



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



**PO Box 5949
Red Hill Rockhampton 4701**

Founded 1955



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc

Newsletter – September 2022

As I commence this newsletter it is a very sad day, Queen Elizabeth II, it has been announced this morning, passed away at 96 years of age. A very humble and regal woman who has served her country and the commonwealth for over 70 years. Sadly, she never had the opportunity to retire from duty, swearing in Britain's new prime minister just three days ago. May she rest in peace and reunite with all her loved ones who have passed before her. May King Charles III be as good as his mother, though I doubt it, as she was a very remarkable woman.



On another sad note, the Rockhampton Orchid Society have also lost two of our past members since I wrote the last newsletter. The Society sends our sincerest condolences to both of their families at this sad time.

Peter Shelton passed on 27th August aged 87 years, Peter and his wife June were members for many years from September 1997 when they moved to Rockhampton until 2018, being awarded their 20yr Membership Certificate in December 2017. A very knowledgeable gentleman who took new members under his wing, I appreciate the knowledge he passed onto me, and in 2016 I bought several of his orchids which are still growing today. Peter was an orchid judge who was coaxed into doing the judging course when June was asked if she would become a judge. Peter had suffered a stroke a few years ago, and even though it slowed him down it didn't stop his enthusiasm for his love of orchids. Peter was the newsletter editor, with assistance from his daughter Kate, for a few years and used the pen name of Hymn. Sadly a few of us missed his funeral service while we were in Brisbane attending the AOC Conference. I had the opportunity to watch the service thanks to live streaming.



Peter & June with their 20yrs certificate.



Screenshot of Live Stream prior to service commencing.

Our other member to pass was Zoe Kidman, who sadly passed this week, her funeral service is on 13th September 3.00pm at the Crematorium. When I first met Zoe, who joined the Society in January 2012 and was a member until 2021, her husband was in aged care in Gladstone prior to him passing. Some members would remember the severe stroke Zoe suffered in early 2020 which necessitated her move into Benevolent aged care living, sadly with the start of COVID a lot of members lost touch with Zoe or like myself just remained in contact through Facebook.



Zoe with (L to R) Margaret Lyons, John Hughes, Moyna Richardson, Terry Dean, John Hughes, Moyna & Margaret.

I must admit I made an error in our August Newsletter, (which sadly the proofreader did not pick up), stating that the Show Dinner Cost was \$20, when in fact it is \$25 after the subsidy. For those who have paid you can either direct transfer (bank details below) the balance or pay it at the dinner to Di MacKenzie. 7

BSB	Account Number	Account Name	Reference
633 000	178 258 414	Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc	"Your Surname" OR "Membership Number"

The genera I am covering in this newsletter is *Ludisia discolor*, commonly known as the jewel orchid, grown more for its foliage than for outstanding flowers.

I am also including a report and photos from the 22nd Australian Orchid Council Conference which I had the opportunity to attend as well as several of our members.

The Calliope ROSI Members of Jenni Scott and Michelle Butler with friends Floss Henderson and Karin McEachran took home prizes as well as third place for their two-table display. Jenni herself winning 13 first places, 6 second places, 4 runner-up Class Champion, 3 Class Champions, Champion Aust Native Species, Award of Cultural Achievement and Trophy. Congratulations to Jenni and the rest of the girls.

Ken & Rosie Smith, Marg & Trevor Handley and Bob Jenkins & Shirley Kuhl also entered a well-presented display and several of their plants taking out places.

I had the opportunity to assist with the judging on the Thursday and met a lot of reputable judges. Paul & Jana Bennett also visited the conference. The lectures that were presented were excellent with several exceptional speakers including Fred Clarke from California.

Our show is coming up very quickly and will be over before our next general meeting. Remember we are needing assistance with the setting up and pulling down the hall, so if you can help, please advise Jeff Bloxsom.

-Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor.

**Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday 27th September 2022.
Starts 7:30pm.**

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, as long as, the Author and Newsletter & Edition are referenced.

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
General Meeting Tuesday 23rd August 2022

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: 31 Faye & Colin Hickson; 23 Neil & Margaret Dunbar

Visitors: Nil

Lucky Number: 9 - Kerrie Green

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

Moved Y Manning **Seconded** W Richardson **Carried**

Correspondence:

CORRESPONDENCE FOR GENERAL MEETING OF R.O.S.I. ON TUESDAY 23RD AUGUST 2022

IN – NEWSLETTERS

Blackwater Orchid & Foliage Club Inc.

Bowen Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. – Spring Show flyer -17 & 18 September 2022

Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc.

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

Caboolture Orchid Society Inc.

Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Inc.

Gladstone Orchid and Foliage Society Inc.

Glasshouse Country Orchid Society Inc.

Hervey Bay Orchid Society Inc.

Mackay Orchid Society Inc.

Nambour Orchid Society Inc. – Spring Show flyer and Show Schedule – 9 & 10 September 2022

North Queensland Orchid Society Cairns Inc.

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.

Townsville Orchid Society Inc.

Australian Orchid Foundation – notice of AGM on 22 October 2022

STOCQ & OQI – From AGMs – Question of future of OQI.

Also, most recent update of future shows.

Brief history of STOCQ.

Bunnings sponsorship – Donation of \$150.

Orchids Australia magazine – August 2022

OUT

Letter from President to Bunnings seeking sponsorship of Spring Show.

Moved Trish Craig **Seconded** C Roberts **Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Read and **moved** by Treasurer, D Mackenzie **Seconded** S Kuhl **Carried**

General Business:

The President, Jeff Bloxom announced that, due to the Frenchville Sports Club carrying out extensive renovations in March/April next year, there will be no Autumn Show in 2023. Therefore, as it is Rockhampton Orchid Society's turn to hold the triennial Field Weekend in March 2023, more effort will be put into this weekend. The potential date is 18th & 19th March 2023

The Spring Show should go ahead in September 2023.

Spring Show 2022:

As Jeff Glover will probably not be available Faye English Will be the Show Marshall assisted by the other Rockhampton judges.

The issues from the Autumn Show of poor lighting above the show entrance, the club display and the posy area are being addressed.

The Show signs advertising out Spring Show will be put up around Rockhampton soon.

Sharyn Frisch moved a special vote of thanks to Bob & Shirley for hosting our mid-year function at their home. Everyone who attended said it was a wonderful and enjoyable day.

Plant Commentary: J Frisch

Exhibitor's Raffle: K Clarke

General Raffle: K Zammit, J Hogan, S Rowcliffe, J Bennett x 2, K Clarke

The next Committee meeting will be held at Jeff Bloxsom's residence on Tuesday 13th September at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Jeff Bloxsom

President

Trish Craig

Secretary

Welcome to our new members!

This year the Society has welcomed several new members. We would like to say a big welcome to those people. The opportunity to learn more about the care and characteristics of this addictive hobby from the Societies knowledgeable members is guaranteed. Our members are all willing to share their tips and knowledge, you just need to ask. There is nothing known as a silly question if you have any question just ask. Our Society has been operating for over 68 years and is one of the strongest societies in Queensland. If you wish to do more in the society, assisting out on the committee or volunteering at our shows – you do not need orchid knowledge, so if you have the time and interested in assisting with anything please speak up.

February - #22 - Isobel Rideout

March - #30 - Margaret Olsen

April - #41 – Michelle Butler

May - #9 - Kerrie & Rod Green #11 – Denise & Marcus Philip

July - #15 - Denis & Kay Ratcliffe #18 – Peter & Kathie Zammit

August - #23 – Neil & Margaret Dunbar #31 – Faye & Colin Hickson

The closing date for articles to be included in the next newsletter is the 5th Oct 2022; articles received after that date will be included in the following month.

-Editor.

Annual Competition – August 2022 Results

Judges Choice

<i>Brs. Rex</i> x <i>Brat. Goodale's Gift</i>	J & M Bloxsom
<i>Van. Azure</i>	J & M Bloxsom
<i>Rlc. Dorothy Durieta 'Lorraine'</i>	J & P Bennett

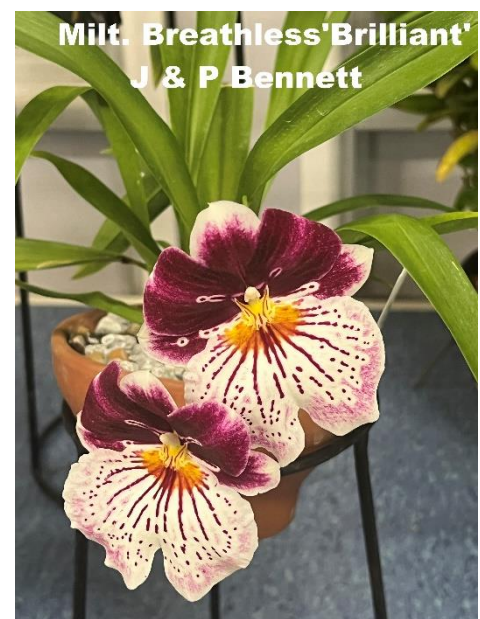
Popular Vote

Advanced (Plants Tabled: 45)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Rlc. Taiwan Chief Bell 'Wish'</i>	J & S Frisch
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Rlc. Dorothy Durieta 'Lorraine'</i>	J & P Bennett
Vandaceous up to 65mm	<i>Van. Azure</i>	J & M Bloxsom
Vandaceous over 65mm	<i>Van. Gordon Dillon 'Black Magic'</i>	T & N Craig
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>Paph. Hung Shen Master</i> x <i>Paph. H. S. Bay</i>	P & T Jenkinson
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	<i>Phal. Ox Prince</i>	J Hogan
Species	<i>Rhy. Gigantea 'Spots'</i> x <i>Rhy. Gigantea 'Red'</i>	J & M Bloxsom
Miscellaneous	<i>Milt. Breathless 'Brilliant'</i>	J & P Bennett

Novice (Plants Tabled: 16)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>C. Cariad's Mini-Quinee 'Angel Kiss'</i>	K Clarke
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Blc. Chunyeah Goodlife 'No 1'</i> x <i>Blc. Pink Empress</i>	D MacKenzie
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	<i>Phal. name unknown</i>	D MacKenzie
Miscellaneous	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	Y Manning





**Brs. Rex x Brat. Goodale's Gift
J & N Bloxsom**



Ludisia discolor - Y Manning



**Rlc. Gordon Dillon
'Black Magic' - T Craig**



**Rlc. Taiwan Chief Bell 'Wish'
J & S Frisch**



**C. Cariad's Mini-Quince 'Angel
Kiss' - K Clarke**



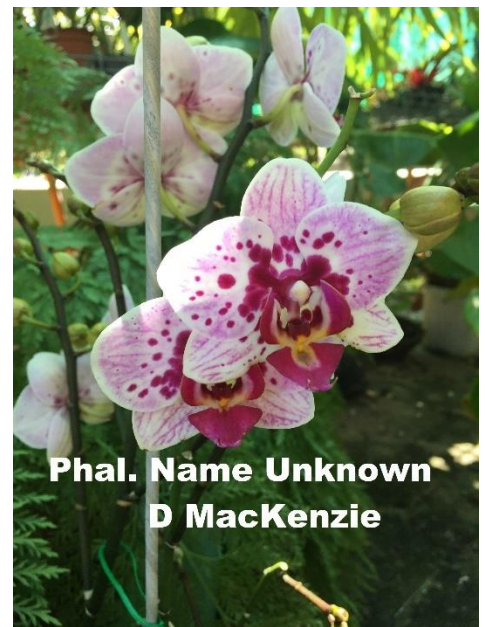
**Rlc. Dorothy Durietz
'Lorraine' - J&P Bennett**



**Phal. Ox Prince
J Hogan**



**Van. Azure
J & M Bloxson**



**Phal. Name Unknown
D MacKenzie**



**Rhy. gigantea 'Spots' x Rhy. gigantea
'Red' - J&M Bloxson**



**Paph. Hung Shen Master x
Paph. H S Bay
P&T Jenkinson**

Growers Group News

By Maxine Maunder

Our last growers group gathering was our mid-year function held at Bob Jenkins & Shirley Kuhl's home at Rockyview on 31st July. Our hosts outdid themselves with providing the magnificent roast feast cooked camp oven style with Bob demonstrating his prowess in that field. He also hand made pizzas for morning tea cooked in their impressive pizza oven as well as yummy dampers.

The meal was followed up with a vast array of desserts brought by members for 'Afters'. I'm fairly certain that nobody went home hungry. The games Jeff put on were well received and profitable for some.

A very big Thank You to Bob & Shirley.

There will be no growers group in August or September due to various orchid shows & conferences where some of our members will be attending.

We are looking at someone to volunteer to host our October Growers Group on a date to be advised. If interested, please give Maxine a call on 0439 206 576. This will be the last one for 2022.

NOTES ON SHOW FROM GENERAL MEETING 23/08/22

At our recent meeting, members were asked to bring along a donation to put in the door garden trolley raffle at the show. We only received one garden pruner.

If you still wish to donate for the trolley, please bring along on the Friday of set up of the show, in the morning please, so we can put the trolley together, also give us time to go and purchase items if not enough donated for the trolley.

Members putting Orchids in our club display, please try and have plants in by 9.00 am so the members putting the display together can have time to do so. Remember to have your required name tag on the plant if you wish to have same judged.



Please, if you have any spare orchid flowers or any type of flowers or suitable foliage you can spare, it would be much appreciated if you can bring along for our ladies to use in their posies. Maxine Maunder will be there on the Friday to take any plants.

Please also remember that you only have up until the Wednesday before the show to send in your name tag requests to Trish Craig or Trevor Handley for printing. Any plant without a name tag will not be judged. This also applies to foliage, eg: category.

If you are putting in a container display or floral art/corsage – please put your name on a small tag to display on the particular item, so the public know who did this display. **NB. Only after Judging is finished.**

Also, apologies the cost of the show dinner was advertised in our Newsletter at \$20 per head. This should have been \$25. The actual dinner cost is \$35-50 so a substantial subsidy from the club is paid.

If you have any further queries on the show, please contact one of our committee members or the president.

Jeff Bloxson President

Club News

Rockhampton Orchid Society

On the weekend of 30th April and 1st May the Society held its first Autumn show since 2019. The event was again held at the Frenchville Sports Club and 930 visitors attended the event.

Our previous shows involved both display and benched entries, but with the smaller space, the Society presented a large display of various members plants in the foyer, and the rest of the show were benched entries.

Member plant and equipment sales and our two out of town vendors were well patronised with almost all plants and equipment sold.

A beautiful array of orchids, foliage, container displays, and floral art were presented for judging which was completed Friday night. This allowed the show to open an hour earlier on Saturday with a constant stream of visitors once the doors opened.

Peter & Toni Jenkinson took out the Grand Champion Orchid with their stunning *Bulbophyllum medusae*, which also won Best Specimen and Best Exotic Species. A well-deserved win for them.



Grand Champion Orchid was *Bulbophyllum medusae* grown by Peter & Toni Jenkinson

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Some of the Champion Orchids



Peter Jenkinson, Neil Fisher (Patron), Toni Jenkinson and Jeff Bloxsum (President)

Jenni Scott won Reserve Champion Orchid Award for a gorgeous flowering *Van. Viboon Velvet*.

Orchids Australia, August 2022

Club News

Other champion awards were – Best Australian Species – *Den. bigibbum* grown by John & Sharyn Frisch, Best Orchid by Novice Grower – *Bc. Memoria Vida Lee* – Y'vonne & Graham Manning. Any other foliage up to 200mm pot size – Bob & Nat Lakey.

Class Champions were:- Champion Laeliinae – *Rlc. Chief Journey* grown by Jeff & Norma Glover, Reserve Champion Laeliinae – *Rlc. Calico Charm* grown Ray & Gay Bills, Champion Vandaeae – *Van. Viboon Velvet* grown by Jenni Scott, Reserve Champion Vandaeae – *Prra. Bangkok Sunset x V. Mahogany Gem* grown by Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsum, Champion Dendrobium – *Den. Aug Cheng* (not registered) grown John & Sharyn Frisch, Reserve Champion Dendrobium – *Den. Rum City Dragon* (Red Dragon x *Den. Sally Alley*) grown by Bob Jenkins, Champion Oncidiinae – *Bdm. Tzeng-Wen Spot* grown by Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsum, Reserve Champion Oncidiinae – *Oncsa. Sweet Ears* grown by Bob Jenkins, Champion Paphiopedilum – *Paph. Transvaal* grown by Ken & Rosie Smith, Reserve Champion Paphiopedilum – *Paph. Golddollar* grown by Terry Dean, Champion Other Genera – *Monn.*



Floral Art Arrangement was by Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsum

Jumbo Delight grown by Jana & Paul Bennett, Reserve Champion Other Genera – *Spa. Lion City* Jeff & Norma Glover

Winner of Container Display was Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsum with John & Jan Hogan as runner-up.

Winner of Floral Art Arrangement was Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsum with Jeff & Norma Glover runner-up.

Winner of Floral Corsage as well as taking out runner-up was Moyna & Bill Richardson.

Approximately 80 guests enjoyed a scrumptious two course Dinner also at Frenchville Sports Club, where tables were set up beautifully amongst the orchid benches. The night ended with a generous multi-draw raffle which allowed many members to take home additional plants for their collections.

Our Spring Show will be held on 24th & 25th September at the same venue, a few issues we experienced at our last show with being held in a smaller area were rectified and the weekend ran very smoothly.



Container Display by Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsum

Sandra Rowcliffe

Orchids Australia Magazine is a bi-monthly publication that is posted out every two months. It is a very informative booklet for orchid growers. The cost is just \$60 for the six booklets including postage.

The booklet includes: -

- Informative articles including photographs by a variety of orchid experts each edition
- Cultural Notes on care of orchids in various parts of Australia (Mackay covers our area)
- Club Articles as per the one submitted following by us on our Autumn Show
- Upcoming Conferences and Shows information
- Photos and information on AOC Awarded Orchids
- Section on New Orchid Hybrids (information lists the parent plants & the registering person)
- Advertisements by various orchid plant and supplies stockist

Please consider subscribing to this very informative booklet that is produced by the Australian Orchid Council Inc.

A tip out of the Mackay Orchid Society Orchidwise July 2022 Newsletter

PEST CONTROL - HOME REMEDY (For all plants, including Orchids): Supplied by Doug Penningh

*500mls luke-warm water *5 MLS Paraffin Oil *3-4 drops of dishwashing liquid (I use Morning Fresh)

Doug sprays early morning or late afternoon, never in the heat of the day. This mixture has been very effective on all plants, ferns and especially the orchids (dens., cats., oncid. & phallys).

It stops **RED SPIDER, WHITEFLY, SCALE & MEALY BUGS**. The best of it is, it's not poisonous!

HISTORY OF THE SUB-TROPICAL ORCHID COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND

Penned by Their Secretary John Rees

(Taken out of the July 2022 Edition of the Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.)

The STOCQ was founded on 23rd February 1972. It is 50 years old this year. Earlier its concept had been discussed at a picnic at Wappa Dam. It was formed to co-ordinate the activities of orchid societies in the area.

The original affiliates were societies from Maryborough, Gympie, North Coast (Nambour), Maroochydore and Sunshine Coast (Caloundra). A line bound the area of the council from the coast just north of Bundaberg southwest toward the South Burnett and then with a straight line to the coast just south of Caboolture. Very soon after this, Bundaberg Orchid Society and Caboolture Orchid Society joined the 'Council' followed by Glasshouse Country Orchid Society. Noosa and District Orchid and Foliage Society joined next and then Hervey Bay Orchid Society, Childers and Isis District Orchid Society and, still later, Bribie Island Orchid Society and South Burnett Orchid Growers Club. Pumicestone Orchid and Foliage Society was founded later, affiliated but has closed.

From the beginning, a primary objective of the 'Council' was to produce a panel of judges to make STOCQ awards and to judge the shows of member societies by invitation and several society members trained to be judges in a course organised by the Queensland Orchid Society. A few members had completed this course by 1968 and these people, when they became full judges, ran judging classes in the area under the auspices of the STOCQ.

STOCQ awards were given at a small charge, but this charge has been waived in recent years.

In 1988 Alan Pearce, president of Gympie, headed up a team to organise Expo88 at Caloundra Civic Centre. The organisation was regarded by many as the best they have seen, and it started the concept of an Orchidfest every three years. The next is in Hervey Bay in 2023.

Prior to 2009 the Orchid Council in the Capricornia area was terminated. An offer was made to the five orchid societies to join the STOCQ and its judging panel would then be called the Central Queensland Area Judging Panel of the Australian Orchid Council. The societies from that area that had approached the STOCQ were from Rockhampton, Gladstone, Capricorn (now closed) Boyne-Tannum (closed) and Emerald, which did not affiliate. They had to wait after their application in 2009 until the STOCQ boundaries were redrawn in the bylaws. Since then, Agnes Water and Calliope have formed orchid societies and affiliated.

It was recently suggested that the STOCQ area has become too big. The meeting in Childers did not have delegates from Gladstone or Bribie, which are at each end of the area and three of the other northern societies were represented by the same single person.

Until two years ago, the most popular form of show was to arrange plants in displays organised by societies. This form encouraged society members to provide plants, even if they were mediocre, to support their neighbours' shows so they would return the favour. COVID and restrictions on crowding has meant that all societies seem to have gone to benching. This makes judging much quicker and does not seem to have diminished the involvement of members of neighbouring societies.

Current executive members, Jim Evans was elected president in 2003 and John Rees in 1999. Col Parker served as treasurer for a long period and has been followed by Judy Wheeler.

The tradition of cooperation, hospitality, and fellowship, which has been a feature of STOCQ all of its existence, was on display at the Childers meeting of STOCQ in July. I doubt that this exists at this level anywhere else.

THE FUTURE OF ORCHIDS QUEENSLAND INC.

Email from John Rees date 8th September 2022

Below is John's view of three possible avenues for the future of OQI.

He asked that this document be circulated widely within our society.

Although I have seen it as an artificial organisation overlaying three other organisations, OQI has a role in the AOC and this is an opportunity for societies to have their say and, perhaps, take some action to continue it.

Orchids Queensland was set up in about 1999 to act as the Australian Orchid Council's (AOC) State and Regional Organisation (STRO). Its function was to elect Queensland delegate to AOC meetings and instruct the delegate how to vote. It also appointed the Queensland Regional registrar of judging.

Previously, QOS, which was the Foundation Society had these responsibilities but required all judges to be QOS members. AOC probably expected QOS to act as the STRO but regional judges rebelled against having to be members of QOS.

OQI takes out indemnity insurance to cover judges in the SQAJP as CQAJP and NQAJP judges are covered by STOCQ & TQOC, but SQAJP has no covering council.

In 2013 I set out to obtain laptops for all judging panels in Queensland and to provide them with OrchidWiz. Currently, the laptops are old, and it looks like OrchidWiz, in its current form, will disappear after Christmas. So, currently OQI's function is to elect a delegate, instruct the delegate how to vote and appoint a Regional Registrar for Queensland and take out an insurance to cover its volunteers.

For 9 years the executive of STOCQ has served as the executive of OQI because no one else has nominated. The OQI finances are such that the current affiliation rate (minimum of \$25) seems more than required and a rate of about \$5 would keep it going.

This letter has three objectives:

1. I call on people to advise me if they are willing to serve on the executive of OQI in future years (from next July 1) and the position they would be willing to fill. If there are volunteers, then OQI could continue but would not need such high affiliation fees. I would ask that volunteers indicate to me by **15th October**.
2. Failing any action from 1, if societies believe that OQI has a role, an organisation may wish to nominate their executive to continue to run OQI and advise me of that by **15th November 2022**
3. Failing any of the above, I would move for the OQI meeting on 19th November, that OQI be wound up by 30th June 2023 and its moneys be returned to affiliates as at 19th November. This would amount to about \$100 each.

The problem with this motion is that some other mechanism would be needed to nominate delegate and registrar. SQAJP would need to either fund its own insurance or become a QOS panel, which already exists.

John Rees

IMPORTANT – ROSI NOTICE

It has been discussed in the past about changing our night meetings to day meetings to allow members who don't like going out at night the opportunity to attend. The committee has been discussing this with the possibility of changing our general meetings to Saturday daytime meetings in 2023. As our current hall is not available for daytime meetings several members have checked out another hall which appears would be suitable.

At our September General Meeting it will be put to members as to their consensus on this. It would mean the meeting could go longer and we could incorporate what we currently do at our growers group gatherings, taking the onus off having a group coordinator each year. Please give this some thought prior to the meeting and possibly you may have some ideas for consideration.

Orchid of the month

For this month's newsletter I have included information on *Ludisia discolor*. There were plants of this variety tabled at our August meeting. Y'vonne Manning presented a lovely grown plant which received a Popular Vote win in the Novice Section.

[Source – www.houseplants.com](http://www.houseplants.com)

The **Jewel Orchid** or *Ludisia discolor* is unlike all other Orchids we grow in our collections because as a plant the Jewel Orchid is prized for its foliage rather than its flowers.

This is a simple and easy greenhouse plant to care for. A mature Jewel Orchid that is several years old and has received good care will eventually produce multiple growths and spread out.

When it's time for the plant to flower, the growths will each produce a flowering spike that grows upwards quickly. Once ready the flower buds will open and show off many little white flowers which certainly create a lasting impression.



Unfortunately, the plant itself and the flowers are not show-stoppers, so they're easily overlooked in stores when compared to its cousins such as the [Moth](#) and [Cattleya Orchids](#). But it has a contemporary and unusual charm that can appeal to those who chance upon them.

TIP - Although the flowers are quite basic, they will still add more visual interest to your plant compared to the many other plants which are grown for their foliage alone.

Bizarrely, unlike other orchids, the Jewel Orchid is **easy to propagate** and grows to a large saleable size quickly. But sellers will often still demand quite a lot of money which could be another reason why the Jewel Orchid's popularity hasn't taken off.

However, if you're keen on a bargain you could be in luck. Its discreet appearance means it's normally only sold when in flower, presumably as this little extra flourish commands that extra attention to draw the eye. So as the flowers start to go over, or at other times of the year, sellers often discount heavily to shift their remaining stock.

There are just two types of **Ludisia Orchids** that are commonly sold. The first is the "**Black Jewel Orchid**" (photo previous page) and this has very dark deep green leaves, almost black looking, with fine white pinstripe markings.

In certain light, the maroon colouring underneath the leaves can shine through and turn the white lines a hue of red. Of the two, it's arguable the more popular and commonly found.

The second type is "**Ludisia Discolor Alba**" (pictured right). Although rarer, it's more modern and certainly has some serious fans, with many plant hunters searching them out. The Alba has medium green leaves with silver "veins" running through a good proportion of the leaf.

Whether you pick up the *Black Jewel Orchid* or the *Alba*, they both have easy going natures and get our seal of approval. It's a good houseplant for you to consider growing in your home and with the introduction out of the way, next, we're going to cover the care instructions, so you're know how to keep them alive.

Jewel Orchid Care Guide

Light - Out in its natural habitat, the Jewel Orchid is found growing down low, often in pretty shady places. For the best results try to replicate this in your greenhouse by avoiding placing it in direct sunlight.

North facing rooms are perfect, but any other facing aspect is fine providing you can shield the leaves from any harsh sunlight that filters through during the day. Do not mistake this as a plant which likes darkness though, deep gloom should be avoided as much as direct sunlight otherwise it won't grow.

For the majority of the time **slightly damp** conditions are what the Jewel Orchid wants to grow in

Watering - For the majority of the time slightly damp conditions are what the **Jewel Orchid** wants to grow in. It doesn't like having bone dry soil, but equally, it hates soaking wet soil, leave its roots sitting in water and it will rapidly die.

Water the plant well and then wait until it's drying out before watering again. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the top inch is dry before giving more water. If you're using a more porous potting mix, it will dry out quicker so you'll need to water more often than if using standard potting soil.

Humidity - If you get the watering requirements perfect, humidity is of only minor importance. If you know you're quite bad when it comes to watering though, give your **Jewel Orchid** a helping hand by increasing the surrounding humidity. This will give your plant a small buffer to compensate for the care you provide.

They do look lovely and thrive in [Bottle Gardens](#) but don't bother if you're keen on making it flower. This is because the blooms spoil quickly in the very moist environments that Bottle Gardens create.

Feeding - Jewel Orchids are small feeders, so in reality you'll be totally fine if you only fed your plant a few times a year. You can use a special orchid feed or something more generic, it's not overly fussy.

Temperature - If you're feeling cold then your Jewel Orchid is probably feeling the same. The lowest temperature that we'd risk is **10°C**. They also don't like very hot spots in your greenhouse so avoid placing where it is warmer.



TIP - Not too hot. Not too cold. These plants do best in average temperatures.

Repotting - Repot your *Ludisia* when the pot is overcrowded or if it starts to become wobbly and top-heavy. These orchids tend to spread out rather than grow tall, so their roots don't need a deep pot. Instead, where you can opt for a shallow and wide pot.

TIP - Don't use "*Orchid Compost*" that contains high volumes of bark. This medium is only designed for true Orchids plants.

Unlike a lot of orchids, **you can use normal potting compost**, but you need to be careful with the plants watering requirements to avoid overwatering. Normal potting soil is designed to hold on to water so if you accidentally saturate the soil this saturation stays around for quite a while and drastically increases the possibility of rotting.

If you don't feel comfortable or confident using potting compost then the alternative is to use a much more porous soil mix, for example **60% potting soil** and **40% grit or Perlite** etc. A small amount of orchid bark is acceptable in place of grit but is far too loose to hold much water so you shouldn't use a high amount of bark unless you're happy to water every couple of days.

The actual repotting is easy enough because it's the same method you would use for any other houseplant. We've linked to a YouTube video below that we quite like if you want to see the repotting process visually.

Propagation - The stems are quite brittle and can easily break when you handle the **Jewel Orchid** so it's common to propagate through **stem cuttings** when you are repotting the main "cluster".

Nothing special is needed, once you have a piece of stem with upper leaves pot it up into a similar potting mix as the parent. New roots should develop within a month or two, be careful until this happens as the new plant won't be well anchored into whatever growing media you've chosen, so it can be knocked out easily.

Speed of Growth - In Spring and Summer, the **Jewel Orchid** grows rapidly if light levels are decent. In poor light and Winter, the growth slows down.

Height / Spread - The growth habit of these orchids is to spread rather than grow for height, so often they're wider than they are tall. The flowering stem can double or almost triple the height of the plant.

Flowers - Large flowering spikes shoot out of tops of the plant stems in Autumn / Fall and Winter. Providing good light and correct care has been received during the growing season.

Some people cut them off when the buds start to form as they're not considered to better the foliage in terms of appearance. However, they're still dainty and pretty, with their small numerous white flowers with yellow centers. If the temperature isn't too warm, they should last a few weeks up to a month.

Are Jewel Orchids Poisonous? - Unlike some Orchids, the Jewel Orchid is not toxic to pets or people.

Anything else? - If you are passionate about the foliage of **Ludisia discolor** and don't care about the flowers, pinch out the flowering spikes when they start to form. This encourages the plant to remain compact and bushy, producing more leaves whereas allowing the flowering to take place can encourage the plant to become leggy.

How to Care for the Jewel Orchid Recap

1. *Medium Light Levels* Not overly fussy, but you need to avoid bright direct sunlight and dark low light gloom.
2. *Moderate Watering* Water well and then don't water again until the top of the potting mix has dried out. Much less water needed in Winter.
3. *Temperature* Warm rooms are needed as they don't like the cold. Between **16°C - 22°C**.
4. *Feeding* Two or three times a year is enough

Jewel Orchid Problems

- **White Mold / Mould** - This can affect the soil of any houseplant, simply because at times it's difficult to provide good ventilation indoors. It can be particularly bad on plants that cluster and naturally shield the soil with their stems and leaves, combined with their spreading habit which is how the Jewel Orchid grows.
- **Rotting Stems (Basal Stem Rot), mushy leaves** - Although adaptable to our homes and quite easy going, too much water for too long will lead to destructive rotting of the stems and roots. This can also be caused by very cold temperatures. Once rot sets in you have a serious problem as its very difficult to reverse. Cut off the rotten bits if it's only minor, otherwise try to salvage what you can through propagation.
- **Shriveled leaves and stems** - This is typically a symptom of not watering enough.
- **Leaves are crispy or becoming lighter** - Direct sunlight won't finish off your plant, but it can damage the appearance of the leaves. Too much light can cause the leaves to scorch or force the plant to adapt to all this light by reducing the amount of chlorophyll found in its leaves which can give a washed out look.

No Flowers

Young, sickly, or plants that are grown in low light conditions will all have a flowering issue in the sense that there won't be any. Jewel Orchids need to be **mature, healthy, and grown in a reasonable level of light** before they flower.



Show Plant Name Labels

All plants entered in the Rockhampton Orchid Society Show must be assigned an official plant label by either of the two persons listed below. Deadline is Wednesday 21st September or earlier better.

- You are no longer able to just put a plant in without registering same. **You cannot print your own labels.**

To request labels for your plants, compile a list of your plant names (you can use NOID or UNKNOWN for the name if it is not known (eg: – Den. NOID), If the plant has an un-registered name, you may use this name you also must print the crosses that make up this plant on your list. If your plant just has the crosses that make it, show these.

Your list of plant names must be submitted to your relevant provider in writing or via e-mail. If able, please check your names on Orchidwiz or like (Correct name and spelling) For members who name does not appear on the following list please submit to the most convenient plant label official for printing.

SHOW LABEL OFFICIALS

Trish Craig	Trevor Handley
<u>rosi@rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au</u>	<u>t.w.handley@internode.on.net</u>

Member Number	Name	Member Number	Name
21	BAUMAN	97	BENTLEY
88	BENNETT	39	BILLS
74	BLACK	28	DAWES
12	BLOXSOM	75	DAWES
7	CARR	109	EGGLESRAW
29	CHIPPENDALE	84	ENGLISH
70	CLARKE	13	FRISCH
66	CRAIG	38	GILLOTT
111	DAHLER	9	GREEN
27	DEAN	46	HANDLEY
17	GLOVER	3	HAYDEN
50	HILSIE	37	HOGAN
90	HOPES	90	HOPES
57	HOWES	34	HUMBLE
100	HUGHES	80	JENKINS/KUHL
43	JENKINSON	9	LAKEY
13	FRISCH	67	LUCKE
110	MARCH	95	MANNING
83	BREINGAN	4	MARSDEN
118	MAUNDER	60	MIKKELSEN
61	MacKENZIE	10	MONKS
36	MOORE	42	O'BRIEN
61	MACKENZIE	119	RANKIN
8	PETERS	15	RATCLIFFE
11	PHILP	121	ROWCLIFFE
104	PRICE	5	ROBERTS
96	RAWLINGS	108	ROGERS
72	RICHARDSON	87	SCHNEIDER
44	RODGERS	26	SMITH
82	SEMPLE	56	SMITH
16	SIMPSON	103	WALKER
18	ZAMMIT	35	WARREN
		94	WINES



22nd Australian Orchid Council ORCHID SHOW



Thursday 1st September, Judging commenced with a Judges Breakfast at 7.30am with Judging commencing around 8.30am. Judges and Associate Judges were allocated into twelve teams. I was on Team 3 Judging Laeliinae Hybrids. The Team Leader was Garrie Bromley (NSW) and the team had Peter D'Olier (NSW), Kathy Howatson (QLD), Ivan Vescovi (QLD) and two associate judges, Gregg Webb (QLD) and me. We had a break for lunch and came back and judging went on to around 4.00pm.

The welcome function was held that night with a welcome by Les Vickers (AOC 2022 Chair) and entertainment by a magician named Josh who was good.

Friday 2nd September – The conference opened at 8.40am with an introduction by Les Vickers and an opening address by John Rees (AOC Registrar General). John mentioned that he is standing down in December and that Stephen Lynch (AOC Orchids Australia editor) will fill the position. He mentioned that Orchid Review UK was discontinuing at the end of the year. He spoke about Orchidwiz ceasing and that there could be an alternative which is Orchid Pro \$45 USD. There will be a discussion on Orchidwiz at the end of month. He also spoke about changes to Penny Kuroda and Caudebec. We then went on to the lectures.

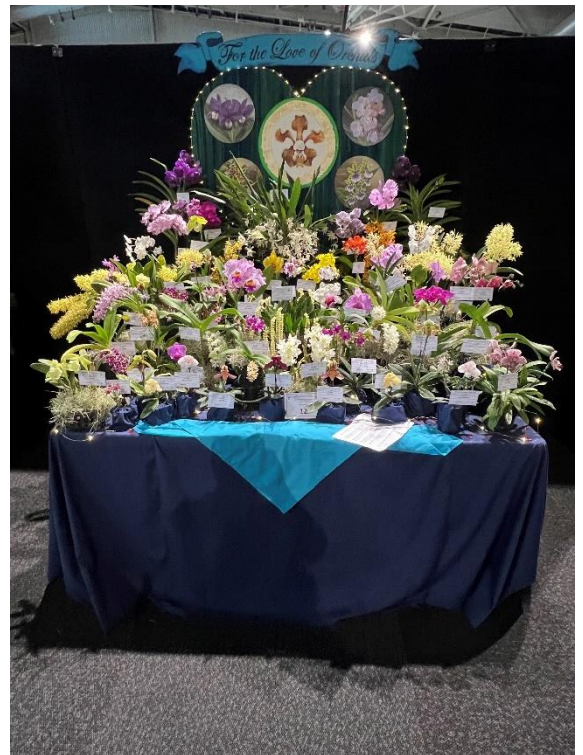
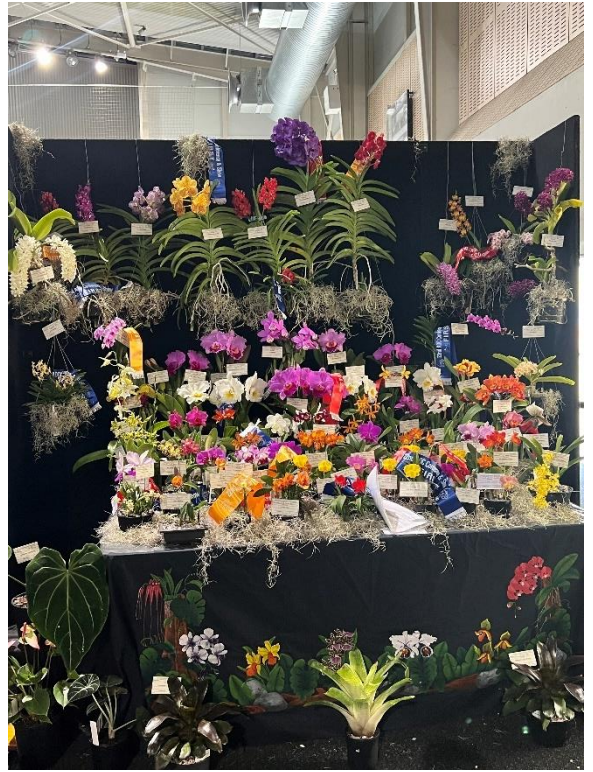
- Prof. Kingsley Dixon, he spoke on the Past, Present & Future of Australian Orchid Conservation. His lecture discussed the Dutch company Cypripediumacaule, whose nursery is all automated. He spoke about the WA Underground Orchids. He mentioned that Rhizanthella gardneri has the largest orchid seed, with Vanilla Orchid next. It is 18 months from seed to flowering and grows in Melaleuca Country. It is pollinated by Ophris (Orchid Bee). He went also to speak about the influential people who have been involved with orchids beginning with Charles Darwin 1862. He said that the current seed bank in UK is working on having all threatened orchids restored in the future. He spoke about different orchid genera and mentioned that they are using sand over agar system to get more affective growing. He said not to overthink mixes, he spoke about oatmeal agar, he said mulch type matters – not for orchids.
- Dr Marion Davy – Spoke on Bulbophyllum in the Tropics. She mentioned there are over 2000 species in this genera and shared a very information PowerPoint presentation showing photos of her plants. She also showed a different potting method using rolled gutter guard joint by fencing clips, she fills this with medium bark/charcoal/sphagnum, moss and attaches plants to outside frame with butterfly clips. The idea is to keep the plants wet. She also touched on Spidermite on leaves.
- With Jeff Glover unable to do a presentation, Fred Clarke stepped in and did a presentation on Catesetums, Cycnoches, Mormodes, Fredclarkeara. He had a very informative PowerPoint presentation and delivered a very informative talk. He showed photos of the various crosses that he has done. He discussed that it is important the plants are rested over winter and not to start watering until roots are 3 to 6" long. He says to repot in spring and that they fertilise every watering in the growth season with ½ teaspoon of fertiliser in 4 litres of water.
- Gary Yong Gee – Orchids of Madagascar. He said their biggest export was vanilla. He spoke about Angraecums, Bulbophyllums and many other generas. His lecture was very informative, again presented with a good PowerPoint. He is a softly spoken, very knowledgeable gentleman.
- Fred Clark – Modern Miniature and Compact Cattleyas. The presentation was to be done by another speaker, but Fred stepped in. He spoke on the modern blue cattleyas. He started growing orchids when he was 18 and is now 64. He mentioned that the pigments of delphinidin & cyanodelphin are absent in Cattleyas. The botanical terms are coerulea - lighter shade and blue – darker shade. He mentioned the Cattleya type influences for the making of Blue Cattleyas – L. pumila, L. anceps, Gur. bowringiana, C. labiata,

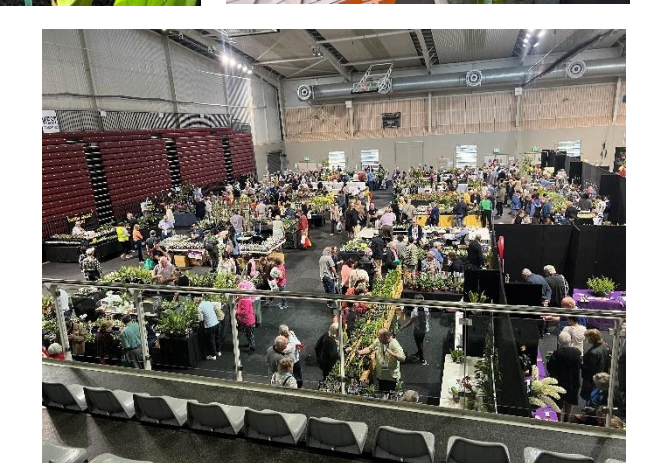
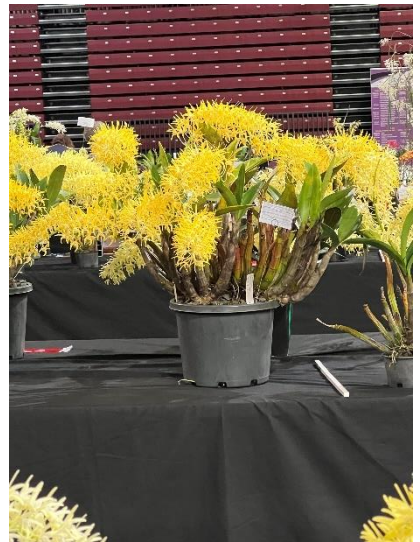
C. warneri, L. sincorana, C. gaskelliana, L. purpurata, C. intermedia, C. intermedia v. aquinii. And the lesser known Blue Cattleyas – C. violacea, C. warszewiczii, C. trianae. C. percivaliana, C. Mossiae, C. lueddemanniana, C. lawrenceana and C. maxima. He said that the Modern Blue Hybrids must possess – good colour, smaller plant structure, easy to grow and fast to bloom, shapely flowers, larger flower size and 2 flowerings/year. He also spoke about Spotted Blues. He mentioned as Cattleyas are naturally tree growing, that it is essential that roots are well drained.

Saturday 3rd September, lectures were again on

- Michael Coker did two lectures on Phragmipediums and Paphiopedilums. He did an excellent PowerPoint Presentation and an exceptional speaker. There are 108 species of Paphs., (excluding natural hybrids/varieties). The common classifications are – Exhibition, Maudiae, Multifloral, Brachypetalum, Parvisepalum. There are also megastaminodums. Some newly described species are – ayubianum, ogusii, trungkienii, runsuriyanum, lanatum and papilo, looticus. For show judging paphs., can be enhanced by flattening, light foam both sides, hair pins and a skewer. Michael prunes his slipper orchids
- Gary Yong Gee – Phalaenopsis Species. He spoke about the history, taxonomy, species, problematic species, and cultivation. He spoke about Phal. amabilis (1825), Phal. aphrodite (1862), Phal. schilleriana (1860), Phal. stuartiana (1881), Phal. equestris (1850). He then spoke about the section Polychios – Pcl. corna-cervi (1828), Pcl. mannii (1982), Pcl. amboinensis (1982), Pcl. lueddemanniana (1982), Pcl. hieroglyphica (1982), Pcl. mariae (1982), Phal. bastianii (1991), Phal. pulchra (1982), Pcl. violacea (1982), Phal. mentawaiensis (2014), Phal. bellina (1995), Phal. samera (2003), Pcl. gigantea (1982), Pcl. maculata (1982), Phal. tetraspis (1870), Phal. venosa (1983). He also spoke about the subgenus Parishianae – Section Esmeralda, Section – Deliciosae christenson, Section Aphyllae, Section Parishianae, Section Ornithochilius.
- Scott Barrie – Barrita Orchids – Getting into Epis. Scott spoke that their nursery is 30km NNW of Gosford. He was an AOC Judge so focuses his growing on what judges are looking for. Epis love being wet then dry. They are from South America and 1725 species were made from 4. Epidendrum are non-resupinate. They will grow in any potting medium unlike other orchids, they plant their seedlings in styro foam. They do a blend of styro/charcoal/perlite. He said the key to successful growing is to know when to water. With styro they have to water daily. They liquid fertilise every watering. In winter sometimes the leaves turn red and that is the plants protection again cold damage.
- Dr Marion Davy on Standard and Non-Standard Vandas. Marion also mentioned that she has a doctorate on Freshwater Fish Ecology, which had the audience in giggles when she said she felt like a fraud when introduced as a doctor. She said that 4 species have been used to produce the modern hybrids – 1. Vanda sanderiana (for the rounded shape), Vanda coerulea (for blue colour and tessellations), Vanda Miniata (for large flower count, compact size flowers and orange/yellow colour), and Vanda curvifolia (More flowers, compact size and orange/red colours). When judging Vandas judges need to ascertain where a flower is poor quality or if the shape is due to genealogy. She said to use the old adage – when doing appreciation judging you must know the genealogy of the plant.
- Following Marion's talk the room was open to questions, Jenni Scott asked why there wasn't the Vanda Section broken into Standard and Non-Standard. Ken Haase spoke up and said that there were 225 classes judged in the conference with orchids entered from all over Australia. He said that there were also a lot of classes with minimal or no entries most likely due to weather and environment conditions, and with most participants travelling by air, that some genera were not practical to have included.
- Phil Spence – Latouria Dendrobiums. He spoke about Dendrobium spectabilis which grows on the edges of cliffs.

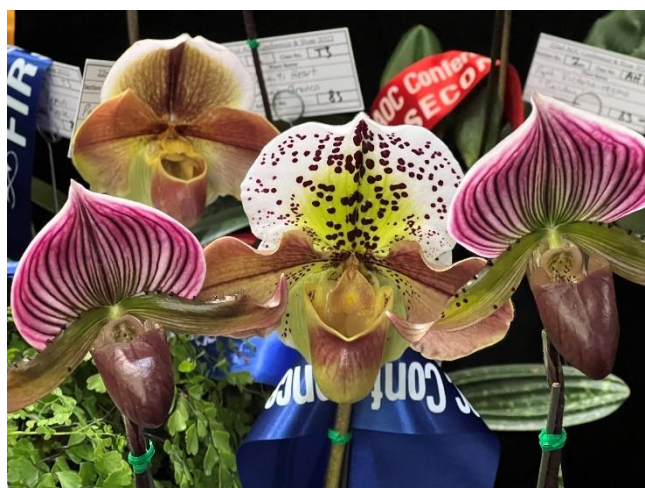
Sunday 4th September – Bus trip to Springbrook. I must admit I didn't trek down the mountain to check out the wild orchids, instead staying dry in a car and keeping another lady from New Zealand company. It was cyclonic windy, showers and freezing cold, not the weather I enjoy. It was that cold when drinking tea for morning tea it looked like I was struggling with Parkinson's, I couldn't stop shaking to drink the warm liquid. Luckily Phillip McCallum took photos which he shared on Orchid Lovers Central Queensland Facebook page for all to enjoy.











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 Door Monitors: Sue Eggleshaw/Lorraine Weaver
 Librarian: Yvonne Manning
 Assistant Librarian: TBA
 Raffle Plant Caretaker: Ray Bills
 Property Officers: Barry and Faye English

2022 Show Dates

As Supplied by John Rees.

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

September:

- 16th & 17th – Noosa DOFS Show – set up 15th
- 15th – 17th – Maryborough DOS Show – set up 14th
- 23rd – 25th – Hervey Bay OS Show – set up 22nd
- 23rd & 24th – Glasshouse County OS Show – set up 22nd
- 24th & 25th – ROSI Show – set up 23rd**

October:

7th & 8th – Bribie Island OS Show – set up

6th November:

12th STOCQ meeting hosted by South Burnett OS in Kingaroy

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



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Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at Calvary Lutheran Church Hall, Burnett Street, North Rockhampton. Meetings commence at 7:30pm and plants must be tabled by 7:15pm.

Disclaimer:

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