



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 – November 2024



This is my final newsletter for 2024, I want to wish our members an incredibly happy and safe Christmas/New Year break and hope 2025 is a fantastic orchid growing year for all.

I am looking forward to the break over that period with my next newsletter in January. My final task will be creating the Achievement Certificates presented at our Christmas Awards Evening, I have included the information page for this again in this newsletter for those who have deleted their October Newsletter.3

2025 will be a big year for the Society as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary at our Autumn Show in April. As our two shows in 2025 are both being held at the Robert Schwarten Pavilion it will be great to have much more space to set out a show, and members have indicated that they want to return to doing the Devonshire Teas, which was extremely popular with our show visitors. Parking will not be an issue as it was at our Spring Show with the Pilbeam Theatre hosting events on the same weekend.

Recently our Committee discussed a new Patron and Michelle Landry's name was put forward, Michelle has supported our Society over several years and this year endorsed our Grant Application for the Volunteer's Grant that enabled us to purchase a new Colour Laser Printer, a portable PA System and also two Eftpos Terminals which we used at our Spring Show. Michelle has an interest in orchids and when time allows her, she has always visited our shows. I wrote a letter to Michelle enquiring if she would have an interest in being our Patron and I am happy to say she has agreed. She will be officially recognised as our new Patron at our AGM, which will be on February 15th, yes, our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 15th February, this was discussed and approved at our recent committee meeting, Jeff will discuss this further at our November meeting.

Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor.

Next Monthly Meeting: Saturday 16th November 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.
General Meeting Saturday 26th October commencing at 1.27pm

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: Nil

Visitors: Nil

Minutes of August 2024 monthly meeting as published in the newsletter were approved as correct and accurate.

Moved Peter Rankin

Seconded Ken O'Brien

Carried

Treasurer's Report – This was emailed out separately to Newsletter.

Karen moved that her report be accepted

Seconded Moyna Richardson

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR GENERAL MEETING OF R.O.S.I. ON SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER 2024

IN –

- Newsletters – Albany Orchid Society, Blackwater Garden Club, Bundaberg Orchid Society, Caboolture Orchid Society, Caloundra Orchid Society, Childers & Isis District Orchid Society, Glasshouse Country Orchid Society, Gympie Orchid Society, Hervey Bay Orchid Society, Mackay and District Orchid Society, Maryborough Orchid Society, NQ Orchid Society, Pine Rivers Orchid Society, Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society.
- Emails from Helen Fleming & Andrew Straume advising of price increase of Orchid Books
- Email from John Rees re: STOCQ Meeting at Maroochydore in November
- AOC Magazine

OUT –

- Newsletters from other clubs to members

Sandra Rowcliffe moved that the Inwards correspondence acknowledged as received and outwards correspondence endorsed as sent.

Seconded Jeni Scott

Carried

Growers Group: Nothing to report.

Business Arising from the last meeting: Nil

Popular Vote – Members completed the popular orchid vote.

General Business:

- November meeting will be one week earlier on the 16th November to allow time for Trophy Engraving and completing Achievement Certificates
- Christmas Awards Dinner is Saturday 30th November and the cost per person is \$45.00 (must be paid at November Meeting or prior) – Table reservations by November Meeting
- 27 members attended the PROPA Field Day Weekend in Mackay.
- Maybe there will be a bus trip to Nambour for the STOCQ Conference, but this will be dependent on numbers wishing to go
- 70th Anniversary Autumn Show is at the Robert Schwarten Pavillion – preparations have already started. Confirmations for Vendors received from Paul Smith, Rick Emmerson, Alice's Orchids and MnS Orchids. There is the possibility of doing the Devonshire Teas again, Jeff asked for a show of hands of those who would like to see it again, and several raised hands.
- Jeff Bloxson brought in the Phally that was the orchid for ROSI's Diamond Jubilee Show, he mentioned that it was bred by Terry Dean, there will be a special orchid for our Platinum Show
- Jeff has spoken to the Frenchville Sports Club, and they will not be available for our Spring Show, renovations won't be finished until late in the year. Jeff contacted RCC to see if the Robert Schwarten Pavillion would be available and it is not available for our previous show date of 13th & 14th September, but it is available for the 20th & 21st September, Jeff has made a booking for this date. The show will fall two weeks after the STOCQ Conference, and the first weekend of the school holidays.
- Jeff will bring his computer to each meeting and Orchid Wiz will be available for members to peruse, members will show how to use this program to members who do not know how.
- Someone brought in a bottle full of Dendrobium Beetles to show members who do not know what they look at, Jeff explained how to catch them
- With Secretary Sandra not available for our February 22nd Meeting, it was suggested that the meeting could possibly be brought forward a week to the 15th February, this was not suitable as several members will still be away on their Thailand Trip. Jeff suggested that the meeting could possibly be brought forward to January. There was discussion on this, Mirriam Black put forward a motion to hold the AGM at our 25th January meeting, this was seconded by Deb Simpson. Tony March

said why couldn't it be held over until 22nd March meeting and moved a motion for that date, this was seconded by Peter Jenkinson. Jeff then asked for a show of hands for the preferred dates, and the majority voted to hold the AGM at our January Meeting.

- Jeff spoke about the article called the Bus Driver written by John Rees in the October Orchids Australia magazine, it is about Jeni Scott's foray into Orchids.
- Jeff Glover delivered a very informative talk on Orchids of CQ at the Tanby Garden Centre.

Plant Commentary – Jeff Glover spoke about September Spring Shows normally showcasing Soft Canes and Phalaenopsis, he mentioned that the weather had warmed up and we were in the fourth week of October and there was still a good showing of quality plants.

Jeni Scott took over speaking on Vandas, she spoke about Renanthera where one parent is a species and the other hybrid. She highlighted all the Vanda Tien's Delights that were tabled, they were cultivated by Frank Mollenhauer and come in a variety of colours.

Jeff went back to speaking about Dendrobiums, he talked about the Phalaenanthe varieties are normally not flowering by now.

Lucky Number: #10 – Tara Thorn

Exhibitor's Raffle: #21 – Lorne & Kay Bauman

General Raffle – Sandra Rowcliffe, Marg Olsen, Maxine Robinson, Moyna Richardson, Laurie Lucke, Terry Breingan, Jeff Bloxson, David Eggleshaw, Helena Maker, Jana Bennett, Shirley Cantewell, Linda Schulz, Gwen Breingan.

Next General Meeting – Saturday 16th November 2024.

Next Committee Meeting – Tuesday 29th October at Jeff Bloxson's home starting at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 3.35pm

Jeff Bloxson

President

Sandra Rowcliffe

Secretary



JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS – OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Den.Enobi Splash 'Purple - J Scott



Bulb. graveolens - K & R Smith



**Paph. Duo De Citron
J & N Glover**



Annual Competition – October 2024 Results

Judges Choice

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash'</i> | J Scott |
| <i>Paph. Duo De Citron</i> | J & N Glover |
| <i>Bulb. graveolens</i> | K & R Smith |

Popular Vote

Advanced (Plants Tabled: 95)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Cattleya up to 100mm | <i>Rlc. Capricorn Charm 'Glenlee'</i> | J Scott |
| Cattleya over 100mm | <i>Rlc. Karen's Sunrise 'Waiana'</i> | J & P Bennett |
| Vandaceous up to 65mm | <i>Renanthera Bella x Ren. John Losgar</i> | B Jenkins & S Kuhl |
| Vandaceous 65mm & over | <i>Vanda Jana Sunlight</i> | J Scott |
| Oncidium | <i>Brassia Rex</i> | J & P Bennett |
| Dendrobium - Phalaenante | <i>Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash'</i> | J Scott |
| Dendrobium – any other | <i>Den. Sherry Abe</i> | J & N Glover |
| Phalaenopsis up to 60mm | <i>Phal. Allura Hydra</i> | J & P Bennett |
| Phalaenopsis over 60mm | Tie – <i>Phal. 'Lemon Green' – Unknown</i> | T & J March |
| | Tie – <i>Phal. Strawberry Fields</i> | J & N Glover |
| Paphiopedilum | <i>Paph. Hilo Citron 'Giant Dorsal' x Paph. Hsinying Citrine</i> | T & J March |
| Species – Dendrobium | <i>Den. superbum 'Limberlost'</i> | B Jenkins & S Kuhl |
| Species - Other | <i>Bulb. graveolens</i> | K & R Smith |
| Miscellaneous | <i>Emanthleya Middleberg</i> | T & J March |

Novice (Plants Tabled: 21)

| | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| Vandas | <i>Vanda Pine Rivers</i> | T & A Thorn |
| Phalaenopsis | <i>Phal. KV Beauty</i> | S Cantwell |
| Dendrobium | <i>Den. Airy Crimson</i> | R & M Black |
| Species | <i>Den. tangerinum 'DB' x Den. tangerinum</i> | L & G Schulz |

POPULAR VOTE WINNERS – OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING



Phal. KV Beauty - S Cantwell



**Rlc. Karen's Sunrise 'Waianae'
J & P Bennett**



Vanda Jana Sunlight - J Scott



**Ren. Bella x Ren. John Losgar
B Jenkins & S Kuhl**



**Phal. Strawberry Fields
J & N Glover**



Vanda Pine Rivers - T & A Thom



**Den. superbum 'Limberlost'
B Jenkins & S Kuhl**



**Rlc. Capricorn Charm 'Glenlee'
J Scott**



Den. Sherry Abe - J & N Glover



PHOTOS FROM OUR OCTOBER MEETING



Rockhampton Orchid Society Orchid Store

Property Officers - Barry & Faye English

PHONE 4922 2637 – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

IF NOT ANSWERED PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE

Email – lucky11fe1298@gmail.com

Closed Every Thursday & Daily between 12.00pm to 2.00pm

LARGE RANGE OF ORCHID SUPPLIES

SALES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!



ROCKHAMPTON ORCHID SOCIETY INC

CHRISTMAS PARTY PRESENTATION NIGHT

VENUE – CALLAGHAN PARK RACECOURSE- REANY STREET

DATE – SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER– TIME – 6.00PM

SEATED DINNER 7.00PM – 2 COURSE CHRISTMAS DINNER BUFFET

DRINKS SUPPLIED – SOFT DRINKS

ALL ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AT OWN COST

THERE WILL BE THE USUAL LUCKY DOOR PRIZES

SOME LUCKY SPOT PRIZES

OUR ANNUAL MEGA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL COMPETITION TROPHIES

ANNUAL AWARD CERTIFICATES & PRIZE MONEY

FINAL NAMES AND TABLE SEATING LISTS WILL BE REQUIRED

NO LATER THAN LAST GENERAL MEETING ON 16TH NOV

ROUND TABLES OF 10 ONLY – NO SQUARE TABLES

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A FULL TABLE - OTHER MEMBERS WILL BE PLACED ON YOUR TABLE TO EVEN THE NUMBERS OUT – LIST AT NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS

THE COST OF THE EVENING IS \$56 EACH

WITH A SUBSIDY FROM THE CLUB

MEMBER COST \$45-00 EACH

PAYMENT FOR DINNER ON OR BEFORE FINAL GENERAL MEETING 16TH NOVEMBER

PLEASE DO A BANK TRANSFER TO OUR A/C – NOTE- XMAS & MEMBER NUMBER

BSB 633000 A/C 178258414 – CASH PAYMENT AT GENERAL MEETING

NO PAYMENT ON NIGHT – BOOKINGS ONLY

COME ALONG AND ENJOY A GREAT NIGHT WITH YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

AND SEE OUT 2024 WITH A BANG



Orchid of the month

This month I am covering, yet another, orchid of Tony March, it is great to see the variety of different genera he grows and also so well grown. This orchid is *Enanthleya* Middleberg, it received a popular vote at our October Meeting. I have included the breeding history to produce this stunning variety, so members can see what species were used to create this beautiful Hybrid that was registered in 1982. [Source – www.orchidroots.com](http://www.orchidroots.com)



Enanthleya Middleberg, MAJ Orchids 1982 (RHS)

Cattlianthe Bactia × *Encyclia phoenicea*

Summary Photos Compare Synonyms Lineage ▼

The orchid *Enanthleya* Middleberg is a *Enanthleya* hybrid registered with the Royal Horticultural Society by MAJ Orchids in 1982.

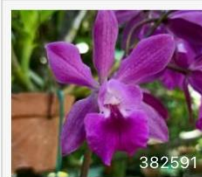
Top three species ancestors and their influences are

Encyclia phoenicea (50.0%)

Guarianthe bowringiana (25.0%) subgenus

Circumvola section: *Moradae*

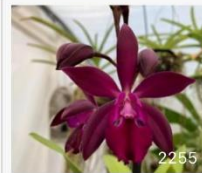
Cattleya guttata (25.0%) subgenus *Intermediae*



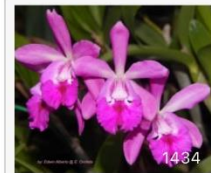
Eny. Middleberg 'Maj'
Azman Harun



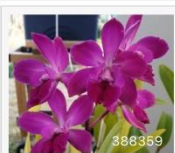
Eny. Middleberg 'MAJ'
Ochoa Carlos
Orchidist



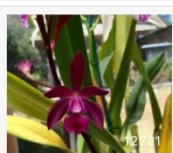
Eny. Middleberg 'MAJ'
Karla Velasco



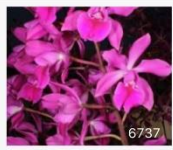
Eny. Middleberg
Edwin Alberto Pérez



Eny. Middleberg Roy
Lee



Eny. Middleberg
Rachel Ewing-Pace



Eny. Middleberg 'MAJ'
AM/AOS Duane
McDowell

[more ...](#)

Seed Parent



Cattlianthe Bactia

Pollen Parent



Encyclia phoenicea

Seed Grandparents



Guarianthe bowringiana



Cattleya guttata

Species Ancestors (3)



E. phoenicea 50.00% *Gur. bowringiana* 25.00%



C. guttata 25.00%

Articles from AOC Magazines

In this newsletter I am including articles from various AOC Magazines that relate to our Society and some of our members. I have scanned the pages so you know what edition it has been used from. First up I will include the article I submitted on our Autumn Show. The article for our Spring Show may be included in the upcoming December Edition. The AOC Magazine is printed every two months and for an investment of \$60.00 subscribers are able to read many good articles and growing advice, I would encourage our members to subscribe, for those who can't afford this the Society purchases a copy and this can be loaned from our library

Club News

Rockhampton Orchid Society

The Rockhampton Orchid Society has again delivered another great show held on the 13th & 14th April at the old Rockhampton Art Gallery. With changing our venue due to the current renovations occurring at the Frenchville Sport Club, the committee had some trepidation that the change of venue could affect our visitor numbers, but this was unfounded as we had over 70 more visitors through the doors than our last show in 2023. This year marks the club delivering 69 years of continual shows, we still have our Spring Show to come on the 14th & 15th September, an event we are now already planning towards. In 2025 we are looking forward to celebrating our 70th Anniversary.

The show tables, even though down on plant numbers, still saw many quality plants benched. The weather has not been conclusive to good orchid flowering with many months of hot humid weather followed by several days of rain prior to the show. This sadly caused many of our grower's blooms being marked from rain spotting, and not show quality.



Champions Table



Ctt. Portiata owned by Jana and Paul Bennett

On a bonus, there was rain the weekend prior and again on the weekend following the show, so we picked a great weekend to host the show with mild temperatures and sunshine allowing our visitors to sit outside enjoying refreshments under the marquees kindly donated for the event by the Frenchville Sports Club. The plants that were awarded Show Champions were amazing, but the winner of the specimen plant a *Cattleya* orchid named *Ctt. Portiata* owned by Jana and Paul Bennett was outstanding. A specimen plant is an orchid that has been allowed to grow into a large size plant without being broken up.

Grand Champion Orchid was *Dendrobium* Adrian Lonne owned by Jeff & Norma Glover who also took out the Best Overall Foliage/Fern award. Reserve Champion was *Dendrobium* Enobi Purple owned by Jenni Scott, she also took out many other prizes in both orchid & foliage sections. Jenni was the runner-up for Best Overall Foliage/Fern with her *Anthurium* Black Beauty.

Club News



Grand Champion Orchid *Dendrobium* Adrian Lonne owned by Jeff & Norma Glover



Tony O'Connor's *Vanda* Adisak Happiness Best Orchid by a Novice Grower

Best exotic species was *Vanda sanderiana* owned by Nat & Bob Lakey who also took out runner-up with *Ctism. saccatum*. Best Australian Species and runner-up was Tony & Jodee March with two beautifully grown *Dendrobium bigibbums*, the Cooktown Orchid our state floral emblem is a *Dendrobium bigibbum*.

Tony O'Connor took out the Best Orchid by a Novice Grower award with his *Vanda* Adisak Happiness, with Tara Monks awarded runner-up with her *Vanda* Somsri Velvet.

Our plant sales and merchandise stall were well attended as well as the stands of our two out of town vendors – Alice's Orchids from Townsville and Max & Sue from MnS Orchids of Sarina.

Hosting the Shows is costly for our Society, but we were fortunate to have the support of the Rockhampton Regional Council who awarded us a Community Assistance Grant for this Show.

Sandra Rowcliffe
Secretary

Gympie & District Orchid Society

The society held its autumn show on the weekend of 27th and 28th April in the Local Indoor Bowls Hall, whose floor, 2 years ago, had been a metre under flood waters and whose grounds had a mine shaft collapse this year. It was fortunate to be able to stage the show there.

The society is relatively small, but it staged a large show with support from societies within about 150km. Champion orchid was *Dendrobium* (*Taurus* x *canaliculatum*) exhibited by John and Narelle Hoffman of Maryborough. The influence of *Den. canaliculatum* was to sharpen the 'horns' of *Den.*

Orchid Awards - Why do they Affect You?

THE term 'orchid grower' encompasses a very wide range of personalities with a great variation in degree of enthusiasm. For example; there are the avid exhibitors who put all their effort into winning prizes at shows; there are commercial types who love orchids but are interested mainly in how much money they can make with them, the casual hobbyist who just likes to have a few orchids or the keen amateur who is on the way to becoming one of the above three.

There are other classes too and, no matter what heading fits you; knowledge of orchid judging and awards is essential to the greater enjoyment of the hobby.

Orchid awards are given in recognition of outstanding improvement in any section of the Orchidaceae, towards the theoretical ideal. They can also be given for outstanding merit in some particular characteristic of any orchid or they can be given to a grower for a particularly good effort in the culture of growing a plant.

In the first section, orchid blooms are allotted points for the excellence of their properties, including shape, colour & texture, substance, habit of spike and in the case of cluster type orchids, their floriferousness. The total of possible points for all awards is 100. Three awards are available as follows: 75 to less than 80 points qualifies for a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC); 80 to less than 85 points qualifies for an Award of Merit (AM) and 85 points and greater qualifies for a First Class Certificate (FCC).

A bloom may qualify for an Award of Distinction (AD) if not having the overall perfection to qualify for one of the above three awards it has an extremely outstanding attribute such as intensity of colour. This award may be granted in conjunction with the above awards.

Three cultural certificates are available: these are applicable to plants which have been exceptionally well grown, showing evidence of culture above the ordinary. The plant needs to be flowering freely, preferably better than its normal type, and the condition of flowers, pseudobulbs and foliage must be excellent, taking into account the hybrid or species being shown and its natural characteristics. The Award of Cultural Commendation (ACC) is given for plants receiving 75 to less than 80 points, the Award of Cultural Merit (ACM) for plants receiving 80 to less than 85 points, and the Award of Cultural Excellence (ACE) for plants receiving 85 point or more.

A Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM) is granted, once only, to any species orchid which is new and/or rare in cultivation in Australia and which has been cultivated well and is a good example of its type. The award is used as a benchmark for future awards of this species. No allocation of points is made.

Hybridisers are encouraged by the Award of Special Recognition (ACR); an award granted to a person for the advancement of a particular line of breeding, in hybrid development or in line-breeding of species orchids. A minimum of twelve plants of the development being assessed are required to be shown at the same time. Flowers need not be of award quality but must be of consistently high standard. A statement from the hybridiser is required, which outlines the strategies (parents, timeframe etc.) used in the production of the sub-mitted plants.

Reasons for Awards

Awards are a very necessary feature of orchidology. The original purpose for them was, as has been stated, to give recognition to an outstanding flower. This purpose, of course, is

the same today and we find that through such events as the World Orchid Conference, orchid awards throughout the world are standardized. Therefore, awards help orchid buyers and a person in England can quite confidently purchase a division of an awarded plant from Australia knowing that the flower will be up to a particular standard.

Of course, awards are the goal sought after by the orchid hybridist and these people are continually striving, through research, to produce better and more consistent crossings.

This continual advancement in orchid hybridization means that orchid judges also must advance their ideas of plant 'perfection'. It can, therefore, be seen that orchid judges must have a considerable experience in orchidology and are continually increasing their knowledge in this field to keep up with current breeding trends.

It is obvious that the awards standards must also progress. For example, an orchid bloom which received an award ten years ago might be hard-pressed to achieve an equivalent award today. For this reason, it is important that all award citations should be followed by the year in which the plant was granted the award in catalogues, lists and labels - e.g. *Cymbidium Wallara* 'Wondabah' AM/AOC (1964).

Awards are not, and cannot, be dis-

tributed indiscriminately. Compared with the many thousands of new plants which are introduced into cultivation here each year, few awards are granted in Australia. Therefore, it can be seen that a bloom must be outstanding to achieve this distinction.

In summary, orchid awards encourage growers to greater efforts and provide a goal to aim for, they provide a standard of values throughout the orchid world, and they are an incentive which makes the hybridist use all means at their disposal to strive for better things.

Through the Australian Orchid Council, we have a judging system that has evolved; orchids gaining awards in the past are used as benchmarks for the present and through the use of these a continuum has developed. As a result of the establishment of the AOC Judging & Awards Standing Committee, comprising the registrars of each region, we find that, throughout the country, judging is standardized, and all states have a voice in awarding orchids for their degree of excellence.

First published in Orchids Australia April 2007 by Colin Jennings, AOC Registrar General of Judging (2007) from an unknown author.

Edited and updated by **Stephen Lynch**
AOC Registrar General of Judging

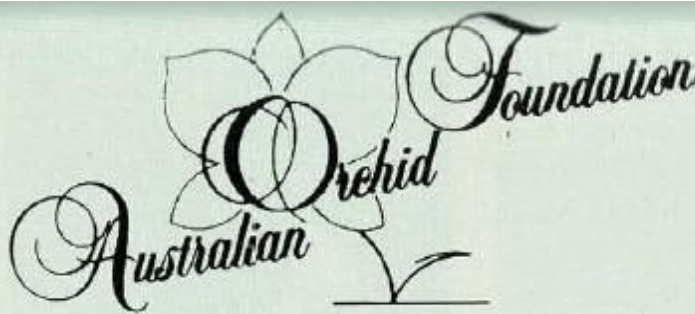
Perth Spring Orchid Show and Garden Fair

7 - 8 September 2024

John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School
Corner Mirrabooka Ave & Boyare Ave, Mirrabooka

Open 9am - 4pm Saturday & 9am-3pm Sunday
Adults \$5 & Seniors \$3, includes free cuppa

Information 0417 903 280 or bruce@pegasusconsulting.org



Essay Competition 2023
3rd Prize Winner
Sandra Rowcliffe

How I Deflask My Orchids and Look After My Seedlings

Along my forty-year journey as an avid orchid grower, I have found that the greater growing effort usually delivers the most satisfaction.

When I first started growing orchids in the 1980s, I was not a member of any society, and sadly many orchids I collected went to plant heaven. After joining an orchid society in 2010, I still had losses, but as my experience and knowledge grew my successes have increased.

As with any orchid genera the most important step is understanding what growing conditions the plants grow best in and making sure your growing environment suits the various genera. Positioning in the greenhouse is of upmost importance. Anyone who can use a computer can get knowledge of growing environments through google searches. In orchid groups usually the knowledgeable members are happy to share tips, just remember to ask questions.

The next steps are understanding the care of the orchids, the potting mediums, using fertilisers, calcium, and treating pests and diseases with baits, insecticides, miticides, fungicides, (chemical or environmentally friendly) etc.

Most of my collection is housed in an 8m x 8m greenhouse which has a welded 50 x 50 steel

tube frame with a high sloping roofline clad in frosted white polycarbonate sheeting. I put 90% green commercial grade shadecloth on the walls. In the 9 years since the greenhouse was built the shadecloth intensity has decreased to around 70% now. The floor has weedmat covered with river gravel.

My orchids are grown on mesh shelves as well as hanging above shelves on chains and below the shelves on hooks. I complete the watering by hand, as an irrigation system would encounter problems with the way the orchids are displayed.

From May to September, I wrap this greenhouse on the Southern and Western Walls to stop the cold breezes over winter and this keeps the interior warmer. I use "Jack" 3.0m x 4.0m Clear Medium Duty Weatherview Screen that I buy from Bunnings for \$28. It has a life of about three seasons before it starts breaking down. It has eyelets which we attach to wires running across the sides of the greenhouse by cable ties.

Initially I purchased my orchids as advanced plants, then individual seedlings. In 2013 I bought my first compot of Cattleyas and had good success with the plants when repotted.

Attending shows, I noticed nurseries with flasks, but this was still a daunting step for me

to take and something that I put off for several years. Ultimately the desire grew stronger, and I wanted to have a go at growing orchids from flasks.

At the June 2017 TQO Conference in Townsville there was a flask of *Dendrobium Ruppiosum* (*Den. jonesii* x *Den. speciosum*) in the Plant Auction at the Conference Dinner. I thought that I would bid on this and surprisingly I won it for just \$28. When I took possession of this flask the agar was starting to break down, so I was advised it needed potting quickly. Yeek!! I was thinking that I would have time to adapt to the fact that I was now going to try deflasking for the first time.

It was winter and even though temperature wise it is reasonably mild in Central Queensland it was still not the perfect timing to look at completing the task. I proceeded to gather some information on how I would proceed. Following are what steps I took: -

- On my repotting bench I made a clean area which I placed newspaper on.
- I have a bottle of steriliser ready with my secateurs soaking in it.
- I thoroughly wash sphagnum moss into a bucket of water & algicide for three times.
- I filled a clean tray with warm water and added a weak solution of algicide, this is for washing the seedlings.
- I filled another clean tray the same as the above step and added the washed sphagnum moss.
- I then wrapped the glass flask in a towel and used a hammer to tap the end off the bottle, this is to prevent cuts from the shards of broken glass.
- The released seedlings are then put into the first clean tray where I agitate all the agar off the roots, being very careful not to break the roots or leaves.
- I cut off any dead roots with sterilised secateurs. It is important that all the agar is washed off to stop fungal or bacterial problems occurring.
- After the roots are cleaned the seedlings are placed onto paper.
- I then pick out each seedling and wrap in sphagnum moss (not too tightly) and put into small seedling pots. These pots are stored in trays, where I make sure the larger plants do not overshadow the smaller seedlings.
- If you don't have room for trays, just put the plants into a compot, but remember later you will have to repot out of the compot. It is important to consider your available space when doing flasks.
- The trays are put on middle shelves in my greenhouse away from direct light, so the new leaves do not burn.
- It is important that the moss is kept moist but not saturated and never leave dry out otherwise the roots will die. I water daily in summer and every four days in winter, we get a lot of strong breezes through the greenhouse all year round.
- I use a weak fertiliser of a quarter strength to fertilise weekly to ensure good growth.
- I monitor the plants for fungus and if required use fungicide.
- The temperature ideally should be between 20 to 25 degrees Celsius - I normally deflask from mid- August. In the case of my first flask the temperature would have been a minimum of 5 degrees but with the wrapping of my greenhouse, the inside temperature would have been as low as 10 degrees.
- When the seedlings have grown to a good size, I then repot into a larger pot using a fine medium suitable for the genera, usually bark, charcoal, perlite.
- I use Plantcote slow release fertiliser on the seedlings when repotting as well as the weekly liquid fertilising.



First flowering seedling of *Dendrobium ruppiosum* from the flask bought in Townsville.

There were about 30 plants in the flask from Townsville and I am pleased to say that I had not one plant lost. The plants were flowering two years after deflasking.

After losing a lot of Cattleyas and Dendrobiums to a condition where the new shoots died, I found out the use of calcium is essential, which is done on a weekly basis. But never mix the calcium with anything else when mixing in the watering tank otherwise it could solidify.

My orchids normally get fertilised once a week in summer and once a fortnight in winter.

It is essential to check for vermin, snails/

slugs, mealy bugs, scale, thrips, mites, and aphids and treat quickly. For rats and mice, I use baits tied to the shelves. For snails and slugs, I use pellets, and for the other problems I use the appropriate control products. It is important if you spray regularly that you change the brands to stop resistance by pests.

I have since gone onto purchasing and growing flasks of many genera – Catesetums, Paphiopedilums, Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, Dendrobiums, Tolumnia. And even though I have had not a 100% success like my first flask I have grown on many seedlings from flasks. Give it a try it is something that I strongly recommend!

Sandra Rowcliffe

How many orchid seedlings turn out to be good ones just because their owners can't bear to throw them out?

Roger Rankin Orchidwise

The Bus Driver

John Rees

In November 2008, the Boyne-Tannum Orchid Society made a weekend visit to Gympie where the members visited local members' shade houses on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. They had arranged to stay overnight at a local motel and have dinner there. I offered their members a barbecue attended by members of both societies at my place and watch a PowerPoint Presentation on the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

The coach captain, Jenni Scott, previously had little interest in orchids but found herself owning orchids and impressed by the level of fellowship among orchid growers. She joined her local society to learn how to grow them.

In November 2012, two of her plants received awards of Highly Commended Certificate (HCC). They were awards 4671 and 4672. They were the first of 14 awards her plants would receive. Award 4672, *Catyclia* (*Ctyh.*) Saengsri Fantasy 'Juanita Hope' HCC/AOC 76.8 is shown below⁽¹⁾.



Award 4672, *Catyclia* (*Ctyh.*) Saengsri Fantasy 'Juanita Hope' HCC/AOC

In 2014, having outgrown the competition of her local society, she joined the Rockhampton Orchid Society 110km away. This society requires exhibitors in shows to be active members of that society. They are closed shows. At this time also, she invested heavily in a number of shade houses with different microclimates.



One of these shade houses was a Vanda house in the image above⁽²⁾. Most of these Vandas and *Rhynchostylis* have been grown from flask. There were eight rows of hangers down the left-hand side of the shade house and three on the right. Each row was 18m long.

Jenni qualified as an AOC judge in 2015.

In 2023, Jenni won numerous awards at the Rockhampton Orchid Society presentation night including for most Judges' choices at meetings during 2023, most popular votes in meetings in 2023 and several trophies for being the best exhibitor in genera classes over the year. One was the Outstanding

Grower Award for 2023 indicating that her plant, *Vanda garayi* 'Linda Jeanette' ACM/AOC 81, (Award 6982) had the highest award received by Rockhampton members in 2023.

Her ability to invest in six shade houses, her ability to purchase plants of quality and her ability to grow them well has brought plenty of chauvinistic comment.

In May this year, her local panel assessed two of her plants for cultural awards. These would be the first of Awards of Cultural Excellence (ACE) that her plants have received, but they are really awards of the grower.



Vanda garayi 'Linda Jeanette' ACM/AOC



Award 7078 *Cattleya* Jungle Queen 'Southern Cross' ACE/AOC

This plant of *Cattleya* Jungle Queen 'Southern Cross' ACE/AOC 85.6 had five inflorescences and 58 flowers with a relevant flower count (on one selected inflorescence) of 14 and was Award 7078 ⁽¹⁾.



Aerides quinquevulnera 'Jeni Scott' ACE/AOC 86.9 had 42 inflorescences and 1636 flowers with 51 flowers and 5 buds on the relevant inflorescence. It is Award 7077 (1).

I have no doubt that the coach driver in 2008, when she took on the job, had no idea how that weekend would redirect her interests.

John Rees

1. Image from AOC database
2. Image from author.

2024 Show Dates

Supplied by John Rees

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

2024 ROSI MEETING DATES

- 16th November
- No Meeting in December

2025 Dates

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

- February** STOCQ AGM - Gympie
- March** 8th – Maroochydore Orchid Show
20th, 21st & 22nd – Childers & Isis OS Autumn Show
- April** 11th & 12th – Caloundra OS Show
17th & 18th – Bribie Island OS Show
18th, 19th & 20th – Gladstone OS Show
26th & 27th Rockhampton 70th Anniversary Autumn Show
- May** 3rd & 4th - Gympie & DOS Show
9th, 10th & 11th – Bundaberg OS Show
9th & 10th – Noosa DO & FS Show
10th - Maroochydore OS Show Bli Bli
- June** 14th STOCQ Meeting - Bundaberg Orchid Society
- July** 18th & 19th – Caboolture OS WinterShow
- August** 8th & 9th - Maroochydore OS Show Buderim
28th, 29th & 30th – Childers & Isis OS Spring Show
- September** 6th & 7th STOCQ Meeting - Nambour OS & Orchidfest
11th, 12th & 13th – Maryborough DOS Show
20th & 21st Rockhampton OS Spring Show
19th & 20th – Noosa DO 7 FS Show
26th & 27th – Glasshouse OS Show
- October** 1st to 5th – AOC Conference & Show Woolgoolga NSW
- November**

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

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