



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



**PO Box 5949
Red Hill Rockhampton 4701**

Founded 1955



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



[Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc](#)

Newsletter – September 2024

As I start this newsletter it is the week leading up to our Spring Show, September arrived too quickly. It won't be long before Judging on Friday night. This weekend just past I was extremely busy seeing what orchids and foliage I can find in my greenhouses and getting them ready for the show. Sadly, with working full time, I don't have the time to be organised any quicker, but it is what it is. For those of you who are much more organised than me, I really envy you.

As with the last show I will not be including show news in a newsletter, a separate Show Wrap up will go out following the show with results and photos.

Great News!!! Friday afternoon I received an email from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund that the grant application I submitted for the purchase of a defibrillator was successful, and we will receive the funds in a fortnight. This is great news as it allows us to own a portable defibrillator available for use in case of an emergency. The unit I was quoted is fully automatic and extremely easy to use. 2

It is good to see our President Jeff recovering well from his medical emergency that saw him spending a few days in hospital while they completed tests and treated him with medicine. Many thanks to Tony to taking the reins and chairing our August Meeting. It ran very smoothly.

Our plant commentaries are going well with several members speaking about their experiences and orchid care. The more we share the more we learn, and don't be afraid to ask questions.

Our next social event following this show is our bus trip to Mackay for the PROPA Field Day on 19th & 20th October, I have included the flyer again. It is not too late to put your name down, but a deposit must be made quickly. Cost will most likely be \$200 each. Contact Jeff Bloxsom if you are interested in going.

Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor.

Next Monthly Meeting: Saturday 28th September 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 24th August commencing at 1.30pm

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: #8 Kathy Vella

Visitors: Nil

In the absence of President Jeff Bloxson, who was on a weekend hospital stay, Tony March chaired the meeting.

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

Moved Tony March **Seconded** Dennis Ratcliffe **Carried**

Treasurer's Report – This was sent out with our August Newsletter.

Karen moved that her report be accepted **Seconded** Jenni Scott **Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE FOR GENERAL MEETING OF R.O.S.I. ON SATURDAY 24th August 2024

IN –

- Newsletters – Albany Orchid Society, Blackwater Garden Club, Bundaberg Orchid Society, Caboolture Orchid Society, & Isis District Orchid Society, Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society, Glasshouse Country Orchid Society, Gympie Orchid Society, Hervey Bay Orchid Society, Mackay and District Orchid Society, Maryborough Orchid Society, North Qld Orchid Society, Pine Rivers Orchid & Foliage Society, Townsville Orchid Society.
- Orchids Queensland renewal.
- Mail Document for the ATO NFP Self Review Return
- AOC August Magazine
- MyCity update reminder
- Email from John Rees re: Orchidwiz

OUT –

- Newsletters from other clubs to members

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

Seconded Miriam Black **Carried**

Growers Group: With Maxine absent Jan Hogan thanked Dave & Kerrie Clarke for hosting our last growers' group. Jan mentioned that their gardens were beautiful and what Kerrie's greenhouse lacked in size was filled with an amazing display of quality plants. The greenhouse was very tidy and well kept.

Business Arising from the last meeting: Nil

Popular Vote – Members completed the popular orchid voting.

General Business:

- Tony sent the list around for members to put their names down for the show dinner
- He took names for containers displays at that stage there were 5 entries
- He mentioned that sales tables were limited to one per member, with everyone's names down there would be three club tables for members with not many plants.
- Jeff Glover asked what judges and student judges would be attending the Spring Show Judging.
- Tony asked about helpers to set up on Friday between 8am and 11am. He asked me if I knew if some set up could be completed on the Thursday, I rang Jeff and was advised that we can set up on the Thursday after 12 noon.
- It was suggested that Friday morning extra hands help unload vehicles, so they be cleared quickly for the next members vehicles to park and unload.
- Same for the Sunday afternoon after 2.00pm, we need members to pack up and tidy the venue after the show closes.
- The merchandise stall will most likely be packed up at 12.00 noon
- Jenny Moore asked about plants being purchased on the Friday afternoon and this will be available until 5.00pm, payment can be made by Eftpos, but plants must be taken home and not left on the premises and no purchasing Saturday morning before the public come in at 8.00am.
- The PROPA Bus Trip deposit of \$50.00 needed to be paid today and Tony advised members to pay it to Karen
- Jenni Scott asked about the Show Roster.
- Tony mentioned that all perpetual trophies have been returned

- Tony asked for donations for the Show Garden Trolley prize.
- Moyna Richardson spoke about Tolumnias. She had a plant in a pot that had two different shaped flowers, she thought maybe two seedlings were planted together prior to her buying it. She said when purchasing seedlings there were heaps of different varieties. She likes to buy them in flower as so many colour combinations for crosses seedlings.
- Tony March spoke a few words about observations in his greenhouse. He said following the rain that weeds were out of control and advised members to get on top of it otherwise they are too difficult to eradicate later. Also fungus, mould, mealy bugs and Dendrobium Beetles are around following the rain.

Plant Commentary: Jeff Glover spoke about the 8 inches (200mm) of rain received on 13th & 14th August, he commented about the unusual weather we were experiencing, following months of cold had given way to a Winter Heatwave.

He thanked Moyna for her interesting talk on Tolumnias. There was a discussion about black caterpillars on soft cane dendrobiums. The Dendrobium Beetles really enjoy the Den. discolor. Robyn Bentley asked about larva eating through the middle of canes. Jeff spoke about using Carbaryl for this purpose, Allan Cunninghame said that he uses Spectrum 200.

Lucky Number: #23 – Margaret Dunbar

Exhibitor's Raffle: #72 – Moyna Richardson

General Raffle – Daphne Jenkins, Mary Campbell, Shirley Cantwell, Rosemary Wines, Kerrie Green, Kathie Zammit, Miriam Black x 2, Laurie Lucke, Tony O'Connor, Nat Lakey and Jessica Dawes.

Next General Meeting – Saturday 28th September 2024.

Next Committee Meeting – Tuesday 3rd September at Jeff Bloxsom's.

Meeting closed at 3.25 pm

Tony March

Vice President

Sandra Rowcliffe

Secretary

JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS – AUGUST GENERAL MEETING



Annual Competition – August 2024 Results

Judges Choice

<i>Dendrobium</i> Bright Eyes	J & N Glover
<i>Paph.</i> St Swithin	S & M Rowcliffe
<i>C. loddigesii</i> var. <i>punctata</i>	K & D Clarke

Popular Vote

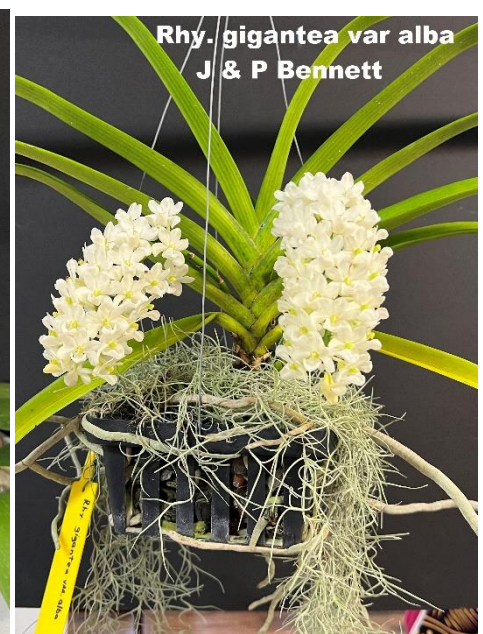
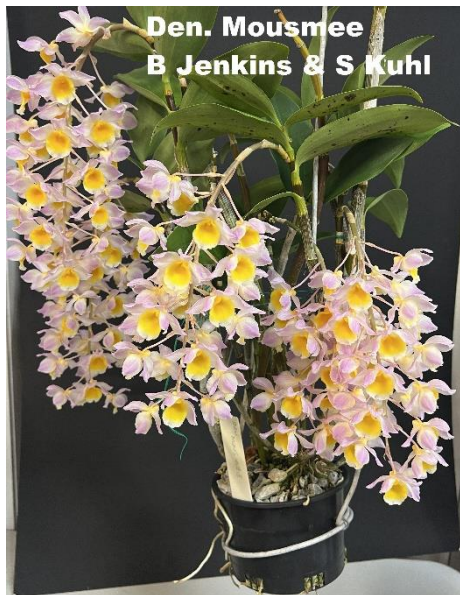
Advanced (Plants Tabled: 78)

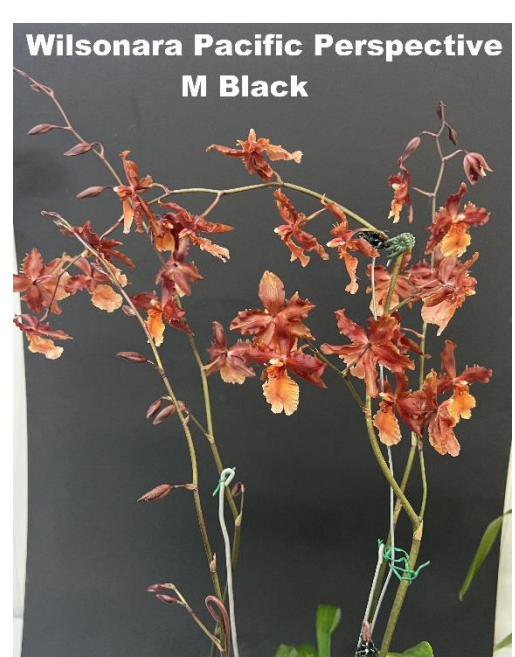
Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Rlc.</i> Redland Nugget ‘Mint’	J & P Bennett
Cattleya 100mm and over	<i>Rlc.</i> Karen’s Sunrise ‘Waianaë’	J Scott
Vandaceous up to 65mm	<i>Rhy.</i> Kultana	J Scott
Vandaceous 65mm & over	<i>Vanda</i> Gordon Dillon ‘Black Panther’	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Oncidium	<i>Onc.</i> Ruth’s Rainbow	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Dendrobium	<i>Den.</i> Mousmee	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Phalaenopsis	<i>Phal.</i> Sweet Talk	B & N Lakey
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph.</i> St Swithin	S & M Rowcliffe
Species – All Genera	<i>Rhy. gigantea</i> var. <i>alba</i>	J & P Bennett
Miscellaneous	<i>Cym.</i> Yi Ying ‘Red Gem’	K & R Smith

Novice (Plants Tabled: 27)

Cattleya up to 100mm and 100mm and over	<i>Rlc.</i> Fuchs Orange Nubgett ‘Bette x C. Topaz Acclaim’)	D & K Ratcliffe
Oncidiinae	<i>Wilsonara</i> Pacific Perspective	M Black
Vandaceous	<i>Ascda.</i> Suksamran Gold	T Thorn
Miscellaneous	<i>Phal.</i> Lucky Star	D & K Ratcliffe
Species	<i>C. loddigesii</i> var. <i>punctata</i>	K & D Clarke

POPULAR VOTE WINNERS – AUGUST GENERAL MEETING





Just to fill the space below, here is a memory from the past. It was a bus trip to Gladstone, I think 2017, for one of the Tri-annual field days and was taken outside Beecher Nursery which we visited.

These bus trips are lots of fun and a chance to meet other orchid growing people from other areas.



TRIP TO PROPA SOCIETY IN MACKAY 19th & 20th OCTOBER 2024



ROSI has arranged a weekend trip away to the **PROPA** field day in October – **still some seats available**

Details as follows:-

Lock up car security at Lawrence Motors, Richardson Road

Meet and lock up car at Lawrence's Car Sales
Scott St Entrance 7.30am

Coach will depart **8.00am sharp**, please do not be late.

We will be travelling on Keppel Coaches

We have had a personnel invite from Max & Sue Rawlings at Sarina to visit their Nursery, on the way up, and they will be supplying a light lunch for us to enjoy

This personal visit is for Rocky Members only

After lunch travel into Mackay and check into our motel

Will be staying at The Country Plaza Moror Inn, Nebo Road

The rest of the afternoon at your own leisure

Saturday night we will be going out to dinner with other members of PROPA

Venue yet to be advised

Sunday start with a breakfast at the motel then head off to the various visits arranged.

There will be a Bar-B-Que lunch at the Mackay Show grounds

There could be a large multi-draw raffle arranged.

After farewelling our hosts, we will depart for home around 3.00pm

Your cost for this weekend with a substantial subsidy from ROSI

Will be \$200 per person, twin share accommodation

This includes all your travel, accommodation and meals (except Sat Night Dinner)

The coach holds 50 and at the moment we have 30 seats booked. Plenty of room for more if you are thinking of joining in a great weekend.

A deposit of **\$50 each** will be required by our August Meeting to secure your seat and full payment by our September Meeting.

Bank transfer preferred – Reference –“your name and PROPA”

BENDIGO BANK - BSB – 633 000 ACCOUNT 178 258 414

Come along and have a great weekend!

Orchids of the month

This month I am including two more articles from Facebook pages. I enjoy reading and learning from these articles and I hope you do so to. Many thanks to those who contributed to the posts. First up is *Epidendrum porpax*, I have never owned one of these, but a person from Queensland commented on the post that they grow them well, so I guess we may sometime come across them. It was registered in 1855 and comes from South Africa.

Source – Carlos J. Pasiche Lisboa – American Orchid Society

Epidendrum porpax is a reed-stem orchid that flowers for me mostly between summer and early autumn. The flowers are small, but make a nice display as the plant expands and forms a larger colony. The display is short-lived, lasting about a week or so. If placed in higher light, the plant will turn purple-red, but it does not seem to flower as well as in the lower light. NOTE: this post should be just used as a guide instead of a must-do, as it reflects on this growers recent experience with the orchid in bloom.

Orchid Species

0.5 inches
1.3 cm
flower width

7.7 inches
19.7 cm
plant colony width

Front view

Side view

Epidendrum porpax

Ecology

By natalkimenez
on naturalist

powo.science.kew.org

Epidendrum porpax
in nature

Substrata: On trees in hilly to mountain forests
Light: Lightly to partially shaded conditions
Elevation: 400–1,800 meters or 1,312–5,906 feet
Temperature: **Hot—Cool** Day temps. 21–35°C or 70–95°F
Night temps. 10–24°C or 50–75°F
Distribution: Southern Mexico down to Northwestern South America
Biome: Tropical Forests and Subtropical Dry Forests
Flowering: 1–3(?) × per year, Late Spring–Winter

Epidendrum porpax

My Setup

Epidendrum porpax
growing on a fern
fiber mount

Substrata: A fern fiber mount
Light: 12–15 hours of medium-low LED light
Humidity: 40–60%, Winter; 60–80%, Summer
Watering: Misted every other day during winter and up to twice a day during summer. The plant remains dry for most of the day
Fertilizer: 20-20-20 and Cal-Mag (180 ppm) weekly in summer and Cal-Mag (60 ppm) every third watering in winter
Media is flushed with low ppm water once a month
Temperature: 12.5–24°C or 55–75.5°F, Winter
22–33°C or 72–92°F, Summer
Flowering: 1× per year, Late Spring–Early Winter

Epidendrum porpax

***Epidendrum porpax* complex**

The *Epidendrum porpax* complex comprises around 15 species with similar habitats and flowers that are distributed in tropical and subtropical forests in Mexico down to South America

Watch out for...

E. porpax

By Luis_Renato

E. peperomia *E. huaytianum* *E. dolichoporpax* *E. althianorum*

On IOSPE

By Seattle Orchids

E. gnomus *E. matthewesil* *E. microporpax* *E. mavrodactylon*

Epidendrum porpax

Next up I am including an interesting story and information on *Prosthechea cochleata*, known as the clamshell orchid, the cockleshell orchid or the octopus orchid, whatever it is called it is an unusual flower.

Prosthechea cochleata

Source: Emerald City Orchids

Legend says it was around 1795, a boat returned to England from the Americas. It had a large manifest of American plants, packed tightly with “filler plants”, used to keep the collected specimens from dehydrating on the long sea voyage. The filler plants were mostly orchids, which can stay alive unwatered a long while, as their pseudobulbs shrivel.

Botanists were thrilled to have new species to grow. Taking notes from the explorers, they determined jungles to be steamy, smoky places. To recreate that, most greenhouses would have a coal burning furnace inside. Almost everything died in the beginning, suffocating in a coal soot steam cloud.

One orchid strong enough to withstand these terrible conditions was this gem found in Mexico, some areas of the Caribbean, and Florida. It earns its name from the purple seashell appearance and is widely regarded as being the plant that started the 19th century orchid mania. Folks would wait for hours to see it when the flower was first exhibited.

For its historical significance and peculiar flower, every orchid collection should have at least one.

Prosthechea is a genus of flowering plants in the orchid family (Orchidaceae). The name is derived from the Greek word *prostheke* (appendix), referring to the appendage on the back of the column. **Appendage orchid** is a common name for this genus. *Prosthechea* is abbreviated ***Psh.*** in the horticultural trade.



Morphology



The roots of all *Prosthechea* species possess a velamen (a thick sponge-like covering) differentiated into epivelamen and endovelamen. Flavonoid crystals were observed in both the roots and leaves. The erect stems form flattened or thickened pseudobulbs. There are 1 to 3 terminal, sessile leaves. The leathery blade is ovate to lanceolate. (*Euchile* leaves are softer and thinner than other *Prosthechea* leaves.)

The flowers form an apical, paniculate raceme with a spathe at the base of the inflorescence. There is a great variety in the flowers of this genus. They may be attached to the stem by a peduncle or they may be sessile. They can flower on the raceme at the same time or successively. They can be resupinate or non-resupinate (as in *Prosthechea cochleata*). *Prosthechea* flowers are unique among the Laeliinae in producing fluorescent flavonoid crystals when preserved in ethanol with 5% sodium hydroxide.

The sepals are almost equal in length, while the petals can be much slender. The lip is pressed closely (adnate to proximal) to half of the column and shows a callus (a stiff protuberance). The column is 3- to 5-toothed at its top.

There are four, almost equal pollinia with an inverted egg shape. There are four stalks (or caudicles) in two pairs. The beak is entire, curved into a half circle and covered with viscous glycoside crystals.

The fruits consist of ellipse-shaped to egg-shaped, 1-locular, 3-winged capsules.



SUGGESTED GROWING NOTES

Recommend temperature at daytime 22C – 30C and night time 12C – 20C. Well drained potting medium that is changed when it is starting to break down, do not overpot the plant, and prefers more than 50% humidity.

Eria floribunda

The last orchid I am covering is an unusual plant that Tony March tabled at our last meeting. It was *Eria floribunda*.

Source – Gary Yong Gee – published in 2010 for the Orchid Species Society, Garry lives in Brisbane.

Synonymous with *Pinalia floribunda*, *Eria floribunda* has arching sprays, up to 20cms long, carrying lots of sparkling densely arranged small white flowers with red markings with several flower spikes per cane. Native to Southeast Asia this dramatic orchid species grows into a great specimen plant.



Pinalia floribunda (Lindl.) Kuntz was first described by John Lindley as *Eria floribunda* in the Botanical Register in 1844. The specific epithet comes from the Latin *floribundus* (profusely flowered) for the numerous many-flowered inflorescences. Carl Kuntze transferred this taxon to *Pinalia* in *Revisio Generum Plantarum* in 1891. Recent DNA studies show that *Eria* is polyphyletic since it comprises species that are derived from different ancestors. Based on these studies, Phillip Cribb and Yan Pen Ng recognise *Pinalia* in *Genera Orchidacearum*, Volume 4 in 2005.

Pina. Floribunda is an epiphytic or sometimes terrestrial plant that has clustered cylindrical stems that are 15-35cm or more long and 8-10mm in diameter. The stems bear 3-6 alternating two-ranked leaves near the apex. Variable in shape and size, the thin elliptical to narrowly lanceolate leaves are commonly 12-15cm long and 1-2cm broad but may be up to 30cm long and 3.5cm broad.

Usually, 3-5 inflorescences are produced from the upper half of the recently matured stem at one time. Pendent or spreading horizontally, the inflorescences are 7-15cm long (rarely up to 20cm) and 1.5cm in diameter with many resupinate flowers borne to the base of the raceme. Generally, the flowers of *Pina. floribunda*, are densely arranged along the rachis but may be more laxly spaced in some plants. Pale-brown-hairy to white-hairy on the outside, the small white flowers are 5-6mm across and may be faintly tinged with pink. The tops of the column and stigma are deep purple to maroon. Lasting for three to five days, the flowers produce sweet nectar from the base of the lip and have a brackish scent.

2024 Show Dates

Supplied by John Rees

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

2025 Dates

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

September 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 Bribe Island Orchid Show

November 9th Nambour Species Show

STOCQ Meeting hosted by Maroochyore OS

2024 ROSI MEETING DATES

- 24th August
- 28th September
- 26th October
- 16th November
- No Meeting in December

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

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Providore: Maxine Robinson

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Door Monitors: Kay Bauman
Daphne Jenkinson

Librarian: Y'vonne Manning

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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.

Disclaimer:

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