

F E B R U A R Y 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 - January Paph. Prince Edward of York

G & B Robertson



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From the Secretary

Our next meeting is our AGM, Saturday 27th February at 2pm. All positions will be declared vacant at the start of the meeting. Nominations have now closed, and some of the positions will be filled from the nominations received, however there are still plenty more spots available so if you feel you can contribute to one of the vacant positions, please feel free to put your hand up at the meeting.

Upcoming activities

We have fund raising sausage sizzle at Bunnings Maroochydore on Monday 21st March & Wednesday 27th April. Volunteers would be appreciated if anyone can spare a couple of morning or afternoon hours. Please see the secretary at the meeting.

Species afternoons for 2016. The first species for the year was held on Sunday 14th February at Robertson Orchids at 2pm. We had a great roll up of members and visitors, with a good supply of orchids benched for members to talk about. These get together are a very enjoyable social occasion designed to teach each other about how we grow our species orchids. They are open to members of all orchid societies. The next meeting will be at the home of Rita & Richard Hand on Saturday 12th March at 2pm.

Beenleigh Trade Fair is a great opportunity to see a lot of Orchids for sale at the one venue. It is being held on 4/5/6 March at the Beenleigh Show Ground, James Street Beenleigh. Admission is free.

Bribie Island Easter Show. Fri/Sat/ 25/26th March at the Orchid house, 156A First Ave. Bribie Island. This is a benched show open to all Orchid Society members. Set up is Thursday 24th March.

Sunshine Coast Orchid Society show 1/2 April, Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Queen & Ulm St Caloundra. Set up is Thursday 31st March. This is a display show that our society participates in.

Two Members have had plants awarded in the past month



Vanda roeblingiana 'Emily' HCC/AOC
R Aisthorpe



Vanda Thai Frost 'Rita' HCC/AOC
R Hand

Selection of plant on display at the January meeting



Paph. James Bacon
(G & B Robertson)



Blira. Pacific Treasures
(M & A Vlekkert)



Ett. Volcano Trick 'Orange Fire'
(Tom Buckley)



Vdnps. Irene Dobkin 'Peaches' (Judy Robbins)



Rlc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' (Judy Robbins)



Van. Gabrielles Delight. (R Hand)



Judges Choice – January

Paph. Prince Edward of York

Prince Edward of York – a regal name for a regal orchid. It is a primary hybrid created with Paph. rothschildianum and Paph. sanderianum. It is an old hybrid registered first in 1898 but because it is very desirable it has been remade many times since using superior forms of the two parents. As both parents are from Borneo it follows that it requires warm to intermediate conditions to grow well. When in these conditions it grows into quite a large plant but it has to be said that small plants may take 10-15 years to mature and flower. Mature plants require large standard pots and therefore a fine mix is not suitable. Medium size bark and charcoal is best.



Cultural Plant – January

Phal. ambabilis subsp. roenstrmii This plant grows in northeast Queensland, being found sporadically from the Iron Range in the north and as far south as the Paluma Ranges. It grows year round in warm, moist conditions in shaded locations, as an epiphyte or lithophyte, at low to moderate altitudes. This variety has slightly smaller flowers, and usually blooms between December and April.

This plant was a raffle prize at a Species meeting a couple of years ago, and is growing in a mix of perlite and peat (12-1) with small amounts of bark, charcoal, diatomite and some coconut chips for extra moisture. I add a small amount of Osmocote High K twice a year and use various foliar fertilisers once a week. Watering depends on the weather. After watering, especially in winter, I use a small battery powered air blower to dry the leaves of all the Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums.

The shadehouse has a double layer of shade cloth on the roof and sides. Solar weave is on the roof permanently, and in the winter I put solar weave on the sides, leaving an opening at each end for air flow.

Orchids and their Growing Environment

When most people envision a plant growing in its natural environment, or even our house plants, they envision them growing in the ground or a pot of soil. Either way, we generally correlate plants with the ground. Even vines like Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum* or that thing growing around the walls of your office cubicle) have roots in soil. While there are many orchids that do grow in the soil on the ground (terrestrials), orchids can also be found growing with little to no soil as epiphytes (from the Greek *epi* = “upon” and *phyton* = “plant”) or lithophytes (from the Greek *litho* = “stone” and *phyton* = “plant”). As you may have guessed epiphytes grow on other plants, usually trees, and lithophytes grow on rocks.

While it may be quite obvious that lithophytes are not parasitic as there is not much in the way of nutrients to be “stolen” from rocks, there has been, in my experience, a general misconception that epiphytes are parasitic. Parasitic plants, like the mistletoes, actually tap into the vascular system of their host and extract nutrients and/or water for their own growth and development. In many cases parasitic plants cannot produce the resources extracted from the host on their own and, therefore, require their host plant for survival. Epiphytes, including epiphytic orchids, do NOT extract nutrients from their host plant.

Soil and its organic constituents can provide myriad resources including water and nutrients as well as protect root systems from temperature fluctuations, so how do orchids growing without soil get the resources they need? Epiphytes and lithophytes have specialized adaptations that allow them to grow outside the soil, exploiting new ecological niches. First things first; the roots. I think it is safe to assume that you know that roots are the plant organs that are responsible for water and nutrient absorption as well as anchoring a plant in place. If you have ever grown an orchid, you might have noticed (since most species grown in the home are not terrestrial) that the roots do not look like typical plant roots. That is because you are not actually looking at the root itself. What you are seeing are layers of dead epidermal cells surrounding the actual root. This layer of cells, called the velamen, acts like a sponge to absorb moisture from the air and prevent moisture loss from transpiration. These specialized roots also cling to the bark of trees or rock surfaces keeping the orchid in place.

Remember my last discussion of monopodial vs. sympodial? If not you can read it here:

www.facebook.com/Orchidology/posts/485523678254029:0.

In that discussion, I mentioned how the stems of sympodial orchids often develop into pseudobulbs. These are

water storage organs, which orchids can use as back up reserves during times of little or no precipitation. However, some monopodial orchids, which typically do not have pseudobulbs, are epiphytes/lithophytes as well. Often these species, unless growing in very wet climates, have thickened stems and leaves for water storage throughout the plant. Many sympodial, and some monopodial orchids, may also have a thickened cuticle (a lipid layer containing wax) surrounding the leaves, which slows water loss via transpiration.



Orchidology .

Photo credit: Tienerey Roseenstock

Furthermore, many orchids that live outside the soil utilize photosynthetic strategies that decrease the chance for water loss. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants (and some bacteria and algae) absorb light energy from the sun and use with water to extract carbon from carbon dioxide.

There are actually four types of photosynthesis each with their own tweaks to make the process more efficient in their particular environment.

A good number of orchids utilize a photosynthetic process called Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM).

Without going into gory details, I'll just mention that the strategy of CAM is to open the stomata (little holes on the undersides of leaves that take in carbon dioxide) at night rather than during the day to reduce water loss. I could spend a lot of time discussing the different types of photosynthesis, but I'll stop there (for now).

Orchids that have taken to the rocks and trees use various combinations of these water preserving strategies to survive, which only adds to their interest and mystery.

I know I mentioned the issue of nutrients earlier in this post, which already gotten far too long. But, just take a look at the picture of a lithophytic orchid below and take a guess about where it might acquire its nutrients.

Reprinted courtesy of Orchidology.

ORCHID TIPS FOR NEW CHUMS by Brian Milligan

Writing from experience, I can say that many new growers have nasty experiences with orchid viruses in their early years. If the orchid 'bug' strikes them hard, they race around collecting cymbidiums willy-nilly, regardless of their source (family 'heirlooms' are worst). These plants often harbour a variety of pests and diseases, such as scale, red spider and, most serious of all (because they are incurable), viral infections. Virus-infected plants provide a source from which healthy plants may become infected unwittingly during re-potting and handling. Here are a few tips that can minimise the spread of pests and diseases throughout your collection.

When buying (or accepting gifts of) new orchids, look for strange leaf markings, particularly yellow streaks and small black patches of dead tissue, which are signs of virus infection. If in doubt, don't buy, regardless of the price.

Having made your purchase, before adding the plant to your collection spray it with an insecticide to ensure that it doesn't carry any hidden pests. You may also wish to spray the foliage with white oil (also known as summer oil) to kill any red spider present - heavy infestations reveal themselves as a whitish network on the under-side of the leaves. Please note, though, that white oil should not be used in hot weather, and that it may damage plants with thin, tender leaves (e.g. lycastes) at any time.

If you are one of the lucky ones with lots of bench space, set your new acquisitions apart from your other orchids for a few months, until you are sure that the new plants are quite healthy. The same applies to any suspect plants in your collection - set them apart until you receive advice from an experienced grower that your fears are groundless. If he or she confirms that your plant probably has a virus infection, dispose of it - don't leave it around as a future source of infection.

To minimise the spread of virus, treat every plant in your collection as if it is infected with virus. When cutting old flower spikes or trimming damaged leaves etc., use sterile knives or scissors, and sterilise them again before using them on another plant. I have a set of eight pairs of stainless-steel scissors that I use on my orchids. After use I wash them along with our kitchen dishes, and then heat the blades to red heat over a gas flame; take care not to overdo it, or the plastic handles will melt! By having eight pairs of scissors I can handle eight orchids before I need to sterilise my scissors again. When dividing cymbidiums I use old stainless steel kitchen knives, sterilising them in the same way. As a further precaution it's a good idea to wash your hands in hot soapy water after handling each plant.

A few other precautions to take when re-potting are:

- don't re-use pots unless you have washed them well in hot soapy water and then sterilised them by soaking in strong Tricleanium® (trisodium phosphate) solution overnight - be warned that this solution is highly alkaline, so you should wear eye protection and rubber gloves.
- never re-use potting mix, which may carry virus-infected material.
- don't re-use old stakes (some growers reverse them end for end and use them for a second season).

Reprinted courtesy of OSCOV.

Species

Judges choice - *Rhynchostylis coelestis*,
D & E Middlebrook

Cultural Pant - *Phalaenopsis bellina*.



***Phalaenopsis bellina*.** This is found in Borneo at low altitudes in shady, humid habitats such as beside streams. The flower is fragrant, with a strong fruity perfume. This plant was purchased from Robert Trost a few years ago, and has grown and flowered quite well since. It's care and growing conditions are identical to *Phalaenopsis amabilis* var. *rosenstromii*. Judy Robbins

Species benched Feb 2016

Names listed are the plants displayed at the February species get together. The plants with an * are those with names provided to me that differ from the Kew Monocot list.

Aeranthes grandiflora, *Arachnis labrosa*, *Brasiliorchis schunkeana*, *Bulbophyllum concinnum*,
Bulbophyllum dearei, *Bulbophyllum flavofimbriatum**, *Bulbophyllum fritillariiflorum*,
Bulbophyllum grandiflorum, *Bulbophyllum maximum*, *Bulbophyllum scaberulum*, *Cattleya bicolor*
Cattleya schilleriana, *Cattleya violacea*, *Ceratostylis retisquama*, *Cleisostoma filiforme*,
Cleisostoma williamsonii, *Dendrobium auriculatum*, *Dendrobium bracteosum*, *Dendrobium chrysanthum*
Dendrobium cucumerinum, *Dendrobium delacourii*, *Dendrobium ellipsophyllum*, *Dendrobium lampongense**
Dendrobium nakaharae, *Dendrobium oliganthum*, *Dendrochilum uncatum*, *Guarianthe bowringiana*
*Miltonia moreliana**, *Miltonia spectabilis*, *Oncidium chrysomorphum*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* subsp. *rosenstromii*
Phalaenopsis bellina, *Phalaenopsis fasciata*, *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*, *Phalaenopsis pulcra*
Phalaenopsis speciosa, *Phalaenopsis venosa*, *Phalaenopsis violacea* var. *coerulea*, *Psychopsis papilio*
Pteroceras compressum, *Rhynchostylis coelestis**, *Schoenorchis fragrans*

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

Email Alison at diamondfestivaloforchids@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com



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Proudly supported by Sunshine Coast Council's grants program

Show Dates 2016 – NOS commitment

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