

A P R I L 2 0 1 6

# Nambour Orchid News

## Meetings

The **Business** meeting is held on the 4th Saturday of each month at 12.45pm prior to the cultural meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

The **Cultural meeting** is held on the 4th Saturday of the month at the Nambour Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Ave., Nambour at 2pm. All members and visitors are welcome. *Plants are to be tabled by 1.30pm for judging.*

The **Species appreciation group** get together is held monthly from February to November at member's homes. Contact the Secretary for details. All STOCQ members welcome. Bring your flowering species plants, a chair, a cup and a plate to share for afternoon tea.

## Supporters of



**Cittamani Hospice Service**

## Judges Choice - March



*Bulbophyllum granddiflorum* – Judy Robbins

## Directory of Office Bearers

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## From the Secretary

Caloundra show. Our first show for the year, where our members were involved in putting up a display. Congratulations to those who took home prizes. Judy Robbins, Marty & Anita Vlekkert, John Robertson, Charlie & Gina McMonagle, Mal Rivers, Rod Aisthorpe & Bob & Joan Raabe all had some success. Nambour was also lucky enough to pick up 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize display. Thank you to all the helpers on the day.

### Upcoming activities

We have a fund raising sausage sizzle at Bunnings Maroochydore on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Volunteers would be appreciated if anyone can spare a couple of morning or afternoon hours. Please let us know at the April meeting.

Species afternoons for 2016. These get togethers are a great social occasion open to members of all orchid societies, designed to teach each other about how we grow our species orchids. Members are able to talk about how they grow their plants and have an open discussion on any plant problems they might have. The next meeting will be at the home of Wayne & Jean Harris on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Gympie show will be our next display show; set up is on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Plant names for this one will need to be in by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

This show combines with the Gympie Garden Expo. If you haven't taken the drive to Gympie before, it is well worth a visit. All show details are on our calendar at the end of the newsletter.

Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society has their show in the Cooroy CWA Hall on Mother's day weekend 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> May. Great opportunity to buy an orchid lover a plant in flower for Mother's day.

Diamond Festival of Orchids dinner bookings are still available for our conference dinner at Lakehouse, Brightwater Hotel 15 Freshwater Street, Brightwater on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Cost is \$55 per person. Final date for booking and payment is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Our Diamond Festival is now only 8 weeks away, a roster for members to assist will be at the April meeting. Please think about whether you can spend a few hours to help.

Alison







**Judges Choice – March -  
*Bulbophyllum grandiflorum***

This species grows in Sumatra, through Papua New Guinea to the Solomon Islands, at moderate elevations, from 100-800 metres. It requires warmth and adequate moisture.

I purchased this plant at the Nambour Garden Expo three years ago. It is growing in a shallow saucer in a mix of peat and perlite with some coconut chips for extra moisture.

I give it a small amount of Osmocote High K twice a year, and weak foliar fertilizer once a week. It is growing under 70 percent shade cloth, with solar weave on the roof over winter.

Judy Robbins

**Cultural plant - March  
*Coelogyne asperata* Lindl.**

Plant owned by Jean & Wayne Harris

This species is a very widespread plant from Borneo, Peninsula Malaysia, Indonesia, The Moluccas, New Guinea and the Philippines. It is a very hardy plant and can reach a very large size and generally occurs close to the coast or rivers and streams mostly as an epiphyte but does occur as a lithophyte. In PNG large plants can be seen growing on roadside cuttings near the coast.

Altitude ranges from near sea level to about 2000m.



Our plant is growing in a squat pot about 18cmdiam. in a medium of pine bark, perlite (10%) and charcoal, and hangs high in an open and uncovered shadehouse. It is watered at least weekly in cooler weather and copiously in the summer. Fertilizing is weekly at about ½ manufacturer's recommendations

Each raceme (6 on this plant) is about 12-22cm in length, arching and can carry 10-14 attractive cream flowers with a striking labellum that is marked with reddish tubercles (this specimen originated from Sabah, Borneo, whereas plants from PNG have less striking markings). These are about 70mm wide in diameter.



**A selection of plants on display at March Meeting**



C. Lulu Pink x C. Caudebec  
- Judy Robbins



C. CRB's Nice Spots – T Buckley



Milt. Sandy Cove – Judy Robbins



Den. Burana Stripe "Round"  
- Tom Buckley



Den. Sophie Bonnie – Judy Robbins



Phalanopsis unknown  
- Glenda Rode-Bramanis



Phalanopsis unknown - Glenda Rode-Bramanis



Paph. Crossianum – Marty & Anita Vlekkert

## Vandaceous Culture

Vandaceous orchids include Vanda (including Ascocendas, and Aerides as a result of name changes), Phalaenopsis, Renanthera, Rhynchostylis and many others. They are mainly monopodial orchids, which have a single growth, which produces new leaves at its growing tip and roots lower down the central growth. Loosely speaking, the leaves of Vandaceous orchids form a fan shape. The leaf may be almost flat (referred to as strap-leaf Vandas), terete (pencil shape) or a shape which is somewhere between the two. The strap-leaves require the same shade as Cattleyas while the teretes can be grown in full sun, as long as they are given plenty of food and water in their growing season.

**Watering.** Vandaceous orchids require less water in winter than in summer. Winter is the resting period for most vandaceous orchids.

**SUMMER WATERING:** From about the end of September through to the end of March/April, they can be watered daily depending on the conditions. If conditions are hot, dry, and windy, they can be watered daily, early in the morning. It is sometimes a good idea to water them lightly late in the afternoon as these orchids take up moisture more readily overnight. Do not water during the heat of the day as water can collect in the crown of the plant and the warmed water may encourage the growth of harmful pathogens. I find tap water is fine. After you have watered the roots, you will notice they change colour from white to green. This is the water being soaked up by the root. After you water the roots of the next plant, go back and re-water the roots of the previous plant and you should notice the roots become a little greener in colour.

**WINTER WATERING:** This can be tricky. From about the beginning of April to the end of September, I normally cut down on watering substantially. (However, with the weather we are currently experiencing, that may change). In the colder months (hopefully, they will arrive) I water weekly and then only to spray the roots. These plants do not like to be wet overnight during the cold winter months. In the months of April, May and September I water every few days if I feel they need it.

Whether it is summer or winter, the frequency of watering often depends on the prevailing conditions. If your orchids are not under cover and it has been raining, then obviously you would not need to water. If it is a dull, overcast day, you might want to put off watering 'til the next day. Overwatering than under watering has killed more orchids. Vandaceous orchids like to almost dry out between watering's, as is the case with most orchids.

**Light.** The best growth is obtained by growing in a shadehouse. However, good results can be obtained by growing them in an area where they receive morning sun. Hanging under a patio roof with an Eastern exposure is good. Remember, the more light they get, the more fertiliser and water they need. They can be attached to a fence paling using an old stocking, where they get shaded from the midday sun. Plants that are lush and dark green are not receiving enough light. Vandaceous leaves should be firm and a mid-green colour, not too dark or too light.

**Feeding.** Vandaceous orchids are heavy feeders and small plants need regular applications of high nitrogen, water-soluble fertiliser. The larger, flowering size plants do not need as much nitrogen. A flower boosting fertiliser is all they need as this contains enough nitrogen for continued growth and provides phosphorous and potassium for flower development.

**Air Movement.** These orchids like air movement in summer, especially around the root system. In winter, some protection from the cold westerlies would benefit them.

**Humidity.** Vandaceous orchids benefit from high humidity. During a hot day, this can be achieved to some extent by hosing the ground under the hanging vandaceous. A sprinkler system can be set up which mists only the roots and maintains a humid, moist atmosphere in your bushhouse.



**Aeration and Potting Medium.** Vandaceous orchids (and most orchids) cannot be potted in soil, as their roots require good aeration and the potting medium must drain freely. I like to use orchid bark and some charcoal, the size of which depends on the size of the plant you are potting. I find the best time to repot is in spring. There are 2 main reasons for repotting – one is the plant has outgrown the pot and has become difficult to stake it upright and the other is that the potting medium has broken down. If your plant has a problem, unpot it and check the state of the medium and the root system. If the medium is breaking down and is soggy, soft and wet, replace it. If the root system looks unhealthy (brown, soft mushy roots) then you need to repot. If this is the case, the time of year will not matter. Saving the plant is what is important. Always strive to have roots that are whitish and firm and in the growing season, have green, actively growing, root tips.

Trim off all dead and soggy, squishy roots. Remember, live roots are whitish and firm. With slotted square baskets we use now, feed the roots through the slots and let them hang down. When you are happy with the position of the plant, place your medium in the basket and around the roots, loosely. A stake may be needed to hold the plant steady as any wobbling will rub the growing tips of the roots and may set the plant back somewhat.

Sometime in May, again depending on when it's going to start cooling down, I place Solarweave over the back section of my bushhouse where the vandaceous reside. This keeps any winter rain off them and provides a little warmth.

**Good growing. Mal Rivers**

#### *Plants tabled at the orchid species meeting, March 2016*

*Aeranthus arachnites, Aerides quinquevulnera, Bifrenaria vitellina\**, *Brassavola nodosa, Bulbophyllum corolliferum*  
*Bulbophyllum grandiflorum, Bulbophyllum guttulatum, Bulbophyllum melanoglossum, Bulbophyllum tricorne*  
*Cattleya labiate, Cattleya sincorana, Dendrobium bigibbum, Dendrobium bracteosum, Dendrobium cumulatum*  
*Dendrobium serena-alexianum, Dendrobium trichostomum, Dendrochilum latifolium var macranthum\**  
*Dendrochilum magnum x 2, Dendrochilum uncatum, Gomesa venusta\* (Oncidium trulliferum), Gongora galeata*  
*Guarianthe bowringiana\**, *Habenaria rhodocheila, Holcoglossum kimballianum, Miltonia moreliana*  
*Miltonia moreliana, Miltonia spectabilis, Myrmecophila tibicinis, Oberonia carnososa, Paphiopedilum lawrenceanum*  
*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica, Phalaenopsis lindenii, Pholidota imbricate, Prosthechea cochleata\*, Psychopsis papilio alba*  
*Robiquetia vietnamensis, Smitinandia helferi, Vanda insignis*

#### *Plants tabled at the orchid species meeting, 9 April 2016*

*Aerangis ellisii, Aerides calayana, (x 2) Aerides lawrenciae var sanderiana, Aerides odorata var. lawrenceae, Aerides*  
*quinquevulnera (var. farmerii), Arachnis labrosa, Brassia pumila, Bulbophyllum cootesii, Bulbophyllum fenixii,*  
*Bulbophyllum flabellum-veneris, (pulchrum) Bulbophyllum sanguineopunctatum, Bulbophyllum tricornooides, Cattleya*  
*dormaniana, (x 2) Cattleya f. alba perrinii, Cattleya forbesii, Cattleya perrinii, Coelogyne asperata, Ceratostylis*  
*retisquama, (rubra), Coelogyne dayana, Coelogyne fimbriata, alba, Coelogyne trinervis, Dendrobium ceraula,*  
*Dendrobium ionopus, Dendrobium kanburiense, Dendrobium virgineum, Denrochilum cobbianum, Holcoglossum*  
*kimballianum, Jumellea facilorchis, Laelia anceps, Malleola sp., Micropera fuscolutea, (tabled as M. fasciculata)*  
*Micropera pallida, Oberonia carnososa, Polystachya concreta, Spathoglottis affinis, Stenoglottis longifolia, Tolumnia*  
*variegata, Trichocentrum (Oncidium) splendidum, Vanda dearii, Warczewiczella ( Cochleanthes) discolor.*

*Note: Names now regarded as synonyms are in parentheses*

## Species

Nambour Orchid Society orchid species meeting, 9 April 2016 at Rod & Jan Aisthorpes ranch.

**Judges choice:** *Dendrobium ionopus* Rchb.f. Plant owned by Jean & Wayne Harris



This species is an epiphyte endemic to the Philippines at altitudes of up to 1200m. Our plant is growing in a mesh basket of about 18cm diam. in a medium of pine bark, perlite (10%) and charcoal. Each raceme is borne on a leafless stem (pseudobulb) of about 30-60cm in length. The raceme is clustered and pendulous and can carry 12-18 attractive green flowers (flower color is variable) up to 20-25mm in diameter

Our plant hangs high in an open and uncovered shadehouse and is watered at least weekly in cooler weather and copiously in the summer. Fertilizing is weekly at about ½ manufacturer's recommendations. In summary this species is very easy to grow and rewarding under the Sunshine Coast conditions.

**Cultural plant - April - *Coelogyne asperata*** was also selected as Cultural plant for March at our monthly meeting.

Owned by Jean & Wayne Harris

Wayne cultural notes on this plant are on page 3



**Diamond Festival of Orchids**  
**Sub Tropical Orchid Council Queensland Inc.**  
**Triennial Orchid festival 2016**  
**Hosted by Nambour Orchid Society Inc.**



***Saturday June 11 & Sunday June 12, 2016***

Featuring the best Orchids South East Qld has to offer

Vendors selling orchids and supplies Art, Craft & Photography Displays

Demonstrations of Potting, Craft & Botanical Art

Five Guest Speakers over two days

Catering by Caloundra Meals on Wheels

Lake Kawana Community Centre

114 Sportsmans Parade Bokarina, Sunshine Coast, QLD 4575

Find more details at [www.nambourorchidsociety.com/dfo](http://www.nambourorchidsociety.com/dfo)

Email Alison at [diamondfestivaloforchids@gmail.com](mailto:diamondfestivaloforchids@gmail.com)

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*Show Dates 2016 – NOS commitment*

Date & Show	Location
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>Saturday 13, STOCQ AGM</b>	Albert Park Bowles Club, Gympie
<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>Friday 4, Saturday 5 &amp; Sunday 6</b> Queensland International Orchid Fair	Showgrounds, James Street, Beenleigh
<b>Saturday 19</b> Childers Orchid Show	Cultural Centre Childers
<b>Friday 25 &amp; Saturday 26 March</b> (Set up Thurs. 24) Bribie Island Orchid Show (Easter)	The Orchid House 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Bribie Island
<b>APRIL</b>	
<b>Friday 1 &amp; Saturday 2</b> (Set up Thurs. 31 <sup>st</sup> March) Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Show	Church Hall, Ulm Street, Caloundra
<b>Saturday 16</b> South Burnett OS Orchid Show	RSL Hall Wondai
<b>Sat. 30 &amp; Sun. 1 May</b> (Set up Fri. 29) Gympie Garden Expo & Orchid Show	Showgrounds, Southside Gympie
<b>MAY</b>	
<b>Fri. 6, Sat. 7 &amp; Sun. 8</b> Bundaberg Orchid Show	The Civic Centre Bourbong Street, Bundaberg
<b>Sat. 21 &amp; Sun. 22</b> Boyne-Tannum Orchid Show	St Francis Catholic Primary School. Francis Way, Tannum Sands
<b>JUNE</b>	
<b>Saturday 11 &amp; Sunday 12</b> (Set up Fri. from 3pm) Diamond Festival of Orchids Sub Tropical Orchid Council Queensland Inc. Triennial Orchid Festival Hosted by Nambour Orchid Society Inc	Lake Kawana Community Centre 114 Sportmans Parade Bokarina, Sunshine Coast
<b>JULY</b>	
<b>Saturday 9</b> Combined Societies Social Day Out	Community Centre, Howard
<b>Fri. 8, Sat. 9, Sun. 10</b> Garden Expo (Set up Thursday)	Nambour Showgrounds, Coronation Ave. Nambour
<b>Fri. 22, Sat. 23 &amp; Sun 24</b> Caboolture Orchid Show (Set up Thurs. 21)	Morayfield Community Centre Morayfield Road, Morayfield
<b>AUGUST</b>	
<b>Friday 4 &amp; Saturday 5</b> (set up Thurs. 3) Maroochydore Orchid Show	Community Hall Millward Road East, Maroochydore
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
<b>Friday 2 &amp; Saturday 3</b> (Set up Thurs. 1) Nambour Orchid Show	Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Avenue, Nambour
<b>Fri. 16 &amp; Sat. 17</b> (Set up Thurs 15) Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Show	RSL Memorial Hall, Maple Street, Cooroy.
<b>Fri. 23 &amp; Sat. 24</b> (Set up Thurs. 22) Glasshouse Country Orchid Show	Beerwah Community Hall Peachester Road, Beerwah
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
<b>Sat. 15 &amp; Sun. 16</b> (Set up Fri. 14 Oct.) Bribie Island Orchid Show	The Orchid House 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Bribie Island
<b>Saturday 8 &amp; Sunday 9</b> Hervey Bay Orchid Show	PCYC O'Rourke Street, Pialba
<b>Saturday 15 &amp; Sunday 16</b> Boonah Orchid Show	Boonah High School Boonah
<b>Saturday 22 &amp; Sun 23</b> Orchid Species Show	Auditorium Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
<b>Friday 28 &amp; Saturday 29</b> Set up Thurs. 27) Nambour Orchid Species Show & Trade Fair	Uniting Church Hall Coronation Avenue, Nambour
<b>Friday 4, Saturday 5 &amp; Sunday 6</b> November Pumicestone Orchid Show	CT Williams Hall, Caboolture Showgrounds