



Nambour Orchid News

May 2014

Greetings!

Articles for the newsletter are very welcome. Please forward to the editor by post or email to nambourorchids@gmail.com by the 15th of each month. This month I am introducing a new segment, 'Native orchid of the 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

May – Wayne Harris, Gardening with orchids.

June - to be advised

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.

Judges choice, for April
Bulbophyllum grandiflorum
Owned by W. & J. Harris



First described by Blume in 1847 this species occurs in Sumatra, Sulawesi the Moluccas and New Guinea. It is a hot growing species 100 - 800m in altitude. The single flower is about 17mm long and arises on an erect to arching pedicel about 15cm tall. The flower has a rather unpleasant odor.

My plant grows in an uncovered bush house under about 70% shade in a shallow saucer with a mix of coconut chips, bark and perlite. The mix is kept constantly moist, never drying out. It is fertilised weekly.

B. burfordiense Rolfe 1901 is a synonym.

Correction: In the last newsletter I mistakenly attributed *Oncidium sphacelatum* to the genus *Gomesa*. Also note the correct spelling of *G. flexuosa*. (Ed.)

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

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Nambour, Qld 4560

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Species Identification Competition

Last month's species was *Gastrochilus retrocalla*, formerly known as *Haraella retrocalla*.

It is a miniature sized, Taiwanese endemic, epiphytic species found in old growth forests at elevations of 1000 to 2200 m and needs warm to cool conditions with even year round watering and medium bright light. It has short, leafy stems carrying distichous, fleshy, leaves. It blooms on a short, pendant, few [to 3] flowered inflorescence. Successively opening flowers occur in the late summer to early winter. Flowers are about 2 cm wide. This plant does best mounted on a piece of hard wood or tree fern but a pot with a bark mix will do if you are careful with the watering.



This month's species has had several name changes. What are the other genera to which it has been assigned? What are its origins?

Send your answers to the Editor via our e-mail or give them to him at the next cultural meeting. Please note that you have up to two weeks after the cultural meeting to submit your answers.

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.

June - TBA

July - no meeting, Garden Expo

August - L. Beare

September - A. & M. Tymson

October - A. & A. Parkes

November - R. & R. Hand

Rod Aisthorpe provided the following notes about his cultural plant of the month at the April species meeting.

This orchid is one of a family of about 60 species in the genus *Aerangis* with a range of habitat throughout Madagascar, Eastern Africa in the tropics and one in Sri Lanka. Most *Aerangis* and their close relatives in *Angraecum* bear white flowers, carry a long spur and are perfumed at night. This is to attract their pollinators which are moths. *Aerangis* prefers intermediate to warm conditions and high humidity. They like to be well watered during the growing season and slightly drier for two or three months during winter.

They also like dense shade. *Aerangis ellisii* (syn. *A. platyphylla*) is one of the largest if not the largest and my plant was purchased from Rosella Orchids in July 2006 in a tube. At present it is growing in a *Vanda* plastic basket and hangs under 60% shade which is covered in winter. The mix is bark and coconut husk with moss growing over it. This is a monopodial orchid with 7 leaves 200 mm long by 43 mm wide. It has two flower spikes 55 mm long, one carrying 14 flowers and the other 13 flowers all of which are open at the same time. The spur on these flowers is 200 mm long. This plant has survived temperatures down to zero degrees C and of course summer temperatures to whatever we get.

Native orchid of the month

Dendrobium speciosum Sm., Exotic Bot. 1: 17, t. 10 (1804).

synonym: *Thelychiton speciosa* (Sm.) M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones (pars)

Dendrobium speciosum was discovered at Port Jackson in 1880 but was first described in England by 1804 by Sir James Edward Smith from a specimen sent to him by Surgeon General J. White. It grows east of the Great Divide from Cooktown in far north Queensland to Genoa in Victoria near the NSW border.

Common names: King orchid, rock orchid.

As the name suggests, this is the king of Australian epiphytic orchids and deservedly so. It grows into large clumps, sometimes entirely encircling the trunk of its host tree. The canes can be up to 1m long, and the racemes up to 60cm long bearing scores of small creamy-yellow flowers, each about 30mm across. The plant also occur on cliffs and on the ground on rocky outcrops, also growing into large clumps when allowed to.

Locally they tend to colonise brush box trees in the wet sclerophyll forest, and strangler figs and other large trees in the rainforest.

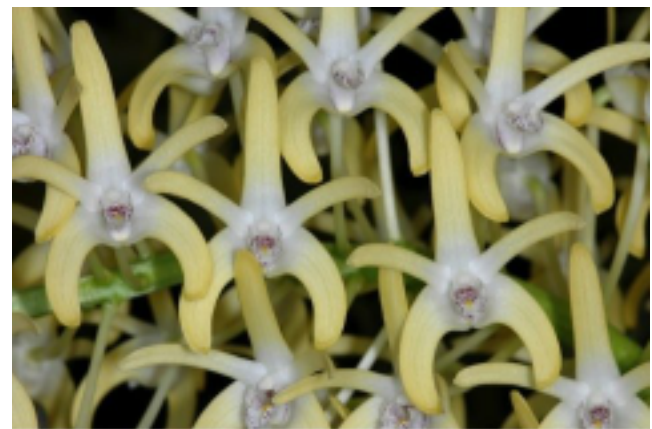
There are a number of King Orchid species, subspecies, and varieties but in our area the plant commonly referred to as "King Orchid" is either *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* or *D. speciosum* var. *grandiflorum*. A table showing the current nomenclature and synonyms is presented at the end of this article.

Dendrobium speciosum var. *hillii* Masters

This variety has a range from south of the Hawkesbury River in NSW through to near Crow's Nest in Southern Queensland. Typically the plants can be very large with pseudobulbs up to 75cm tall. Racemes are variable up to 70cm long and with up to 250 flowers that are mostly small and white to cream in colour. They may be well spaced on the raceme or densely packed. In its typical form var. *hillii* has numerous upright roots up to 30cms through the plant mass, which effectively act as a litter trap.



Dendrobium speciosum on rocks, Girraween



Dendrobium speciosum var. *grandiflorum*

Dendrobium speciosum var. *grandiflorum*
F.M.Bailey

This variety ranges from the Mt Mee - Crow's Nest area to Mt Morgan and inland to Monto and Cania Gorge. Its southern range overlaps with that of var. *hillii* where the flowers are smaller. This species is very variable with long pseudobulbs up to 95cm with racemes of up to 150 flowers that are sparse to densely clustered. The flowers are small to some of the largest in the species, pale yellow to deep golden in colour.

Hybridisation

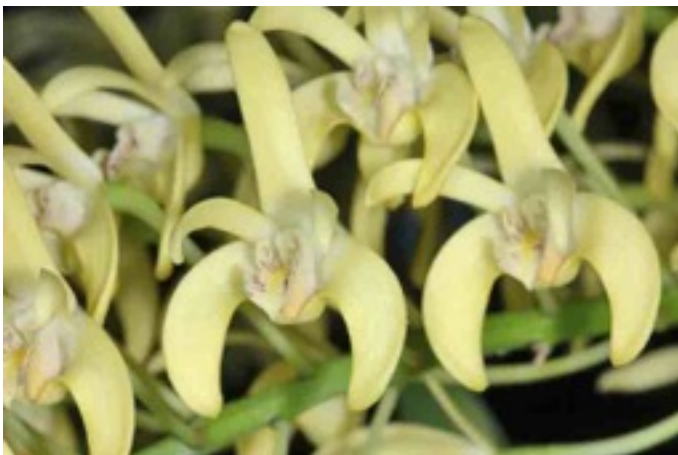
Dendrobium speciosum in the wild is known to hybridise with a number of other native dendrobiums in particular *D. kingianum* (*Den. X delicatum*) and *D. gracilicaule* (*Den. X gracillimum*). Both of the other two species are a common component in flora of our region. However selective breeding programs have produced show bench quality plants.

Without doubt, this species is the most important parent in the breeding of Australian native hybrids. Some of these are illustrated below.

Dendrobium X delicatum occurs from the Hunter River in central - eastern NSW to the Blackall Ranges in SE Queensland. It grows on rocks or cliff faces in open forest country of the ranges but is quite rare. It is a hybrid between *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* and *D. kingianum*.



Dendrobium X delicatum



Dendrobium X gracillimum is a hybrid between *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* and *D. gracilicaule*. This hybrid is also uncommon but widespread in the wild and occurs from near Maleny in SE Queensland and Wauchope in NSW. It has a preference for rainforest trees on the ranges at moderately low altitudes.

Aboriginal usage

Stems were beaten to a pulp to break up the fibre before being cooked on hot stones. The starch can then be washed out. The starch can also be used to fix paints.



Den. Australian Artist



Den.Jayden



Den. Hilda Poxon



Den.Elegant Heart

2014 Schedule of local events

Date	Function	Location	Notes
7 June	STOCQ & OQI mtg Rockhampton	Rockhampton North Retirement Village,19 Schuffenhauer St	10.30 am start
28 June	NOS cultural mtg		2pm
4, 5, 6 July	Caboolture OS show		Set up 3 July
11, 12, 13 July	Nambour Garden Expo		Set up 10th
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
11 Oct.	NOS species group		2 pm
4, 5 October	Bribie Is OS show	BIOS Orchid House	Setup 3 October
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

The 18th annual Boonah Orchid Show , incorporating the 8th Qld *Sarcochilus* Festival, is scheduled for the 18th and 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!

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.

April 2014 Popular vote & judges choices - hybrid names as per RHS, species names, Kew Monocot list

Cattleya and alliance hybrid		Name	Grower
	1st	<i>Rlc</i> Brunswick Jem	M. & J. Rivers
	2nd	<i>Slc.</i> Precious Jewel x <i>C.</i> Caudebec	G.& B. Robertson
	3rd	<i>C.</i> Portia	P. Mann
	Judges choice	<i>Slc.</i> Precious Jewel x <i>C.</i> Caudebec	G.& B. Robertson
Oncidium and alliance hybrid			
	1st	<i>Onc.</i> Wildcat	G.& B. Robertson
	2nd	<i>Mtssa</i> Aztec x ilt. Castanea	M. & A. Viekkert
	2rd	<i>Rodrumnia</i> Deb's Delight	J. Robbins
	Judges choice	<i>Mtssa</i> Aztec x ilt. Castanea	M. & A. Viekkert
Vanda/Phalaenopsis			
	1st	<i>V.</i> Leurcharusmee	T. Buckley
	2nd	<i>V.</i> Susan Ong 'Ah Mooi'	R. Hand
	3rd	<i>V.</i> Munuvadee x <i>V.</i> coerulea	J. Robbins
	Judges choice	<i>Ards</i> Kasorn's Orchid Tactic	J. Robbins
Dendrobium hybrid			
	1st	<i>Den.</i> Sophie Bonnie	J. Robbins
	2nd	<i>Den.</i> Chela Colours	N. & E. Walker
	3rd	<i>Den.</i> Touch of Gold	C. Alexander
	Judges choice	<i>Den.</i> Touch of Gold	C. Alexander
Miscellaneous			
	1st	<i>Z.</i> Arther Elle 'Essendon'	M. & A. Viekkert
	2nd	<i>Coel.</i> William Micholtz	W. Letcher
	3rd	<i>Z.</i> Port Vincent x <i>Z.</i> Kiwi Auckland	A. Shield
	Judges choice	<i>Coel.</i> William Micholtz	W. Letcher
Paph./Phrag. hybrid & species			
	1st	<i>Paph.</i> Jade Dragon	G.& B. Robertson
	2nd		
	3rd		
	Judges choice	<i>Paph.</i> Jade Dragon	G.& B. Robertson
Exotic species			
	1st	<i>Liparis viridiflora</i>	W. & J. Harris
	2nd	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	J. Robbins
	3rd	<i>Bulbophyllum grandiflorum</i>	W. & J. Harris
	Judges choice	<i>Bulbophyllum grandiflorum</i>	W. & J. Harris

Australian native hybrids			
	1st	<i>Den.</i> Fantasy Land	J. Robbins
	3rd		
	Judges choice	<i>Den.</i> Fantasy Land	J. Robbins
Australian native species			
	1st	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	A. Parkes
	2nd	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	A. Parkes
	3rd	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	A. Parkes
	Judges choice	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>	A. Parkes

Novice			
	1st	<i>Coelogyne trinervis</i>	A. Mooney
	2nd		
	2nd		
	Judges choice	<i>Coelogyne trinervis</i>	A. Mooney
Foliage			
	1st	<i>Begonia 'Iron Cross'</i>	N. & E. Walker
	2nd	<i>Fittonia</i> sp.	N. & E. Walker
	3rd	<i>Begonia 'Indian Summer'</i>	N. & E. Walker
	Judges choice	<i>Fittonia</i> sp.	N. & E. Walker

Prize winners at the Gympie show. Congratulations to those who participated.

J. Robbins	1st	<i>Rlc. Mem. Anna Balmoers</i>
	3rd	<i>Ards. Kasorns Orchid Tactic</i>
	3rd	<i>Rlc. Chunyea</i>
B. Letcher	2nd	<i>Laelia anceps</i>
P. Mann	2nd	<i>Cym. Little Ruby</i>
	3rd	<i>Cym. Alice Williams</i>
G & B Robertson	1st	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>
	2nd	<i>Paphiopedilum liemianum</i>
	1st	<i>Psychopsis papilio</i>
	3rd	<i>Paphiopedilum Maudiae</i>
	2nd	<i>Rlc. Lakehaven Pearl</i>
	2nd	<i>C. Red Berries</i>
	2nd	<i>Rlc. Lisa Taylor Gallis</i>
	3rd	<i>C. Jewel Chest</i>
	3rd	<i>Den. Burana Stripe</i>
R. Hand	2nd	<i>Bulbophyllum grandiflorum</i>
M & J. Rivers	3rd	<i>Cattleya cernua</i>
R & J. Aisthorpe	2nd	<i>V. Khun Nok & Rhy. coelestis</i>
A & A. Parkes	1st	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>
A & A. Parkes	2nd	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>

The May species appreciation meeting

The May get together was held at Jean and Wayne's house in the garage in anticipation of a damp afternoon. All was well, however, and 13 people enjoyed a pleasant and cosy afternoon!

The following 24 species were on show:

Brassavola nodosa, *Bulbophyllum rothchildianum*, *B. antenniferum*, *B. corolliferum*, *B. fritillariflorum*, *B. grandiflorum*, *B. medusae*, *Cattleya cernua*, *Coelia macrostachya*, *Dendrobium erectifolium*, *D. lampongensis*, *D. nakahari*, *D. trinervium*, *Gastrochilus obliquus*, *G. retrocallus*, *Laelia autumnalis*, *Maxillaria cucullata*, *Myoxanthus lonchophyllis*, *Neolauchia pulchella*, *Phalaenopsis lowii*, *Pleurothallis allenii*, *Robiquetia mooreana*, *Scaphosepalum swertifolium*, *Stelis nanegalensis* (syn. *S. vulcanica*), *Vanda coerulea*.

The 'plant of most interest' went to Rod and Jan Aisthorpe's *Robiquetia mooreana*, the 'cultural plant' of the month went to our *Dendrobium nakahari*.

Robiquetia mooreana is confined to the island of New Guinea and surrounding provincial islands, extending from New Britain through to West Irian. It is an epiphyte of the lowlands up to about 100m. It is a monopodial species with a pendant stem which can reach about 70 cm but more commonly is about 10-20cm. The stem rarely branches. Leaves are few (3-10), 8-20cm long, 18-30mm wide, stiff and leathery. The inflorescence is usually single, emerging from the stem near the lower leaves, pointing stiffly downwards, 10-20cm long with a dense raceme of up to 70 very crowded flowers which are long lasting. Flowers do not open widely and are about 5 x 5mm with along spur to 7-10mm. Colour is usually dark red with green tips but pale pink and white forms are known.

Cultivation is best on a slab with high humidity, daily watering and light shading. High light intensity is needed for good flowering. Rod's plant was growing in a slatted pot with pine bark and a



Some exhibits from the April cultural meeting



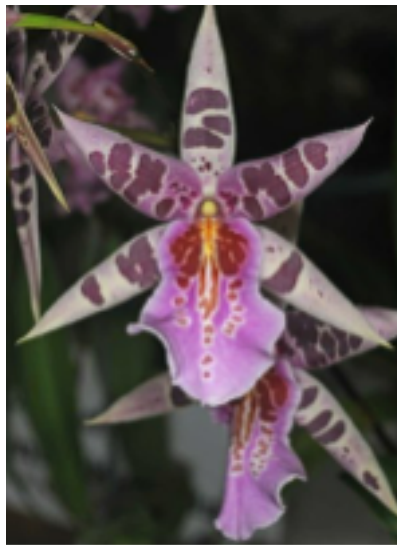
Ards Kasorn's Orchid Tactic



Coel. Mem. William Micholitz



Den. Fantasy Land



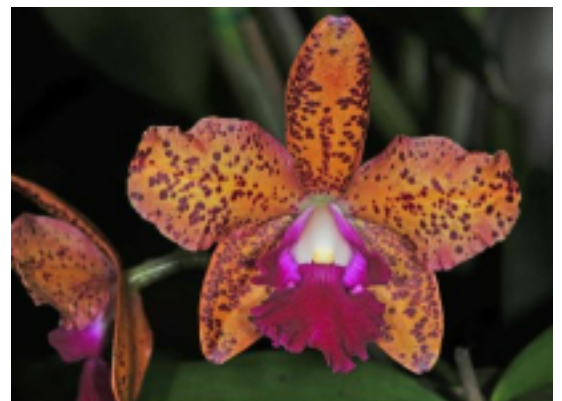
Mtssa Aztec x Milt. Castanea



Pterostylis baptistii



Den. Touch of Gold



Slc. Precious Jewel x C. Caudebec

Future major conferences & shows



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

2014 - 49th Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference & Show, Atherton

Queen's Birthday weekend - June 6 to 9 2014 Early registration \$160 Closes March 31/2014. Late registration \$200 closes June 2/2014 Registration includes ALL meals except breakfast from Friday evening to Sunday evening, and free entry to conference show lectures and sales areas. (that's 5 meals and 4 smokos). Sellers will be offering an extensive range of orchids, allied plants and growing aids.

Enquire now for further information, and to go on the mailing list - contact: Conference Secretary, PO BOX 427, Atherton, QLD, 4883 Email – ebatey1@bigpond.com

2015 - 1st AOC/TQOC Conference, Australia. It was agreed to combine both conferences TQOC and AOC into one major event to take place in Mackay, Qld, 16 -23 September, 2015. for more information: PO Box 776, Mckay, Qld 4740; phone 0428 198960; e-mail info@orchidsinparadise.com.au

Annual subscriptions are now due and payable. You can pay these 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.