

M A R C H 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 - February



Paph. stonoi.
B & G Robertson

Directory of Office Bearers

Patron	Rob Wright	
President	Gina McMonagle	07 5439 6353
Vice President	Graham Robertson	0416 171 151
Secretary	Alison Parkes	07 54417201
Treasurer	Jean Harris	07 5445 3307
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From the Secretary

Our AGM was held at the last meeting on Saturday 27th February. We welcome Gina McMonagle as our President for 2016 and Graham Robertson as our Vice President. A thank you to Anita Vlekkert and Mal Rivers our outgoing President & Vice President who have decided to take a break.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 19th March at 2pm. This is a change of day due to our normal meeting date falling on Easter Saturday. Graham has planned a cultural afternoon so if you have any plants you need some help with please bring them along.

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 Jean at the March meeting.

Species afternoons for 2016. These get togethers are a very enjoyable 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 Rod & Jan Aisthorpe on Saturday 9th April.

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. Our society builds a display for this show, so if you haven't been to a setup of a display show, come along and give a hand, your display skills would be appreciated.

Members wishing to display plants at this show will need to have plant names in to the Secretary by Tuesday 29th April.

Alison

The STOCQ Judging Panel trainer, Mal Rivers, reports that 4 judging students sat for their initial exam in early February after having commenced their course in July 2015. All students passed and will go on to do another 12 months for their student's period, and a further 3 years before they can be upgraded to Judge status making a total of 4½ years. This is an interesting and challenging course and can be another facet of orchid involvement, preferably taken on after someone becomes familiar with orchid species and their hybrids.

Diamond Festival of Orchids

As you are all aware, our Diamond Festival of Orchids is very fast approaching and we don't want to be asking people for help at the show a few days out. I know that you are all willing to lend a hand but I would like you to think about taking on a task, no matter how small, at the Orchidfest. Think about what you can do, what you are capable of. Whether it's working a short shift in the kitchen, selling raffle tickets, or being someone who can advise people where to go to see different displays at the Orchidfest, or some other job you might be asked to do. Those who might need to sit to perform a job can be easily accommodated.

Involvement in these sorts of ventures is really rewarding. Yes, it can be tiring, but if it's broken up into shifts, it is easier. At the end of the show, we can say "I contributed to the success of the show".

Mal Rivers, Show Marshal.

A selection off plants on display - February meeting



Ctt. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'
Patrick English



Rlc. Mem Reg Dyson
Pat Mann



Gomea Alosuka 'Claire'
R & J Raabe



V. Rothschildiana
M & A Vlekkert



Van. Pine Rivers 'John'
R & R Hand



Phal. pulcherrima
B & G Robertson



C. Caudebec Candy
G & B Robertson

Judges Choice - February - *Paph. stonei*



- The limestone cliffs and hills of Sarawak are the habitat of *Paph. stonei*. It has a very limited distribution and fortunately is somewhat protected from over collection by its habitat which is not easily accessible. *Paph. stonei* has the reputation of being not easily established in cultivation and it has to be acknowledged that it is slow growing. It needs good aeration of the roots between watering. Despite growing almost on the equator where rainfall is high because of its habitat on steep rock faces with the roots only sparsely covered it should never be overwatered in cultivation. Plants can have 3 – 5 flowers and it has been used quite frequently in hybridizing . The most well know of these is probably *Paph. Lady Isabel*. G & B Robertson.

Cultural Plant owned by C. Basic



BOLTERS and RUNTS by Brian Milligan

Human nature being what it is, most of us believe that our orchids are not growing as well as they should. We might be pleased with the growth rate of a few but are less happy with all those that don't grow as well.

However, if you stop to think about it, why should all our orchids grow at the same rate? Only in the case of a batch of mericlones, which are genetically identical, should all orchids respond equally to a particular cultural regime. When it comes to seedlings, even of the same grex, we can expect to find both 'bolters' and 'runts' among the progeny, much as we would like them all to be bolters that grow rapidly and flower early.

Growers of species orchids are often encouraged to replicate the conditions under which their orchids grow in nature if they wish to grow them to their best potential. In my opinion, this information should be regarded only as a guide, particularly with regard to the temperature range to be provided and the observation of a 'rest period' when the orchid should be watered less frequently (usually during winter).

We can, in fact, grow many species orchids in cultivation far better than they grow in nature, primarily because of the law of averages. As any student of the weather knows, there is nothing more variable than the weather, especially if one lives in Melbourne. In nature species orchids must survive dry spells when the weather should be wet, and also unexpected wet periods during the supposedly "dry" season. Yes, most orchids survive these unexpected seasonal variations, but obviously they don't grow as well as in more favourable seasons. It's therefore quite reasonable that they should grow better in our temperature-controlled glasshouses, provided that we water them regularly when they are in active growth and withhold water when they are at rest.

Scientific studies of species orchids in the wild have shown that their seedlings grow much more slowly than do artificially cultivated seedlings that are watered and fertilised regularly. In fact, some species orchids in nature may take several times as long as cultivated species to reach maturity, and it has been estimated that some specimen cattleya species found in nature may be a hundred years old or more! Reasons for the slow growth of wild species include not only unfavourable weather conditions but attack by various insect pests and grazing animals, and by lack of fertiliser, which is limited to that provided by passing bird life and water draining through dead vegetable matter trapped in tree forks.

Fertilisers make a big difference to an orchid's growth rate, provided that they are applied at an appropriate concentration and at the correct period during the orchid's growth cycle. Fertiliser composition is also important. Nitrogen-rich fertilisers will promote excellent leaf growth but may retard flowering and it's generally regarded that 'balanced' fertilisers (made of a blend of chemicals that provide the orchid with appropriate levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) are best. "Weak and often" is good advice when it comes to fertilising orchids, as a grower may cause more harm than good by applying liquid fertilisers at concentrations that the plant cannot handle.

In conclusion, there are many factors that affect an orchid's growth rate, not least genetic diversity - some seedlings will grow better than others, regardless of the grower's cultural skills. Be prepared to cull some of the 'runts' from your collection each year (they take up just as much of your time as the 'bolters'), and put the space that they occupied to better use, for example, by purchasing some new hybrids or (even better) a line-bred species orchid!

Species list.

Species displayed at the weekend group meeting will be listed in next months newsletter

Species

Judges Choice - March

Phalaenopsis lindenii is endemic to the Philippines and is found at an altitude of 1500 metres in Luzon. It was named in honour of the Belgian horticulturist, Jean Jules Linden. While it is reputed to grow a little cooler than other *Phalaenopsis* species, our plant seems to have adapted to the local conditions and grows with the rest of our Phals. It is mounted on a cork slab with a small mat of sphagnum moss and gets frequent misting on hot days and less when the weather turns cooler. The mount is suspended at an angle which allows water to drain away from the crown. It is a charming miniature *Phalaenopsis* with attractively marbled foliage and a graceful curving raceme that displays up to 20 flowers that last for several weeks.

G & B Robertson

Cultural Plant

Miltonia moreliana

This species is found in Eastern Brazil, at low to moderate altitudes. I obtained this plant from a good friend about five years ago. It is growing in a mix of perlite and peat (10-1) with some coconut chips for extra moisture. It started its life with me in a small saucer, and has been gradually potted on to this large one (40cm), which it is crawling out of. I give it a small amount of Osmocote High K twice a year, and foliar fertilise once a week. It grows under 70 percent shade cloth, with solar weave on the roof over winter. Judy Robbins



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 Sportsmans 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 4 & Saturday 5 (set up Thurs. 3) 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 Peachester 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