



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



**PO Box 5949
Red Hill Rockhampton 4701**

Founded 1955



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



[Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc](https://www.facebook.com/RockhamptonOrchidSocietyInc)

Newsletter – March 2024

Here we are in March, first month of Autumn, even though the current temperatures and humidity still feel like the same weather we have experienced for the last four months, hopefully soon the weather will start cooling off and it would be lovely to see a drop in the disgusting humidity, noticeably the days are also getting shorter.

We are now in the final month of organisations for our Autumn Show next month. A lot of members are most likely working on the preparation of their plants for the show. Having to host it in a new venue has meant a lot more time involved to ensure that everything runs smoothly, especially being that the venue has a smaller floor area that what we are used to at the Frenchville Sports Club. The show layout plans have been drawn and redrawn to ensure that we make the most of the floor area. Sadly a few classes have been dropped in the show relating to Bromeliads, Cactus, Succulents and Bonsais due to space constraints, but this should not detract from the usual amazing display of orchids and foliage our Society presents to the public.

At our March Meeting Jeffrey will have the rosters for the show, and it would be appreciated that all who are able to assist put their names down. The final details for the show dinner to be held at Coco Brew will also be discussed and names taken. Jeff Bloxsom should have the final meal costs for the meeting, again due to space constraint numbers will be capped at 100, so to get a seat names and payment need to happen quickly.

Sales tables are limited to one per member and names will also be taken at the March Meeting for those who haven't already indicated that they want a table.

Tony March will be organising a working bee to prepare merchandise sales so if you speak to him, he should be able to tell you when it will be on to those who may wish to help. Remember many hands make light work.

Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor.

**Next Monthly Meeting: Saturday 23rd March 2024.
Doors Open 12.30pm and Meeting Starts at 1:30pm.**

Plants must be tabled by 1.20pm at the latest.

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.

Annual General Meeting Saturday 24th February 2024 commencing at 1.30pm

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

Minutes of 2023 AGM meeting, copy which was included in January newsletter, was approved as correct and accurate.

Moved Peter Jenkinson **Seconded** David Eggleshaw **Carried**

Business arising from the minutes – NIL.

Letter from Auditor: Karen Carr read out a letter from our Auditor - Luke Reid of CA Accounting Parkhurst. With the changes to the levels of Associations and our Society now considered a small club under \$300,000, the rules state that we are not required to get an annual audit. Jeff explained that all we are required to do was to keep the books correctly by the Treasurer and that the President can sign off on these. Jeff asked around the room the members consensus on whether we no longer get our books audited, the majority of members were in favour of this. The audit cost around \$400 which will be a cost saving.

Membership Fees: Jeff Bloxsum asked what members felt about membership fees, should they remain at \$30, or be raised. Dennis Ratcliffe moved that the members fee should be left at \$30, this was seconded by Jeff Glover and all agreed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Carr presented the treasurer's and auditor's reports.

Karen then moved they be accepted **Seconded** Trish Craig **Carried**

Prior to the declaring that all positions were vacant outgoing President Jeff Bloxsum -

- Thanked Tony March for his fantastic support and hard work during 2023.
- Thanked Sandra Rowcliffe for her effort in several roles – Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Facebook Administration & Promotions Officer.
- Thanked Karen Carr for taking over the Treasurers Job when our previous Treasurer Di MacKenzie left Rockhampton.
- Thanked all committee members for their support and hard work during 2023.
- Thanked all the members who assisted during the year for their effort and support.
- He declared all positions vacant.
- Jeff then handed the Chair over to Tony March (vice president) who read the nomination for President.
- After Jeff was re-elected in the role of President, he again took the Chair.

Election of Officials:

POSITION	NOMINATED & ACCEPTED	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
Patron	Neil Fisher	Jeff Bloxsum	Tony March
President	Jeff Bloxsum	Jenni Scott	Peter Jenkinson
Vice President	Tony March	Sandra Rowcliffe	Maxine Robinson
Secretary	Sandra Rowcliffe	Robyn Bentley	Bob Jenkins
Treasurer	Karen Carr	John Jenkinson	Shirley Kuhl
Committee #1	Trish Craig	Karen Carr	Jeff Bloxsum
Committee #2	Bob Jenkins	Karen Carr	Maxine Robinson
Committee #3	Shirely Kuhl	Robyn Bentley	Tony March
Committee #4	Robyn Bentley	Sandra Rowcliffe	Shirley Kuhl
Committee #5	Peter Jenkinson	Karen Carr	Sandra Rowcliffe
Committee #6	John Jenkinson	Jeff Bloxsum	Sandra Rowcliffe
Committee #7	Maxine Robinson	Karen Carr	Robyn Bentley
Committee #8	Miriam Black	Moyna Richardson	Shirley Cantwell
Club Registrar	Jeff Glover	Jeff Bloxsum	Karen Carr
Librarian	Y'vonne Manning	Karen Carr	Sandra Rowcliffe
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Rowcliffe	Jeff Bloxsum	Karen Carr
Assistant Editor	Karen Carr	Jeff Bloxsum	Shirley Kuhl
Growers Group Co-ordinator	Maxine Maunder	Peter Jenkinson	Sandra Rowcliffe
Growers Group Assistant #1	Jan Hogan	Maxine Robinson	All in agreeance
Growers Group Assistant #2	Gwen Breingan	Maxine Robinson	All in agreeance
Publicity Officer #1	Sandra Rowcliffe	Peter Jenkinson	Jeff Bloxsum
Publicity Officer #2	Robyn Bentley	Peter Jenkinson	Sandra Rowcliffe
Cultural Advisor	Jeff Glover	Tony March	Bob Jenkins
Provedore	Maxine Robinson	Tony March	Karen Carr
Meeting Plant Monitor #1	Peter Jenkinson	Karen Carr	Jeff Bloxsum

It was discussed that possibly the grower's workshops could be held bi-monthly. The first meeting will be held at the home of Sandra & Michael Rowcliffe on the 9th March, commencing at 2.00pm. Bring a chair, plate for afternoon tea, and possibly a raffle prize or two.

Business Arising from the last meeting: NIL.

General Business:

- Jeff Glover attended the recent STOCQ AGM & General Meetings in Gympie on 10th February. He mentioned that Dave Gatfield had stepped down as Registrar and a new Registrar appointed. He said that the STOCQ members were impressed that we have 7 new student judges commencing their study. The Mid-Year STOCQ meeting is being hosted by the Calliope Orchid & Garden Club in June.
- Invitation received to attend the PROPA Field Day in Mackay on Sunday 20th October to be held at the Mackay Showgrounds Big Shed. Jeff suggested that as we did not have a bus trip last year for members that maybe we could make a weekend of it, travelling up on the Saturday 19th with one night's accommodation. Going out for dinner on the Saturday evening. This will be discussed further in the future.
- Jeff said our Autumn Show is fast approaching and at our March Meeting he will be taking numbers for dinner and the rosters for the tasks.
- Due to the lack of space in the Old Art Gallery we will have no club display and cutting out a few sections of the foliage sections – no bromeliads, succulents, cactus or bonsai.
- There is discussion about whether there will still be Tassel Ferns, some members have mentioned that previously some plants have turned up with white scale. It is essential all plants entered into the show be healthy and free of pest & diseases.
- For the plant sales area, there will only be one table per member. Members can bring additional plants and place under their table. After the initial rush on the Saturday morning, more plants can be brought and put up on tables.
- Jeff thanked Tony O'Connor for his recommendation for a food van for our shows. Jeff has booked this business and also an additional coffee van. The food van is only a new business, and she has been trading on the outskirts on Gladstone Road.
- Show flyers are available for members to take and put up, probably not now, but a bit closer to the show. The Show Flyers are also on the website and Facebook pages.
- Jeff heard during afternoon tea that Ray Bills had an unfortunate accident yesterday, he is currently recovering at home. He was using a grinder and the blade failed and pieces of the metal went into his body, one right to the bone. We wish Ray a speedy recovery.

Plant Commentary: Jeff Glover spoke about the problems for orchids with the prolonged humidity & heat. He mentioned that Oncidiums that come from warmer Columbian Climates with the humidity there are problems with lots of fungal spots. It is essential that they are grown in areas with good airflow. He said Catesetums who love the humidity and moisture are thriving at this time of the year. But it is coming towards their dormant growth period, and it is essential to cut out watering over this period otherwise the bulbs will rot. He mentioned that they are part of the Cymbidium family.

Jeff then talked about Vandas, and one plant owned by Jeff Bloxsom which had a twist in the plant, he talked about the gaps (windows) in the Vanda flowers. He spoke about the Bifolia and Spotted Cattleyas out at this time of the year.

Jana Bennett commented on her large winning Cattleya – Goldenzelle Orange Pumpkin. She has had the plant over four years, Jeff mentioned about the colour being redder than orange. Jana said it is not flowering true to form and the flowers are smaller than usual, she thought it could have been weather related.

Jeff spoke about growing orchids outside when one of our Novice Growers mentioned she grew her orchids outside.

Miriam Black uses grow lights and asked how many hours they need. Jeff asked her what outcome she was wanting and what light conditions she was growing in. She is growing them in shade houses and Jeff said that the grow lights weren't probably needed. Miriam reckons her Vandas grow better with the lights.

Lucky Number: #18 – Peter & Kathie Zammit

Exhibitor's Raffle: #15 – Dennis & Kay Ratcliffe

Jackie & Tom Graham donated a box of orchids for the raffle, and Jeff thanked them for their donation.

General Raffle – Graham Schulz, Jenny Price, Leanne Dawes x 2, Tony O'Connor x 2, Trevor Rawlings, Shirley Cantwell x 2, Daphne Jenkinson, Sue Eggleshaw, Robyn Bentley x 3, Jeff Bloxsom, Marg Handley, Terry Breingan, Bob Jenkins, Kathie Zammit, Allan Cunningham, Sandra Rowcliffe x 2, Linda Schulz.

Meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Next General Meeting – Saturday 23rd March 2024.

Next Committee Meeting – Tuesday 27th February at 6.30pm at Jeff Bloxsom's residence.

Jeff Bloxsom

President

Sandra Rowcliffe

Secretary

Annual Competition – February 2024 Results

Judges Choice

<i>Cyc.</i> Jumbo Cooper x <i>Cyc.</i> Jumbo Legend	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
<i>Ctsm.</i> Susan Fuchs	J & P Bennett
<i>Vanda</i> Sugar Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	J & M Bloxsom

Popular Vote

Advanced (Plants Tabled: 59)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Ctt.</i> Deception Drop 'Southern Orr'	J & M Bloxsom
Cattleya 100mm and over	<i>Rlc.</i> Goldenzelle 'Orange Pumpkin'	J & P Bennett
Vandaceous up to 65mm	<i>Aerdv.</i> Luang Prabang	J & M Bloxsom
Vandaceous 65mm & over	<i>Vanda</i> Mario Vega Solorozano (Tie) <i>Vanda</i> Samsri Glory Blue (Tie)	J & P Bennett J & N Glover
Phalaenopsis	<i>Phal.</i> Summer Rose	T & M Handley
Oncidium	<i>Brass.</i> Mem. Fitz Boedecker 'Witch Doctor' (Tie) <i>Onc.</i> Everglade's Elegance 'Nancy Lee' (Tie)	S & M Rowcliffe B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Dendrobium	<i>Den.</i> Jairak Rainbow	T & M Handley
Catasetinae	<i>Ctsm.</i> Susan Fuchs (Tie) <i>Cyc.</i> Jumbo Cooper x <i>Cyc.</i> Jumbo Legend (Tie)	J & P Bennett B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Species	<i>Ctsm.</i> <i>pileatum</i>	T & M Handley
Miscellaneous	<i>Paph.</i> Gloria	B Jenkins & S Kuhl

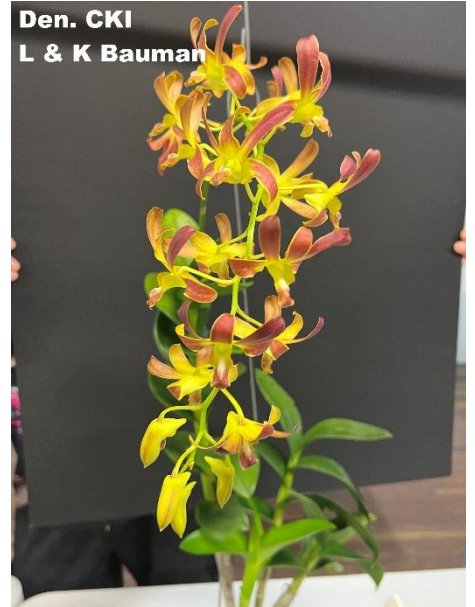
Novice (Plants Tabled: 21)

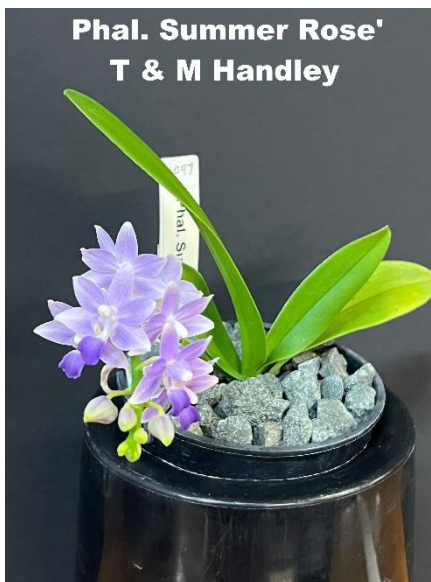
Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>C.</i> Caudebec 'Dons Schindel'	L & G Schulz
Cattleya 100mm and over	<i>Rlc.</i> Chief Journey 'First Choice'	M Warren
Dendrobium	<i>Den.</i> CKI	L & K Bauman
Species	<i>Gur.</i> <i>bowringiana</i>	D & K Ratcliffe
Miscellaneous	<i>Paph.</i> Almaud x <i>charlesworthii</i> 'Bordeaux'	T O'Connor

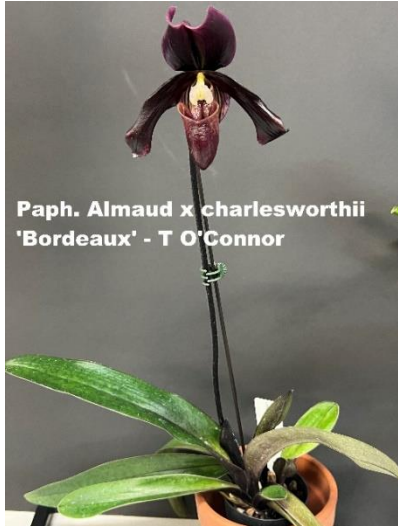
JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS – FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING



POPULAR VOTE WINNERS – JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

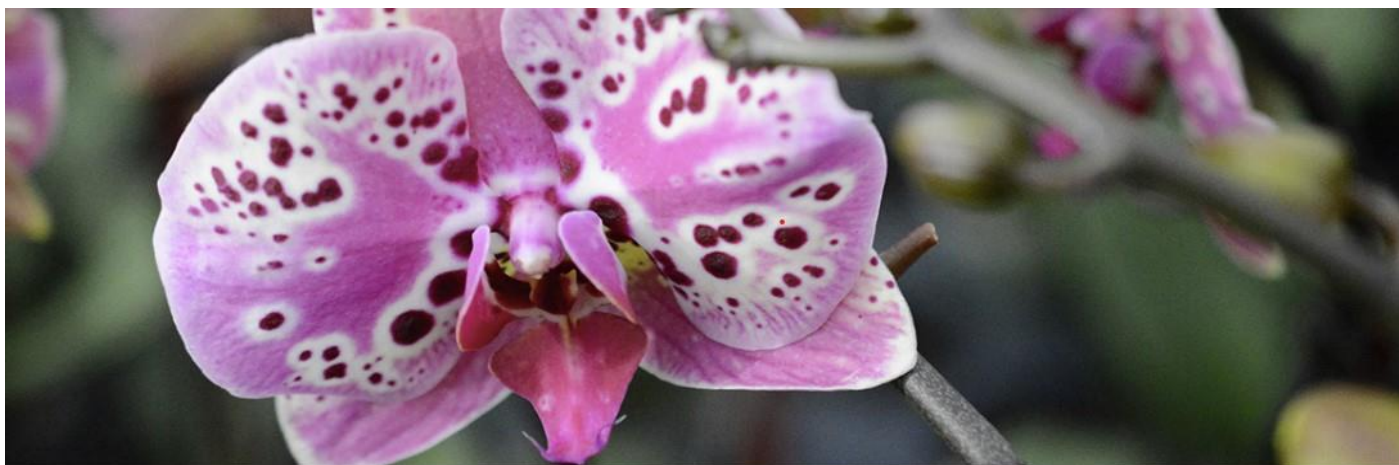






AGM & General Meeting Attendance Photos





Interesting facts about orchids

- The Genus *Orchis* comes from an Ancient Greek word meaning “testicle”, because of the shape of the bulbous roots. The term “orchid” which is just a shortened form of the family Orchidaceae, was not introduced until 1845.
- Orchids (Orchidaceae family) are the largest and most diverse of the flowering plant families, with over 800 described genera and 25,000+ species. There are also over 100,000 hybrids and cultivars produced by horticulturalists, created since the introduction of tropical species to Europe.
- Orchid plants are classified under the division Magnoliophyta, which represents flowering seed plants.
- Orchids are the largest family of flowering plants. They have been around the longest as they are one of the oldest flowers in existence. Since varieties of orchids are found all over the world, it’s accepted that orchids were in existence prior to the separation of the continents.
- Although generally thought of as a tropical plant, orchids grow on every continent. From the Arctic Circle to the southernmost jungle except Antarctica. They’re valued and thought of as beautiful across continents and cultures with varying meanings and customs surrounding their existence.
- The smallest orchid is the size of a pea (eg: *Den. keithii*)
- The Vanilla Orchid (and it’s Vanilla Bean) is the only commercially grown orchid crop – *Vanilla planifolia*. (photo right)
- Orchids have the tiniest seeds in the world. This makes them a challenge to grow and cultivate. They take forever to sprout and actually turn into a plant. Growing orchids from seeds is only for the patient and very green-thumbed.
- There are over 3 million seeds in a single orchid seedpod. You’ll never see them though, they are the size of a speck of dust and only visible under a microscope. Part of the reason for their small size is that they lack endosperm and have no nutrients within. They require contact with a particular fungus to germinate and grow in the wild.
- Some orchid flowers bloom for mere hours, while others last up to half a year. *Phalaenopsis* orchids are versatile enough to last in a cut flower arrangement longer than most.
- Orchid plants can live up to 100 years.
- Orchids have become one of the most popular houseplants of all time.



Rockhampton Orchid Society Orchid Store

Property Officers

Barry & Faye English

PHONE 4922 2637

Email – englishf@aapt.net.au

Closed Every Thursday

& Daily between 12.00pm to 2.00pm

LARGE RANGE OF ORCHID SUPPLIES

SALES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

Orchid of the month

This month I am covering the genus *Miltonia* specifically *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *moreliana*, these stunning orchids are currently in flower at the moment. A few members would have their *Miltonia spectabilis* putting on lovely displays in their greenhouses. Bob Jenkins and I tabled *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *moreliana* at the February Meeting and they have stunning colours. Below are photos of a beautiful specimen that was shown on the American Orchid Society Facebook Page, it is an amazing sized plant.



Source - <https://greenhouseco.com.au>

This beautiful plant is found growing on trees and rocks at moderate altitudes along the east coast of Brazil. It has flattened, ovate pseudobulbs (the round things at the bottom of the leaves) that are spaced closely along its rhizome. The leaves are light green and strap like and produced in an upright habit. *Miltonia spectabilis* was first introduced into cultivation in 1837 for its striking flowers. Unlike *Miltonia spectabilis* > which has lighter flowers with a purple labellum (the big petal at the bottom), *M. spectabilis* var. *moreliana* has entirely purple flowers. A really deep purple with attractive blotching on the outer petals and striations on the labellum.

Plant size - These plants currently have leaves about 20-30cm long. The flowers are approximately 4cm across. Due to the close spacing of the pseudobulbs these plants can make exceptional specimen plants that will flower profusely if left undivided in a large pot.

Watering - During active growth they should be watered heavily and often, usually twice a week to keep them moist. However, they should be potted in a very light, coarse media such as orchid bark to ensure adequate drainage and prevent them becoming waterlogged. Avoid watering the leaves in really hot weather.

Once flowering has finished, they should be given a rest period through the cooler months where watering is greatly reduced, only water when the media is nearly dry. Resume normal watering when new growth appears in Spring.

Position - These lovely ladies, like most orchids, require very bright light! Not direct sun but the leaves should appear light green to almost yellow. Dark green leaves are an indication that they are not receiving enough light or light for a long enough period of the day. They are pretty tolerant of cooler temperatures and can be grown outdoors in most areas that don't experience regular winter frosts.



Growers Group Workshop

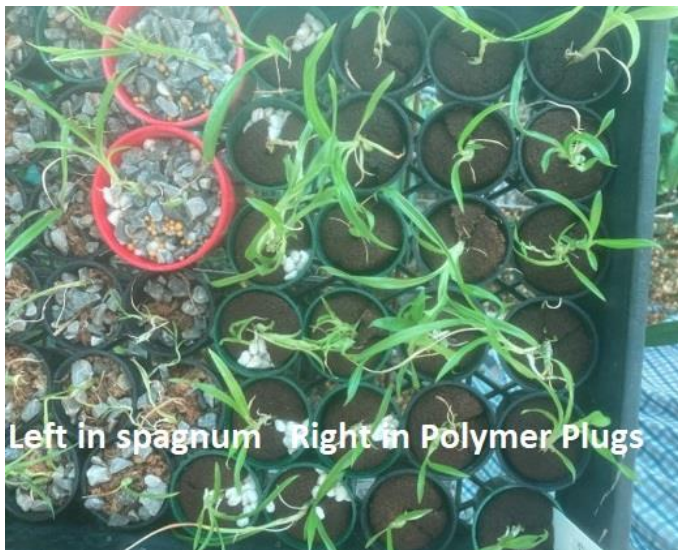


On Saturday 9th March the first growers group workshop for 2024 was held at the home of Sandra & Michael Rowcliffe. The day was looking ominous with quite a lot of dark cloud forming and early on in the afternoon we had three 1-minute showers and then a warm sunny day resumed. Sadly, this may have been one of the reasons our attendance numbers were down.

23 members enjoyed the very informative presentation delivered by Bob Jenkins on Orchid deflasking and the different potting mediums he uses and the care of the seedlings after deflasking. Bob has been experiencing with polymer fibre plugs, and at this stage he is seeing some great plant growth using these. Several other members who have experience with deflasking also spoke about their various methods and results of deflasking.

Our upcoming Growers Group workshops are :- Saturday 8th June – Semple's Residence Glenlee - Fertilisers

Saturday 10th August – Clarke's Residence Glenlee – Repotting



DEFLASKING OF ORCHIDS by Atian Tsai



Below I have put in a copy of what Atian Tsai put on Facebook with regards to his orchid deflasking method and the mediums he uses. Atian is the face behind Queensland Orchid Biotechnology Pty Ltd., and he grows amazing orchids. He specialises in Paphiopedilums, and a few local orchid growers will probably have a plant or two of his in their collections. He does also have other genera. He is based in Kuranda and now attends the bigger shows and conferences. I personally have bought a few flasks from Atian, and I have found he has very healthy plants with good success with de-flasked seedlings.

Topic: Orchid Flask Deflasking 2017.02.17

I would like to share my way of Deflasking

Step 1: Tools: Hammer, Flat Screw Driver, Groves.

Step 2: Take off the top stopper, put the screw driver in

Step 3: Hammer hits the screw driver to the flask bottom corner

Step 4: Repeat step 3 until the flask bottom drops.

Step 5: Wash the aga aga and broken glass clean

Step 6: Potting Mix: Sphanum moss, Bark, perlite

Step 7: Postting mix soaked with clean water

Step 8: Plant the babies in 100mm pot (4-5 in a group)

Step 9: Fill up the top potting mix (Loosely)

Step 10 and 11: Write down the name and date

Step 12: Water from time to time at least a week.

Tips:

Best temperature to deflask 15-25 degrees

High moisture: Better find a raining day to do it.

Watering: may apply rooting hormone to boost the rooting.

The last tip is patience. It takes 6-12 months for the babies to grow.

Very slow.

It is fun to grow from flask once you manage to do it.
Good Luck!



Atian Orchid

10 Oct 2023 · 🌐

My potting mix for young babies under 2YO.

Jumble Perlite: 70%

fine bark: 20% (Coarse bark from 10mm-25mm up for Advanced plants)

Coarse Shell Grit: 10% (get from pet shops for birds)

I use the 70% Jumbo Perlite + 10% fine bark mix as basic potting mix. (Dry country area may increase bark to Perlite 50% +30%)

and the other 10%+10% bark and shell grit for topping.

I hope this will help new growers.

Atian 2023.09.21

(I can not answer all questions. Some home work needs to be done by you. It is relevant to the water regime.)

[#AtianPottingMix](#) [#AtianOrchid](#) [#AtianSlipperOrchid](#)



2024 Show Dates

Supplied by John Rees

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

2024 Show Dates

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

- March** 23RD Maroochydore Orchid Society Closed Show
29th – 31st Gladstone & Foliage Orchid Society Show
29th & 30th Bribie Island Orchid Show
- April** 5th & 6th Sunshine Coast Orchid Show
12th & 13th Childers Isis District Orchid Show
13th & 14th Rockhampton Orchid Society Show
13th & 14th Pine Rivers Autumn Show
20th South Burnett Orchid Show Wondai
27th & 28th Gympie & District Orchid Show
- May** 2nd, 3rd & 4th Caboolture Closed Show
11th Maroochydore Orchid Society Closed Show
11th & 12th Noosa Orchid Society Closed Show
- June** 8TH - STOCQ Meeting hosted by Calliope OFS
- July** 11th, 12th & 13th Caboolture OS Show
- August** 8th to 10th August Maroochydore Orchid Society Show
30th & 31st Childers Isis District Orchid Show
- September** 6th & 7th Nambour Orchid Show
12th Caloundra Closed Show
12th, 13th & 14th Maryborough Orchid Show
13th & 14th September Noosa Orchid Show
14th & 15th Rockhampton Orchid Society Show
20th & 21st Glasshouse Country Orchid Show
20th to 22nd Hervey Bay Orchid Show
21st & 22nd Pine Rivers Spring Show
- October** 4TH & 5TH Bribie Island Orchid Show
- November** 9th Nambour Species Show
STOCQ Meeting hosted by Maroochydore OS

2025 Dates

- June** STOCQ Meeting hosted by Bundaberg Orchid Society
- September** 6th & 7th STOCQ Meeting to be held at Nambour OS &
STOCQ conference
- October** 1st to 5th – AOC Conference & Show Woolgoolga NSW

Office Bearers - Executive:

Patron: RRC Councillor, Neil Fisher
President: Jeff Bloxsom
0407 995 122
Vice President: Tony March
0401 280 352
Secretary: Sandra Rowcliffe
0438 130 360

Email - rockhamptonorchidsocietyinc@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Carr
0418 877 420

Committee Members

Maxine Robinson	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 Robinson, Gwen Breingan & Jan Hogan

Providore: Maxine Robinson

Promotion Officers: Sandra Rowcliffe & Robyn Bentley

Door Monitors: Sue Eggleshaw
Daphne Jenkinson

Librarian: Y'vonne Manning

Assistant Librarian: TBA

Raffle Plant Caretaker: Ray Bills

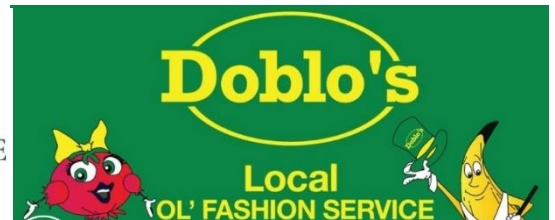
Property Officers: Barry and Faye English

If undelivered, please return to:

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

PO Box 5949

Red Hill Rockhampton Qld 4701



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



[Join us on Facebook](#)

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 1:30pm, doors open at 1.00pm and plants must be tabled by 1:20pm.

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.