in their natural habitat, *Bulbos* have an extensively developed system of very fine roots. If you repot the orchid without proper care, you can easily damage their delicate root system.

The good news about these orchids is that they generally bloom throughout the year, with one of two more showy and major blooms. Once the flowers appear, they tend to last between one and six weeks, depending on the species. If you don’t see blooming occurring for some time, the trick is to move your orchid to a brighter place or suspend watering for a bit, depending on the orchid type.



Images of Bulbophyllum Sheryl Kurizaki

bing.com/images



Below is an article previously included in Newsletters in previous years, as it is great advise for new growers I felt it appropriate to include in this newsletter.

SUGGESTED TIPS FOR NEW GROWERS

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 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 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 repot 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 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 a 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. There can be two reasons for problems – Dehydration- under watered or Drowned - over watered. If you think you are over watering knock one out of its pot you will find the 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.

Hymn. (Hymn was the pen name of a very knowledgeable past member/judge Peter Shelton)

PEST CONTROL – THRIPS, MEALYBUGS & SCALE

At this time of the year, some growers wrap their greenhouse to protect against the southerly/westerly winds, pests tend to thrive in this closed environment where there is less airflow and higher moisture retention. Some of the most destructive pests are thrips and mealy bugs which cause damage to flowers, buds and leaves. Another pest is Scale which are found on leaves and stems. These pests suck the goodness out of the plants.

THRIPS (thysanoptera)

There are many species of thrips that feed on plants, in Australia there are 35 varieties. Thrips are common on many genera of orchids – Vandas, Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis to name a few. Because they are quite small, they are difficult to see with the naked eye, especially if they are on darker coloured flowers. They are much more easily detected after the damage is apparent. On infected flowers a dry brown outer rim to petals is evident if they have been infested (photo right). They most often attack buds and new growths sucking out the plant sap, in my Phalaenopsis the damage caused to buds is apparent when the deformed flowers open.

Thrips feed in buds and flowers by using their mouthparts to pierce the surface of the plant tissues and suck up juices from leaves, stems, and flowers. Blooms may become prematurely brown, and their petals spotted, streaked, silvery or discoloured. Damage to leaves appears as chlorotic spots, wilting and eventually dropping. Plant growth can be stunted, and a severe thrips infestation will kill an orchid. If you suspect that thrips are present, gently blow into an open flower and watch for the insects crawling around inside the blossom. Because of their method of feeding and ability to travel from plant to plant, thrips, like aphids, may introduce and spread virus through an orchid collection.

The adults of thrips are brown or black. The winged adults (males and females) are found mainly on flowers and developing growths. Females deposit their eggs beneath the surface of the plant tissue. Often the only visible evidence of this is the callus tissue formed by the orchid in response to the wound. The nymphal (immature) stages are creamy yellow to pale orange and resemble adults without any wings. The nymphs feed on the tender young plant growths, and then drop to the medium to pupate. The pupae are a darker orange colour than the nymphs. As they are generally below the surface of the medium, they are unlikely to be spotted and more difficult to control with pesticides. When they emerge as winged adults, they fly back up to the



plant to feed, lay eggs and begin the cycle once again. Each female can produce 25 to 50 eggs at a time, and many species reproduce at a rate of three to five generations per year. Their reproduction rate is more rapid in warmer temperatures, making thrips a more difficult pest to control in this area.

Thrips are among the more difficult insect pests to prevent and control, but some measures that help include covering all vents and doorways with insect-proof netting, segregation of infested plants and disposal of all affected loose plant material, and overall good general sanitation and/or removal of all weeds and plant debris from the growing area.

The life cycle places their eggs and pupal stages well out of the reach of most pesticides. Therefore, multiple applications of the chosen control method or pesticide at weekly intervals are needed to control successive generations of these pests.

As with many unwanted insects, monthly rotation of control measures is also recommended, especially when using chemical pesticides. Alternating between at least two different chemicals helps to avoid raising resistance to control measures in the insect pest. Insecticides such as insecticidal soap, Mallet, Success, Confidor are all recommended for use on thrips, and are listed as safe for use on orchids as well, although when spraying on flowers Success I find is kinder than Mallet and Confidor to the flowers.

Mealy Bugs

Mealybugs are serious pests of orchids and next to scale insects are probably the most difficult to control pests of orchids in greenhouses. Most definitely, they need to be dealt with immediately upon discovery. The damage done to plants by mealybugs is considerable, causing a loss of vigour and a weakening and loss of leaves, buds, and flowers through their feeding. In addition, mealybugs create copious amounts of honeydew which make plant parts sticky, attracts ants, and provides a substrate for sooty mould. Though some mealybugs vector plant viruses apparently no orchid viruses are known to be transmitted by these insects. Mealybugs are not particular about their host and probably all species of orchids are susceptible to mealybugs, especially when cultivated. Mealybugs are classified in the family Pseudococcidae and are closely related to the scale insects. In fact, mealybugs can be thought of as a kind of soft scale that does not form the protective cover that most scales produce for protection.

The pest species are in the genera Pseudococcus, Planococcus, Phenacoccus, and Dymicoccus. Immature to adult mealybugs may measure 0.5-8.0 mm in body length. All the known orchid feeding species are coated with a waxy secretion that hides the body of these insects. The more common species of these odd insects that infest orchids are immediately recognised in the adult stage by the white, yellowish-white, whitish-grey, or pale pink to pale blue in color coating. The body is oval, and the sides of the body have short waxy filaments and there may be 2-4 short to long filaments on the posterior end of the body. These filaments sometimes give the impression of numerous legs.

Mealybugs can be found on all plant parts, but especially roots, rhizomes, pseudobulbs, and the underside of leaves. They are adept at hiding in roots and rhizomes deep in the potting media, in



crevices and under sheaths. Unlike scales, mealybugs wander in search of feeding places and will leave plants, be sure to check for them in cracks and in joints on benches, under lips of pots and trays, and other hiding places. The immatures are small, and white to yellowish or pale pink. Hatchling nymphs, or crawlers, are not easily seen without a magnifier and hide under cover, but older nymphs appear like diminutive adults. Orchids become infested with mealybugs in some combination of three methods: purchase of an infested plant, movement from infested to un-infested plants that are in contact with each other, and windblown colonization. Mealybugs are active and will crawl from one plant to another, pot to pot, and across benches. Mealybugs will leave plants and hide under rims



of pots and trays, in bench crevices, and even drop from overhead plants. Spread of crawlers can occur both indoors and outdoors by floating on breezes or air currents produced by circulating and heater fans. The occurrence of infestation hotspots may be due to crawlers settling on plants where the air currents are the weakest. Similar effects



are found with aphids, scales, and spider mites. Mealybugs have a three-stage life history: egg, larva (nymph or crawler), and adult. Eggs are laid within a waxy coated egg sac produced by the female. The eggs hatch after about 10 days into the mobile nymphs, the crawlers, that appear as diminutive adults. The crawlers are the most active stage that can move between plants and will develop through several growth periods before becoming adults. Adults of most

species are also active. Thus, unlike scales where the crawler finds a suitable site for feeding and remains fixed, mealybugs will move about to find feeding sites. However, the most common pest species is the long-tailed mealybug, and it is parthenogenetic; no males are known of this species.



Male mealybugs do little feeding and only in their youngest crawler stages. Mature males are small (1.5-2.5 mm) winged creatures whose primary function is to mate, and then die. Females and immatures do not fly, but they will crawl off the plant and migrate throughout a growing area. In a warm greenhouse or indoors there may be upwards of 8 overlapping generations per year.

In greenhouses mealybug management is difficult because of their propensity to move into the potting medium and



feed on roots, or for the crawlers to work their way into tight places. Repeated application of any treatment is required to kill the immatures, and treatments are at their greatest effectiveness against the small crawlers. Hand removal is effective only for the obvious adults and larger nymphs. All control efforts must begin immediately following discovery. Even light infestations restricted to one or a few plants can explode rapidly and necessitate chemical methods. When possible, immediately isolate infested plants from others to prevent the mealybugs from moving amongst them. Also, check the lips and cracks of pots, trays, and benches because females will wander and leave the plant to find hiding places. If plants other than orchids are grown, check those also as they may be a source of infestation.

Because the life cycle of mealybugs can be so short combined with the overlapping of generations, you will need to do a treatment every 10-14 days to bring a serious problem under control. Because mealybugs are such a problem there are few effective "home remedies" available. To deal with an established infestation, the use of an insecticide will likely be necessary. Be aware that non-insecticidal treatments are often not very effective for elimination of mealybugs without diligent application and follow-up treatments.

Persistent populations of mealybugs or infestation in many plants may demand the need for use of synthetic insecticides. Of course, always follow label directions and never exceed the minimum recommended concentration given in mixing directions! Recommended solutions are based on extensive testing for selected pests and plants. Orchids are tough plants, but are sensitive to many chemicals, particularly under direct sunlight or high heat, and while certain species may not react to a given formulation others may, so testing is justifiable.



Scale Source – www.orchidplantcare/info

There are not many pests that can severely damage an orchid collection, but along with mealybugs and aphids, scale is one of orchids' biggest pests. It is a small insect that can devastate a collection of orchids. A small infestation will result in marred areas on the leaves and large infestation can kill the whole plant. The process to remove them can be complicated but early detection and careful management can prevent the destruction they can cause.

Different Types of Orchid Scale - There are 27 varieties of scale and two main types, soft scale, and hard scale. Scale range in size from one to five millimetres and, in certain life stages, can be difficult to see without magnification. Male soft scale appears greyish to white and can look like mealybugs. Soft scale damages the plant by sucking sap from the plant. It also leaves behind a sticky excretion called honeydew. Hard scale does not leave this excretion. A large infestation of males will appear powdery and white. Adult females create larger scales that protect eggs. Soft scale can be found along the underside of leaves, along the stem, and even in the roots and rhizomes. Cattleyas are particularly susceptible to a type of brown soft scale called Boisduval scale. Boisduval scale often appears on the undersides of leaves along the midribs and underneath the sheaths. It can appear in greenhouses in any climate. Hard scale is rarer on orchids but can be identified by its hard brown domes of the adult female.



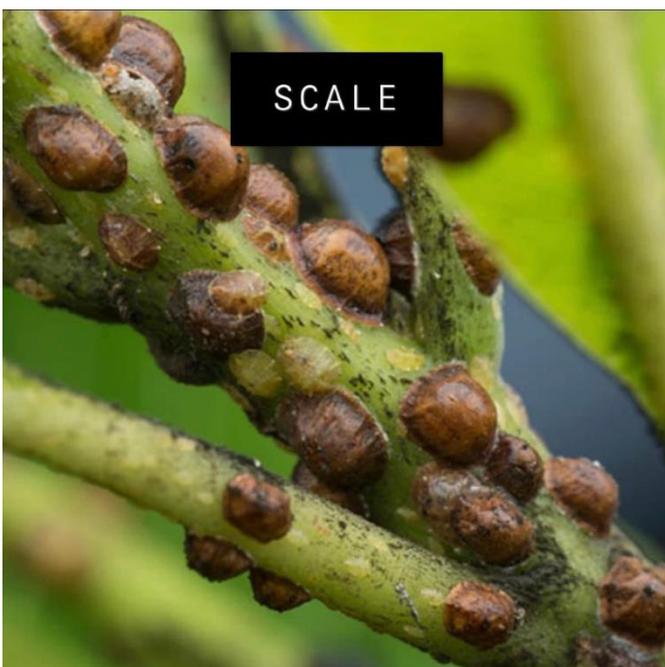
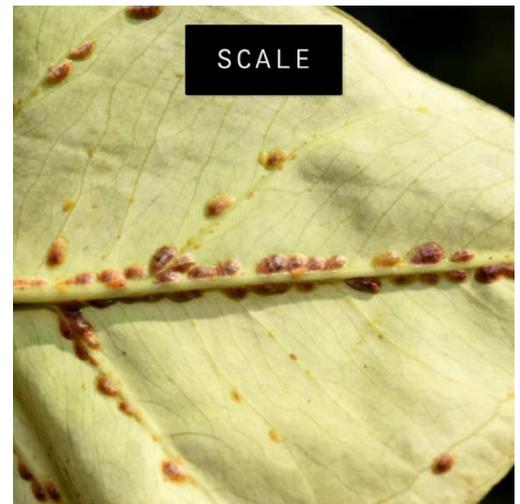
The Life Cycle - The life cycle of scale is very brief. Scale moves from eggs to the nymph stage called crawlers, to adults in the matter of a little less than two months, and there may be several generations of scale within a year. These cycles are fastest in an indoor or greenhouse environment. As a result, management, once orchids have been infested, is very difficult. The caretaker must be very persistent in his or her approach and must apply treatment at least every ten days. If you have been using the same treatment for more than a few months and still have scale problems, you must switch treatments as some of the scale may have become immune. The scale is most easily treated during its crawler stage, this is also the stage when it moves between plants. The last stage of the life cycle for a female scale is when it hardens and lays eggs under the protective covering that it is named for. Once the eggs are laid and the shield is hard the scale dies.

Prevention - The easiest way to avoid a scale problem is to stop it before it starts. Scale spreads easiest from plant to plant, and occasionally on-air currents. So, it is likely that a scale problem come from a new plant that is introduced to a collection. Be sure to inspect any new plants and even quarantine them for two weeks to see if any evidence of scale appears, because not all stages of scale are visible to the naked eye. If scale does appear, you can treat this plant separately and avoid introducing scale to the whole collection. If you notice scale on a plant, you already have, quarantine it right away, while you are treating it, and a short time after to make sure it doesn't reappear. This should hinder the movement between orchids. Movement will also be stopped between orchids if leaves from different plants are not allowed to touch one another.

If you keep your orchids outdoors, you will also have some assistance from natural predators and parasites. Ladybugs like to eat soft bodied insects and will eat scale. Wasps can also lay eggs inside the hardened scale, they will then feed off the scale eggs and emerge as adult wasps, effectively killing the scale in their first stages of development.

Treatment - For a small infestation, you can rub the scale with isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab to remove them. This can be hard on the plant, so don't do it too often or if there a large amount of scale. There is also the possibility of chilling the plant with the fast-evaporating alcohol. You may want to wipe away extra alcohol from the leaf so that it doesn't damage the leaf tissue, especially if the plant is in windy location. If you can, move the plant away from any air currents. Another option for management suggested by the Canadian Orchid Congress, is to carefully wash the whole plant in warm water with grated soap (be sure the soap is mild and not ammonia-based, as this will cause damage to the plant). The plant must be washed every other day for a month. Then it must remain separate from other plants for two weeks to ensure no new scale appears.

The next level in treatment, if the previous two home remedies do not work, is to use horticultural oil. This oil must be applied thoroughly to the orchid. Scale hides well in the sheaths, along the base of the plant, and both the top and bottom of the leaves. It can be easily missed and infest the plant again. The oil works by smothering the scale, so any surface that is not covered will not be effectively treated. The oil can burn the plant's leaves if used on a hot day or in direct sunlight. Take care to keep the orchid shaded during treatment. Also, take care to follow the directions on the labels very carefully so that you do not damage the plant.



Finally, if the horticultural oil does not take care of the problem, you may have to use chemicals. Some insecticides are available for use on orchids. Make sure they are labeled for use on ornamental plants and seek help from a technician if you are unsure if the chemical combination is safe for your orchids. Always follow the label carefully and do not use a concentration any more or less than suggested, too little may be ineffective and too much will kill the plant. Remember that insecticides can be harmful to people and pets. If you cannot spray the orchid outside because of weather, place the plant in a large plastic bag and then spray it. Once the spray has settled, remove the bag and place the plant in an area away from any air currents.



**HERVEY BAY ORCHID SOCIETY
ORCHID AND GARDEN SPECTACULAR**
incorporating



Sub Tropical Orchid Council of Queensland
ORCHIDFEST 2023
SEPTEMBER 21st - 24th

Xavier Catholic College
1 Wide Bay Drive, Eli Waters, Hervey Bay.



Large benched show with hundreds of quality orchids on display
Over \$4,000 in prize money at the show
Themed display of orchid and foliage plants
Lecture program for 'Orchidfest' conference registrants
Orchid and Foliage plant sales
Rolling raffles
Food and refreshments available
Whale Watching and K'gari (Fraser Island) Tours can be organized

Proposed program:

- Thursday 21st** - Show Benching of plants (open to all STOCQ affiliates) 10am to 3pm.
Afternoon tea 3pm to 3.30pm. Judging of orchids and foliage 3.30pm to 5.30pm
Dinner 6pm to 7.30pm (Free to Orchidfest registrants, judges and helpers)
- Friday 22nd** - Free entry to the orchid show for Orchidfest registrants from 8.00am (each day).
Lecture program for Orchidfest registrants 10am – 3.30pm
- Saturday 23rd** - Free day to enjoy Hervey Bay sightseeing (Orchid House entry free for registrants),
Perhaps visit K'gari, go whale watching, or just attend the orchid show
[Evening Dinner at Hervey Bay RSL at cost - approx \$45 per person]
- Sunday 24th** - Lecture program 10.00am – 12.30pm. Prize presentations 1.30pm (Close 2pm)

More information at www.herveybayorchidsociety.com/stocq-orchidfest-2023.html

Why not spend a few days in Hervey Bay seeing one of the best orchid shows in the country,
learning a little more about orchids, and visiting some of the world class attractions that draw
people from around the world.

2023 Show Dates

As Supplied by John Rees.

**** ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE ****

June

30th June & 1st July - Caboolture OS show at the **Morayfield East** State School Hall on Graham Road, Morayfield. Set up 29th June (Caboolture relocated - community hall is unavailable)

August

4th & 5th - Maroochydhore OS show set up 3rd. Buderim

11th, 12th & 13th - Agnes Water - cancelled
15th to 19th August – APOC in Singapore

September

1st & 2nd – Childers & IDOS show set up 31st.
1st & 2nd - September 2023 Nambour OS show
8th & 9th - Glasshouse Country OS show
14th to 16th -Maryborough OS set up 13th.
15th & 16th – Noosa DO&FS Show Cooroy Memorial Hall Maple Street set up 14th.
22nd to 24th - Orchidfest sponsored by Hervey Bay Orchid Society
30th September & 1st October – ROSI Spring Show set up 29th.

October

12th & 13th - Bribie IOS show, judging 12th.

November

11th Nambour Species Show Buderim Hall set up 10th.



December

9th - ROSI Christmas Awards Dinner
Rockhampton Leagues Club

Office Bearers - Executive:

Patron: RRC Councillor, Neil Fisher
President: Jeff Bloxom
0407 995 122
Vice President: Tony March
0401 280 352
Secretary: Sandra Rowcliffe
0438 130 360
Email - rockhamptonorchidsocietyinc@gmail.com
Treasurer: Diane MacKenzie
0409 265 720

Committee:

Maxine Maunder	0439 206 576
David Eggleshaw	0459 772 958
Robyn Bentley	0417 705 250
Bob Jenkins	0484 927 667
Shirley Kuhl	0418 795 776
Trish Craig	0427 226 621
John Jenkinson	0438 012 838
Peter Jenkinson	0472 513 170

Office Bearers – Ex Officio Positions:

Club Registrar:
Jeff Glover j-glover@bigpond.com
Newsletter Editor:
Sandra Rowcliffe svpsli@bigpond.net.au
Assist Newsletter Editor:
Karen Carr rockycarrs@bigpond.com
Webmaster:
Bob Lakey rlakey@dodo.com.au
Technical Advisor: Jeff Glover
Growers Coordinators: Maxine Maunder, Gwen Breingan & Jan Hogan
Providore: Maxine Maunder
Promotion Officers: Sandra Rowcliffe & Robyn Bentley
Door Monitors: Sue Eggleshaw
Daphne Jenkinson
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Assistant Librarian: TBA
Raffle Plant Caretaker: Ray Bills
Property Officers: Barry and Faye English

Rockhampton Orchid Society Orchid Store

Property Officers – Faye & Barry English

PHONE 4922 2637

Email – englishf@aapt.net.au

Closed Every Thursday
& Daily between 12.00pm to 2.00pm

**LARGE RANGE OF ORCHID
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SALES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

If undelivered, please return to:
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PO Box 5949
Red Hill Rockhampton Qld 4701



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



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Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month (excluding December) at Fred Fox Band Hall, Cnr. Gladstone Road and William Street, Rockhampton. Meetings commence at 1:00pm and plants must be tabled by 12:30pm.

Disclaimer:

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