

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

[www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au](http://www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au)



## Newsletter June 2012



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702

Founded 1955

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 26/6/12

at 7.30pm

Plants to be tabled by  
7.15pm

**President:** Jeff Bloxson 49286582  
jmbloxson@hotmail.com

**Vice President:** Terry Dean 49282278  
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**Secretary:** Gloria Wakefeild 49224289  
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**Treasurer:** Bill Richardson 49275759  
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**Committee:**

Jeff Glover 49287701

Peter & June Shelton 0487298520

Joy Dwyer 49283551

Ellie Dean 49282278

Trish Craig 49226621

**New Grower's Leader:**

Keith Marsden 49282752

**Public Relations:** Ellie Dean

**Technical Advisers:** John Frisch

Jeff Glover

**Registrar:** Terry Dean

**Providers':** Terry & Gwen Breingan

**Door Monitors/ Hostesses:**

Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

**Librarian:** Jack Martin

**Raffle Plant Caretaker:** Terry Dean

**Property Officers:**

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**Asst Editor:** Trish Craig

trishcraig@bigpond.com

**Webmaster:** Kev Logan 49396581

### Judges for the Meeting

J.Glover J. Shelton. B. Hilse

Trish Craig

## Notice to

## Members

**PLEASE assist  
with cleaning**

### Editors notes,

What a mild and dry winter we are having the orchids must be loving it. I know I am, it's so much easier to do your chores without the hindrance of too many clothes.

We and 18 other members of the Rocky society journeyed to the TOQC conference in Ingham on the long weekend, it was a great weekend and thoroughly enjoyed by us all. They are great weekends where the chance to meet other orchid growers who you don't have the chance to see from one years end to the other tends to lots of tongue wagging and chiaking but all in good spirit. (One tends to over eat tho'.)

To our very popular members Ken and Rosie Smith congratulations are due; they exhibited at the conference picking up 6 blue ribbons and 1 yellow plus a champion Cattleya. This is in itself a remarkable effort because it takes a lot of TLC to get your plants there in reasonable condition and Ken and Rosie did it. You both deserve a huge pat on the back and I'm sure you'll get it. They along with Graham and Maxine Maunder have journeyed further north to suss out the many growers and nursery's up there (Lord only knows what they'll come home with.)

I with June would like it known we are resident in our new home at long last, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our many friends who helped us move in, we can never repay you for your kindness. It has often been said the camaraderie and friendship of orchids has no bounds.

In this months edition we have a very well written report on the difference between Dendrobium types by our good friend John Green of Gympie. I hope this settles some minor arguments. Also yours truly has penned a piece on Cattleyas and a small article on how I grow my Oncidiums.

Please think seriously about sending us some articles as we are sure other growers would be interested in how you grow your orchids or what type of medium you use and how you use it, if we consider it suitable we'll certainly publish it.

So until next month hope you enjoy reading your newsletter God bless and good growing.

*Pete & June*

**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 22/5/2012**

In the absence of President Jeff Vice President Terry Dean took the chair for the meeting.

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**New members:** Mathew McPherson & Cartlin Dee. Douglas & Thea Press.

**Lucky Member:**

**Minutes:** of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Ellie Dean second Burnie Peters Carried.

**Correspondence: In** = Newsletters, Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Inc, Caboolture Orchid Society Inc, Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club, Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Boyne-Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. Mid-Murry Orchid Club Inc. Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc, Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc. Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc, Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Association. Townsville Orchid Society Inc. AOC Conference Perth. . 1 Membership. 4YOU receipt, Boyne Tannum Orchid Society Inc, Kennas Kapers, Carol Hine ( Ellie Dean ) Great Experiences New Zealand, Nambour Orchid Society.

**OUT** = Sympathy card Clarry Smith.

Moved Bev McArthur Second by Brian Weaver Carried.

**Treasurers Report:** In the absence of Bill Richardson there was no Treasurer report

**New Growers:** Keith thanked Ken & Rosalie Smith for having us. Next one will be at Richard & Lynne Mann first then on to Bev McArthur both of them live in Gracemere. Bring a fold up chair and a small plate of afternoon tea and enjoy the company.

**General Business:** Trip to Gympie at this stage there is only 3 seats left on the bus. At this time the Cent Sale which will be held on the 14 th October 2012 at the Feez Street Hall, all is going well.

**Plant Commentary:** Jeff Glover did the commentary, Short and Sweet with lots of good information.

**Lucky exhibitor:** Ellie & Terry Dean

**Raffle:** Jack Dickenson, Graham Maunder, Trish Craig, Jan Hogan, Doug Press, Sandra Wilkinson

**Meeting closed:** 8.20 pm.

**Next Meeting:** 26th June 2012

Terry Dean Vice President

Gloria Wakefield Secretary

## **Monthly Competition Results. February 2012.**

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 20. Novice: 25)

### **Judges Choice**

<i>Paph.</i> Nightspot	T&E Dean
<i>Cycd.</i> Jumbo Puff	K&R Smith
<i>Bc.</i> Donna Kimura 'Paradise Tami'	G&M Maunder

### **Popular Vote: Advanced**

Cattleya over 75mm.	<i>Bc.</i> Annie Suldana x <i>Bc.</i> Donna Kimura	K&R Smith
Cattle a up to 75mm.	<i>Ctna.</i> Wh Not	K&R Smith
Species	<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	P&J Shelton
Miscellaneous	<i>Cycd.</i> Jumbo Puff	K&R Smith

### **Popular Vote: Novice**

Cattleya	<i>Bc.</i> Donna Kimura 'Paradise Tami'	G&M Maunder
Miscellaneous	<i>Dtps.</i> Alice's Heart	T&M Handle



**Cycd. Jumbo Puff**



**Paph. Nightspot**



**Bc. Donna Kimura**

## New Growers Report

Saturday the 26th the new growers' meeting was held at two of our member's homes at Gracemere. Our first stop was at the home of Richard and Lynn Mann where the members were able to enjoy the pleasure of looking over their wonderful garden and orchid collection.

I have been invited on many occasions by Richard and Lynn to visit but until yesterday had not had the chance to accept. The weather started out wet and cold inducing many phone calls from concerned members, however the day improved and the meeting went ahead.

We then drove out to Bev McArthurs for the remainder of the meeting, on arrival the members were welcomed by Bev and invited to look over and enjoy her gardens and orchid collection before we had afternoon tea. One wonders how Bev finds the time or energy to look after such a large garden as well as her orchid collection; she must be one busy girl.

Our president Jeff was able to attend for a short time and while there welcomed some new members presenting them with their new grower kits. Jeff missed the last general meeting due to a delay at Brisbane airport.

Whilst enjoying afternoon tea we were able to congratulate Joy and Dennis Dwyer on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, Bev put on a delicious chocolate cake that was enjoyed by all.

To complete the meeting the usual raffle was held giving the winners a plant or two to add to their collections. My sincere thanks to Richard, Lynn and Bev for having us and thanks to all who gave donations for raffle prizes and everyone for making the meeting so enjoyable.

The next meeting is to be held at the home of **Graham and Maxine Maunder at 184 Stamford Street on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of June** commencing at 2 P.M. The usual plate for afternoon tea and a folding chair if possible,

*Keith Marsden*

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## Fertiliser of the Month      **Growth Technology Orchid Focus.** (Advertisement)

Orchids have very specific nutritional requirements and although it is true that they can survive on very low levels of nutrition they will reach their full magnificence if properly fed.

Just ask a professional grower or a consistent winner at orchid shows.

Orchids should never be fed with general purpose plant 'food' for many reasons.

Most importantly the nitrogen supply in the mass market product will inevitably contain high levels of ammonia and urea. These compounds can be quite toxic to orchids and should never be supplied for that reason. Orchid Focus is completely free of ammoniacal and ureic nitrogen.

Orchid Focus is manufactured from the purest and most soluble mineral salts. It is fortified and enhanced with a complex profile of organic plant acids.

It is precisely formulated for the needs of orchids - contains no ammonia or urea.

It is non-toxic and poses no environmental hazard.

Orchid Focus is an ideal feeding programme for orchids. It can help produce healthier, more vigorous plants and brighter, longer lasting flowers.

Orchid Focus Bloom has enhanced levels of phosphorus to support heavy flowering

## *Crook Cattleya's*

There is hardly a grower in C.Q. that doesn't grow Cats as they are commonly known but unfortunately not all get them to grow to their full potential. At our recent show I noticed some that were bursting with vibrant energy, others rather hungry looking and still others looking very, very wilted and sad.

One must remember we are trying to grow them out of their comfort zone, they grow in the jungles of South America as epiphytes, and we expect them to grow in a pot slapped on a bench, crowded amongst other genera, getting a drink of (sometimes not so good) water, we



**Rth. Mem. Warren Eggens**



**Blc. Burdekin Dream**

## **Dendrobiums – The difference between types.**

**Phalaenanthe type** - Commonly known as hard canes. They are derived from *Den. bigibbum* and *Den. phalaenopsis* plus a couple of other species. The name means moth like and are filled in full shape. These types of Dens need a warm wet summer.

**Spatulata type (Ceratobe)** – These are known as Antelope orchids because of their twisted upright petals. They are found from Northern Australia through to the Philippines. They have no real rest period so when you have new roots and new growths you continue with water and fertilizer. *Den. discolor* is one example of this type. One drawback in most of the Spatulata Dens is they grow very tall, 4m and more. Judging - the inflorescence may be arching or upright.

**Intermediate Type** – These are a cross between Spatulata and Phalaenanthe types. They may or may not be twisted depending on which parent was dominant in breeding. This type is very popular as they grow well and flower several times a year. Most don't need a rest period in the growing season. The Singapore orchids which florists sell are mainly intermediate types.

**Mini Antelope Type - Hybrids** - These are a hybrid between the large Spatulata type and our native miniature orchids, such as *Den. canaliculatum*, *carronii* and *johannis*. These hybrids may be very heavily twisted or very little twist. *Den. carronii* adds red and pink to its progeny where as *Den. canaliculatum* and *Den. johannis* adds yellows and browns. One of the best known hybrids is Den. Gloucester Sands which is a cross between *Den. discolor* and *Den. canaliculatum*. This type tends to grow all year round so require continuous water and fertilizer. Mature plants are hardly ever out of flower. On a judging point of view the inflorescence may be arching or upright, the arrangement and colour are the main aspects.

**Eugeananthe type** – These are commonly known as soft canes. These plants derived from *Den. nobile* which is endemic to the foothills of the Himalayas, Northern Burma (Myanmar as it's now known) and Thailand. They require Monsoonal type weather. I water every day from the beginning of November to

## **Oncidiums as I grow them.**

Oncidium intergenerics are a fairly big group of orchids bred from several different genera within the group known as Oncidiinae or more commonly known as dancing ladies. This group also contains the Brassia and Miltonia orchids.

These orchids originate from Central and South America and are quite tolerant of a wide scope of conditions but to grow your Oncidiums to their full potential I have put here a few ideas that may help you.

**Watering-** Perhaps the main thing to remember is they require regular moisture if they have this the bulbs will stay nice and plump. Water regularly to keep moist but drain them well so we don't get pseudo rot and other related problems but whatever you do don't let them get wet feet. A good thing to remember is keep them **moist** but not wet; you must have a watering regime for your Cats' so you won't go far wrong if you follow that type of watering style for your Oncids. These orchids love humidity around their roots, a trick often used by specialist growers is site the pot inside a bigger pot, for example a terra cotta pot that has a layer of river stone placed in the bottom, this will keep the roots cooler and raise the humidity.

**Miltonia & Odontonia-** As a general rule This orchid genus will suffer if allowed to dry out at all, so make sure they are kept moist **not wet** as they are very susceptible to rot.

**Fertilizer-** The easiest way if you have other commitments and can't fertilize regularly is to apply a slow release (eg. Nutricote or Osmocote) once a year at the rate recommended by the manufacturer. (Make sure you use 9 month fertilizers if you are going to use slow release.)

**General Conditions-** Whilst your orchid is in flower don't be afraid to bring it inside and enjoy it but move it to it's original position as soon as the flowers start to go off. For those that don't have a shade house Oncidiums will grow on a sunny verandah but not in direct sunlight. Some varieties will happily grow and flower on the trunks of trees, they love Frangipanis where they have shade in the summer and get the winter sun

**Repotting-** Repotting can be done most of the year provided the plant is actively growing, look for the green tips on the end of the roots, if no green tips **don't** repot. Oncids prefer to fill the out the pot before it's necessary to repot but **don't** overpot use a pot only a bit bigger than the old one. When you have repotted your orchid it's wise to place on top of the mix a sprinkle of a small teaspoon of Dolomite this will counter any excessive acidity and add Calcium.

I wish you the best of luck with your Oncids and remember what has worked for me might not work for you.

Hymn.

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**Did you know?**

***Rubber bands will last longer if kept in the fridge.***

***In ancient Egypt men and women wore eye shadow made from crushed beetles.***

***Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and at the same time draw with the other.***



## *Ellie's Corner*

Hello everyone. Matthew McPherson recently joined our Society and I had the pleasure of talking with him at our last meeting. He has been interested in orchids since his grandfather grew them years ago. He and his wife Caitlin have recently purchased their own home and he feels the time is right for him to start his own collection. His interest has been increased by visiting the Markets on Sunday mornings and talking to orchid enthusiasts there and purchasing orchids. Matthew has led a very interesting and exciting life. He has been a ship's captain on different vessels, a scuba diving instructor for 14 years and teaches first aid. He ran a luxury dive vessel in New Guinea for two years. On one occasion he stitched a man's head together with his own hair! Matthew is a great man to know in a crisis! Caitlin is a solicitor, a very caring lady, interested in human rights. We welcome them and wish them many happy years with us.

Graham and Maxine Maunder travelled to Tasmania recently for Graham's brother's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Willmont (near Cradle Mountain). While there they read a story about Burnie's Orchid Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They phoned a member and were invited to view orchid collections in Burnie. They visited two lovely couples Vivien and Preston ("who are big time show winners"); and then they went to Jenny and Bob's home. Jenny is Secretary of the Burnie Orchid Society and has been in contact with our Secretary, Gloria. Graham and Maxine admired the beautiful orchids growing in a cooler climate than our tropical one. They hired a campervan and travelled from Hobart to Launceston and other areas. Graham's brother and his partner work at Cradle Mountain so they were able to see a famous photographic gallery and travel around the area, finding time to "play" in the snow. What a happy time they had. I love the way the Maunders take every opportunity offered to enjoy life!

Jeff and Norma Glover lost their dear little dog, Tilly after having her for 11 wonderful years on 11 May. Those of us who love our pets know how much sadness comes into our lives when we lose one. Happily, they now have another puppy, a Papillion/Maltese cross aged 10 weeks. They took her to their Vet. when she was 8 weeks old and she weighed 900 gms. (she sounds like a real guard dog!!) They have called her Sophie and she is a great companion for their other dog, Bart.

We welcomed Andrew Woron to our Society earlier this year. Andrew is a dentist and lives in Emerald. He was formerly a member of the Emerald Orchid Society which disbanded. Andrew has two adult children. He has a small orchid collection and says he derives a lot of enjoyment from attending orchid shows and field days.

Marilyn Bloxson and her friend/cousin Robyn recently went to Sydney for a long weekend. They stayed at the four star Sheraton at Darling Harbour where they enjoyed a lovely view of the Harbour, and top class buffet breakfasts each morning. They did lots of shopping and sightseeing – naturally!! The highlight of their trip was their visit to the new attraction, Madam Tausards wax works, where the mainly Australian theme had some very life like famous Australians on view. Jeff, on the other hand, travelled to Cairns for his annual fishing trip which



he loves. He caught a large mackerel and some smaller reef fish. But best of all - he "discovered" another nursery he hadn't been to before and they had plants he just had to have. Enough said! Jeff and Marilyn's son-in-law recently made their grand daughter Lilly a wonderful rocking horse from the radiata pine surrounds of their old waterbed. Lilly is already thrilled and will have lots of fun times with her new and unique rocking horse.

Happy Birthday to those celebrating in JULY: Cheryle Henney and Jenny McGovern (13); Bernard Hilse (15); Alice Mannion (18); Sharyn Dickenson (23); Jan Hogan (26). Hope you all have a wonderful time on your special day.

Ted and Alice Mannion's 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary occurs on August 4<sup>th</sup> so there is certainly an exciting time coming for the Mannion Family.

Till next time.

My love and prayers. Ellie Dean

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CONGRATULATIONS to Ray and Gay Bills on having a Dendrobium awarded a Highly Commended Certificate a couple of weeks ago. Their plant was a spatula type with one beautifully displayed inflorescence, 510mm long, with 38 flowers, 39mm wide and 32mm long. Colour was mainly mauve with white and chocolate edging. Parentage of the plant is *Den. Carron Deb* x *Den. tangerinum* and was registered in 2010. Ray and Gay's newly awarded baby is ***Den. Fraser's Mosaic Spiral 'Capricorn' HCC/AOC-STOC***.

*Terry Dean, Registrar*

Don't forget our **SOCIETY - STORE** (members only)

For all you Orchid Supplies



49222637 Barry & Faye English

Hours of Business: 8am -12 – 2- 5pm ( Closed: 'Thursdays' and 'Lunchtime' each day)

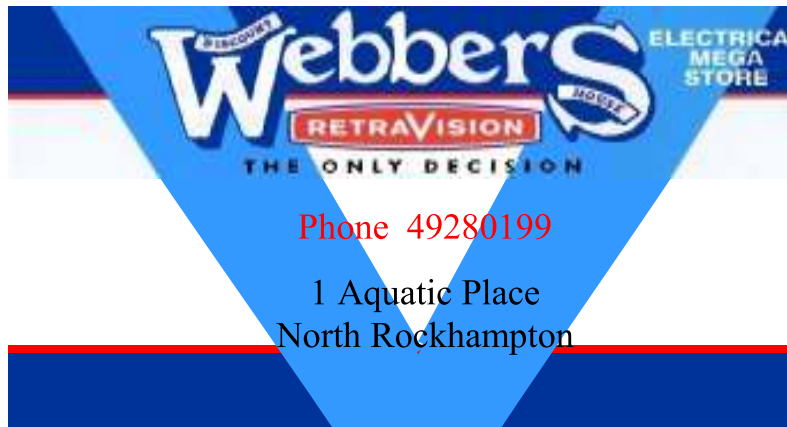
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Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at St Stephens 4 Presbyterian Church Hall, Burnett Street, Nth. Rockhampton. Meetings commence at 7.30pm and plants must be tabled by 7.15pm

**Disclaimer**

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

**Your Orchid Diary 2012**

July 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Caboolture Orchid Soc  
August 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> Maroochydore Orchid Soc  
August 31 Sept 1 Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Spring Show  
August 31 Sept 1 Nambour Orchid Soc  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Capricorn Orchid Show  
September 8-9<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton Orchid Society Spring Show  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Aust Orchid Conference Perth  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Maryborough District Orchid Soc Show  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Noosa DOFS Show  
Sept – 21<sup>st</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> Toowoomba Orchid Soc  
Sept 28-29<sup>th</sup> Glasshouse Orchid society Show

2013 STOC Orchidfest Gympie  
2014 TQOC Atherton  
2015 TQOC Mackay