



Nambour Orchid News

June 2014

Greetings!

Articles for the newsletter are very welcome. Please forward to the editor by post or email nambourorchids@gmail.com by the 15th of each month.

Meetings

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 business meeting.

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

Species appreciation 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.

Cultural meetings & guest speakers

We have a plant sales table at each meeting for members to sell any surplus plants. If you have any that you would like to sell, bring them along, tagged with your name & price so members can purchase them. Members are responsible for their own plants. Plant sale tags are on our website nambourorchidsociety.com - Go to links/forms and print off what you need.

June meeting will be a 'problem plant' meeting, so bring along those plants that are presenting you with cultural difficulties and get an expert's diagnosis.

Cultural orchid of the month and judges choice *Bulbophyllum chrysendetum* Ames (Growers W. & J. Harris)



This species is endemic to the islands of the Philippines where it grows on mossy trees at elevations up to 600m. In our environment on the coast it is a very rewarding plant, presenting few cultural problems. We grow our plants in shallow drained saucers in a bark and coconut chip mix with a little perlite. It likes plenty of water in the growing season with regular fertilising. Although the flowers are small, about 1cm in length, the massed display makes it a very attractive subject. All of our plants are under 60 % shade and the bulbophyllums are never allowed to become dry.

Directory of office bearers

Email nambourorchids@gmail.com
Website: www.nambourorchidsociety.com

Patron	Mrs. Benny Alcorn	
President	Mr. Bill Letcher	07 5441 1979
Vice President	Mr. Tom Buckley	
Secretary	Mrs. Alison Parkes	07 5441 7201
Treasurer	Mrs Jean Harris	07 5445 3307
Editor	Mr Wayne Harris	07 5445 3307

Disclaimer

While the Management Committee and the Editor of the Nambour Orchid Society Inc. endeavour to ensure the reliability of the content of this newsletter, neither the Nambour Society Inc. nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the views expressed or for information printed in this newsletter.

Postal Address: PO Box 140,
Nambour, Qld 4560

Preparing plants for exhibition

The following article is contributed by Noel Grundon of Atherton and deals with preparing your plants for shows and even for cultural meetings. If you practice these rules regularly you will find it easy to prepare your plants for any of these events. The busy show season is almost on us!

Show Rules

If you intend to exhibit your plant in a show it is essential that you read the rules before you commence planning any actions. The show schedule and rules can be obtained from the society secretary or show organiser.

It will contain information on:

- The deadline for entry of plants;
- When plants must be presented for inclusion in the exhibition;
- When plants must be removed after the show has finished;
- What classes are set down for exhibition;
- Staking and tying to support inflorescences;
- The type of tags that must be used and the information that must be included on them
- Invariably they will contain a statement that all plants must be in "show bench condition".

Show Bench Condition

When exhibiting at shows, remember that the viewing public have come to see well presented plants, and every effort needs to be made to present all plants in "show bench condition". *The AOC Guidelines for Judging Handbook* lists the following rules for Show Bench Condition; viz:

- The plant being exhibited should be well established in a pot, or a basket or similar container, secured to a mount, or otherwise exhibited.
- The container is to be clean or covered. If mounted, or otherwise exhibited, then it should be clean and presentable and free of weeds.
- Plants should be clean — dust wiped from leaves and dried husks removed from the pseudobulbs etc.
- Dead pseudobulbs and leaves should be carefully removed. Any trimming of damaged leaves should look as if they grew that way naturally. Excessive grooming of leaves or trimming of the leaves to reveal flowers that would otherwise be hidden will be penalised, depending on the severity of the mutilation.
- All leaves are to be clean; nor treated to produce an artificial shine.
- The plant should be clearly and correctly labeled, using a card or tag.
- The plant must be free of pests and/or diseases and show no symptoms of virus or transmissible bacterial contamination
- It is desirable that the plant and all inflorescences should not exhibit significant mechanical damage or blemish that detracts from the overall affect
- Inflorescences may be staked, if appropriate, to meet the particular needs of the genus so that it is displayed to the best advantage. The staking should be as unobtrusive as possible, and be capable of being removed during judging, if necessary, to allow for detailed evaluation. Additional staking and supports used for transportation must be removed prior to submission for judging
- Plants/inflorescences/flowers must not exhibit evidence of any attempt, other than staking, to manipulate them by use of aids such as packing material, to mechanically force the flowers to a more desirable form, or to enhance the presentation of individual flowers or their arrangement.

Preparing Plants for Exhibition

Early preparation of plants for exhibition is essential.

Staking:

Staking must be commenced early in the development of the inflorescence to achieve the best presentation of the flowers. Some tips to consider:

Do not attempt any work on your plants until mid to late morning as the inflorescences and buds will often be too brittle and buds or flowers can be easily broken off.

If the inflorescence requires a stake, try to allow the inflorescence to follow its natural inclination. To position a flower or stems to a more visually acceptable direction is quite complicated and if not done in stages may detract from the final appearance of the inflorescence and flowers. Pulling an arching or pendulous raceme upright when the flowers are partially or fully open will look unnatural, and may lead to depreciation of assessment by judges.

Try to use stakes of the same diameter and colour, preferably an inconspicuous green, and ties that also match each other and are as inconspicuous as possible. Butterfly clips, while easy to use, are not inconspicuous. Never use more ties than necessary.

Most importantly, read the show schedule for any rules referring to staking and tying of inflorescences; and comply with those rules. Clean your plant and pot: In the week before the show, prepare the plant for display. Although in most cases it is the flower quality that is being judged, the condition of the plant does affect the judge's subconscious evaluation of the flowers. A well groomed and presented plant is an excellent start to getting it noticed by the judges. Some tips to consider:

- It is probably best to start with the inflorescence, which should have all brown sheaths removed.
 - Remove all dead leaves, dried flower sheaths and dead plant material. If any leaves have black tips or unsightly damage, you can trim them to a natural leaf-tip shape. Ensure that you sterilise any scissors or secateurs used, especially if you intend to use them on more than one plant. It's a good idea to have several pairs soaking in a sterilising solution.
 - Remove any weeds that grow in the plant medium.
 - Put a covering of new medium on the top if you think it would improve the appearance.
 - Check for and remove insects and carefully spray if necessary.
 - Clean the leaves with your favourite mixture, such as lemon juice, milk, or try this one: one cup water, one tablespoon powdered milk, one tablespoon liquid dishwashing soap. Wipe on with cotton or a soft paper towel and dry with a clean piece. To remove lime deposits or resistant water spotting, try: one cup water with two tablespoons vinegar, before you shine with the above mixture. Be careful to not let any of these items get on your flowers.
 - Inspect flowers for bits of foreign matter, potting medium, webs, etc. and try gently blowing it off.
 - Note the best position for viewing the plant and insert a removable label to help you place the pot in the best orientation at set-up time.
 - Clean the outside of the pot thoroughly, or place it in a slightly larger, new pot, but, please, not a decorative pot. Some exhibitors place a layer of damp moss in the outer pot; this helps to prevent the exhibit becoming dry during the show.
- ☒
- A final tip: On the day before show set-up, give all your plants a good soaking and top dress their pots with moss if the show is to be held in an air-conditioned shopping centre, where the atmosphere is very dry.

Transport of Plants to Show

Within a few days of the show, prepare your plant for travel to the show or exhibition. In most cases the stake and ties will already be in place and you will have only to trim the ends of any ties that protrude. For travel, a more elaborate staking of the inflorescence and flowers may be necessary so that the flowers do not bump or rub anything. Sometimes a little light shredded paper will help protect them. If you have used heavier stakes for travelling, remove the heavier stakes before bringing the plant to the show bench and check that the stakes used for display are positioned to display the inflorescence and flowers to maximum advantage. Before loading your plants in the car, pack the inflorescences with soft tissue paper or florist's wrapping paper to minimise chafing by leaves etc. Use temporary stakes to support arching or pendulous spikes and wedge the pots into foam or cardboard boxes to prevent them falling over when you 'hit the brakes'. On arrival at the venue, don't forget to remove all temporary stakes, tissue paper and other grooming materials.

Security

If you are concerned about losing your plants at the end of the show or exhibition, it is a good idea to push an extra tag down into the pot with your name or use a return address sticker on the side of the pot with your name to help identify it at the end of the show.

**Noel Grundon
Atherton**

Species Identification Competition



I am making it a little more difficult this month. The only clues are that it is in two groups that I'm 'passionate' about. But which groups is the question?

Last month's mystery species was *Cattleya alaori*, a miniature sized. Hot to cool growing epiphyte from the lower montane rain-forests of SE Brazil. The species can bloom at anytime but mostly in late winter to early spring. The plants are up to 20cm tall with a single flowered inflorescence arising from a newly formed pseudobulb. The flower may be white, pale pink or lavender. It is also fragrant. **Culture:** plants do best in a bark mix in light shade with water year round. Maintain a high humidity.

Below is the calendar of venues based on last year for the 2014 species appreciation meetings. Any member who is not available to host the meeting, please contact the Secretary.

July- no meeting, Garden Expo
August - L. Beare
September - A. & M. Tymson
October - A. & A. Parkes
November - R. Hand

Native orchid species of the month

Sarcochilus hartmannii F. Muell.

Common name: Waxy *Sarcochilus*

Charles H. Hartmann, an amateur botanist, discovered this species in the ranges near Toowoomba, and until recent times rare plants still could be found in the vicinity of the railway-station at Spring Bluff. Wonder if there are any left?

Habitat and distribution: this species occurs north of the Bellinger River in NSW to west of Gympie in SE Queensland. Typically it is a lithophyte growing in humus often forming large clumps, on large rocks, on rocky cliff faces and sometimes amongst rocks and grasses in exposed situations at elevations of about 1000m.

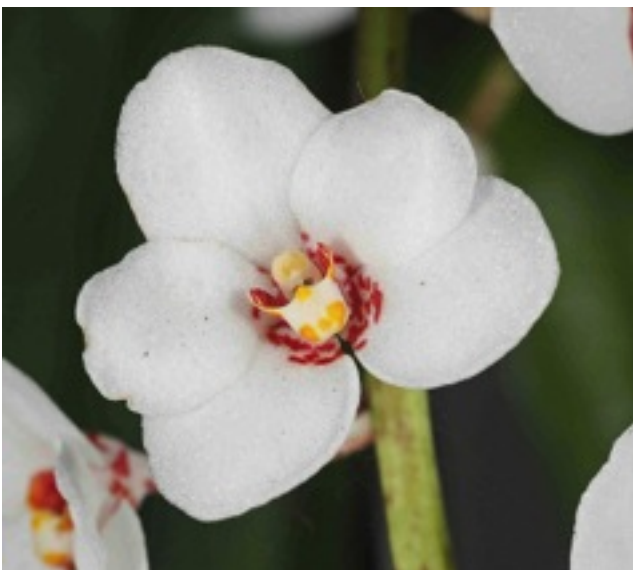
Particularly good forms are to be found in the Night Cap Ranges in NSW and in the Border Ranges in SE Queensland.

Plant growth: The growth is erect and often freely branching. Stems maybe up to 50cm tall but the plant then is no longer erect. Leaves are 4-10, linear, thick textured, channelled and up to 20cm long. Twenty-five to thirty flowers are crowded on the raceme and are up to 3cm wide, usually white with a crimson or yellow spot, sometimes with out a spot.

Cultivation: This species and hybrids are generally easily grown. It requires light shade (50%), good air movement and a free draining mix. Do not over water. As it naturally occurs at moderate altitudes, it grows and flowers more freely away from the coast. Terracotta pots can be used effectively to achieve good drainage.

Hybrids: Many very colourful hybrids have been produced in the genus and *S. hartmannii* features very prominently in these. Most hybrids are very easily grown and the growth habit is dominant with this species as a parent, producing upright racemes. Hybrids have also been produced with exotic vandaceous genera such as *Aerides*, *Ascocentrum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Renanthera*, *Rhynchostylis* and *Vanda*. The use of *Sarcochilus* in this line of breeding adds a degree of cold tolerance to the progeny

Some of its progeny are illustrated with the following images.



Sarcochilus hartmannii



Sarcochilus hartmannii



Sarco. Leanne



Sarco. Melba



Sarco. Norma



Sarco. George Colthup



Sarco. Weinhart



Sarco. Bessie X Burgundy Bubbles



Sarco. Fitzhart



Sarco. Gatial



Sarco. Melody



Sarco. Burgundy On Ice

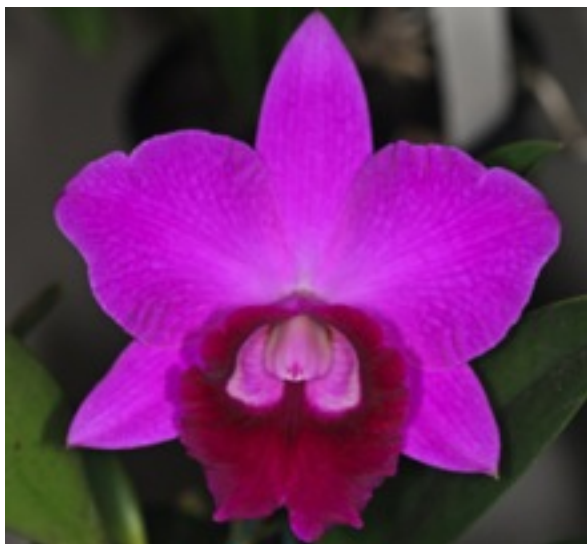


Sarco. Bessie



Sarco. Burgundy On Ice

May 2014 Cultural Meeting —selection of plants benched-hybrid names as per RHS, species names, Kew Monocot list. Grower's name in parenthesis.



Lc. Mini Purple 'Jessica'
(R. & R. Hand)



Zga. Adelaide Meadows
(M. & A. Vlekkert)



Phalaenopsis violacea fm coerulea
(J. Robbins)



Medicalcar decoratum
(N. Gould)



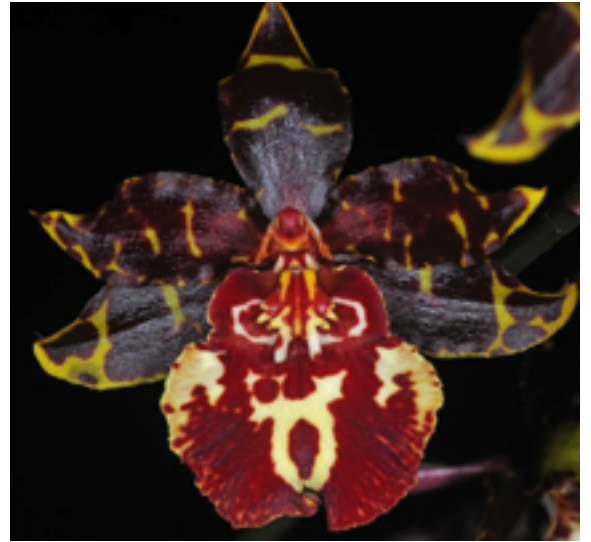
Rlc. Calico Charm
(M. & J. Rivers)



Bulbophyllum pteroglossum
(W. & J. Harris)



Den. Burana Stripes X Chao Praya Candy
(T. & F. Buckley)



Colm. Wildcat 'Leopard'
(B. & M. Morris)



Cattleya cernua
(M. & J. Rivers)



Ett. Volcano Trick
(J. Robbins)



Den. Minispec
(M. & A. Vlekkert)

Calendar of local events

Date	Event	Location	Comments
28 June	NOS cultural mtg		2 pm
4, 5, 6 July	Caboolture OS show		Set up 3 July
11, 12, 13 July	Nambour Garden Expo		Set up 10 July
26 July	NOS cultural mtg		2 pm
9, 10 Aug.	Maroochydore OS show		Set up 8th
9 Aug.	NOS species group		2 pm
23 Aug.	NOS cultural mtg		2 pm
5, 6 Sept.	NOS spring show	Uniting Church hall Nambour	Set up 4th
13 Sept.	NOS species group		2 pm
19, 20 Sept.	Noosa OS show	Cooroy RSL hall	Set up 18th
27 Sept.	NOS cultural mtg		2 pm
26, 27 Sept.	Glasshouse show		Set up 25th
4, 5 October	Bribie Is OS show	BIOS Orchid House	Set up 3 October
11 Oct.	NOS species group		2 pm
25 Oct.	NOS cultural mtg		2 pm
31 Oct, 1 Nov	NOS species show & Trade Fair	Uniting Church hall Nambour	Set up 30 Oct
8 Nov.	NOS species group		2 pm
22 Nov.	NOS cultural mtg		2 pm



Oncidium flexuosum



Cattleya trianae var. *mooreana*

Species appreciation meeting

Species tabled at the June species appreciation group meeting. Names as per Kew monocot list. (brackets = name on your label).

On a cool, overcast day, 21 people enjoyed the hospitality of Alison and Alan Parkes for an informative meeting. Cultural plant went to Rod Aisthorpe's *Restrepia ophiocéphala* and he also exhibited the plant of botanical

Acampe praemorsa (*A. papillosa*)
Ancistrochilus rothchildianus
Barkeria melanocaulon
Brassavola cordata
Bulbophyllum dearei
Cattleya trianae var *mooreana*
Cattleya walkeriana
Ceratostylis radiata (*Eria* sp.)
Cleisostoma simondii
Cleisostoma sp. Myanmar
Cymbidium mastersii
Dendrobium affine

Dendrobium aloifolium
Dendrobium atrovioleaceum
Dendrobium erectifolium
Dendrobium rigidum
Dendrobium triflorum
Dendrochilum convallariiforme
Dendrochilum javieriense
Dendrochilum saccolabium
Dendrochilum uncatum
Isabelia pulchella x 2
Laelia anceps
Laelia lobata var *alba*
Liparis latifolia
Oncidium flexuosum (*Oncidium* sp.)
Paphiopedilum insigne
Pelatantheria insectifera
Phalaenopsis bellina x 4
Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica *alba*



Ancistrochilus rothchildianus



Pomatocalpa angustifolia



Cymbidium mastersii



Vanda nana

Forthcoming major events



2016 – Sub Tropical Orchid Council Queensland

Diamond Festival of Orchids, 2016
Hosted by the Nambour Orchid Society Inc.
Saturday & Sunday June 11th & 12th

Lake Kawana Community Centre
Sportsmans Parade, Bokarina.Qld
Website: www.nambourorchidsociety.com
[Find us on Facebook](#)

Dendrobium speciosum Spectacular and Australian Orchid Species and Hybrid Show 2014

6-7th September, 57 Spooners Ave., Greehill via Kempsey. e-mail John Zietsch at anosmidnorthcoast@hotmail.com for further information.

The 18th annual Boonah Orchid Show , incorporating the 8th Qld *Sarcochilus* Festival,

18 - 19th of October 2014.

The show and festival will be held at the Boonah State High School Assembly Hall Macquarie St., Boonah. There will also be trade displays, plant sales, refreshments and other attractions.

The Scenic Rim is a very picturesque area and there are many things to see and places to visit such as wineries, historical museums, lakes and dams.

Your society is considering a bus trip to visit the show and other events. Keep those dates free!

Payments to the Society can be made by several methods: by cash; by cheque; and now you can pay by Direct Funds Transfer (DFT) from your bank account via the internet.

The society's bank details are as follows:

CBA Nambour Branch, BSB 064 424, Account No. 00909232

Please make sure that you include **your name** and **payment type** (eg 'subscription', 'potting supplies' etc.) in the appropriate fields. An e-mail to the treasurer advising that payment has been made would be appreciated.

Editors please note that all material published in these newsletters is copyright to the society and to the authors and photographers. Extracts may be used but the source must be acknowledged.

It is common courtesy to do so!