

S E P T E M B E R 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 - August



C. Mark Jones x C. Katherine Clarkson  
Owned by Judy Robbins

## Directory of Office Bearers

Patron	Rob Wright	
President	Gina McMonagle	5439 6353
Vice President	G Robertson	5442 1288
Secretary	Alison Parkes	54417201
Treasurer	Jean Harris	5445 3307
Editor	Richard Hand	5442 2879

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From the Secretary

What a great Spring show we had, a big thank you to all those members who assisted over the weekend, we couldn't have done it without you. Our numbers for the two days were up on previous years, and those plant sales, wow where do all the plants go too. A great effort from the people who spent most of their time working on the sales area it was very busy most of the two days.

**Shows to come.** Glasshouse Country Orchid Society show, set up Thurs. 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept, members please have your plant names to Alison by Monday night 19<sup>th</sup> and advise which plants are Australian Natives for the labels. Set up for our display will be from 3pm on Thurs. for members.

**Species & Trade show** set up Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October from 12.30pm. Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Ave. Nambour. Members do their own labels for a benched show



The things we do to our orchids to keep them under control



Our display



## SPECIES AND HYBRIDS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

by Brian Milligan

To those who know, it's obvious. But not all growers appreciate the difference. Loosely speaking, species orchids are native orchids that grow (or grew) wild somewhere in the world. A hybrid is the result of breeding one orchid with a different orchid, be they species or hybrids. The process is usually referred to as hybridising or 'crossing'.

As an example, 'crossing' *Cattleya maxima* (1<sup>st</sup> photo) with another species *Cattleya*, *C. intermedia*, (middle photo) gave the first *Cattleya* hybrid, *C. Dominiana* (end photo) in 1859. Intergeneric hybrids are produced by crossing different genera. For example, crossing *Laelia anceps* and *Cattleya intermedia* (both species) gave the intergeneric hybrid *Laeliocattleya Interceps*, abbreviated Lc. Interceps.



Species orchids are often crossed with another of the same species with the expectation of obtaining improved flowers. *Dendrobium kingianum* is a good example. Sometimes one flower is pollinated using pollen from another flower on the same plant (called 'selfing', and often written 'X self'). More common is 'out-crossing', when the pollen is taken from a flower on a different plant of *D. kingianum*. The resultant seedlings are NOT hybrids, and are still named *D. kingianum*.

The definition of species orchids as orchids that grow wild in Nature is not strictly correct, because hybrids also grow wild occasionally. These are 'natural' hybrids, that have resulted from cross-pollination of species orchids by 'wayward' insects. These natural hybrids have an X in their names. Examples of natural hybrids among our Australian native orchids are *Dendrobium X ruppianum* (*D. ruppianum* X *D. speciosum*) and *Pterostylis X ingens* (*Ptst. nutans* X *Ptst. falcata*).

When writing the names of species orchids, only the first letter of the genus should have a capital, e.g. *Laelia anceps*. The name should also be italicised, or if that is not possible, it should be underlined. All words in a hybrid name should begin with a capital letter, e.g. *Macellanara* Pagan Love Song 'Ruby Charles'; only the genus should be italicised or underlined. If everyone did this, we could all tell the difference between species and hybrid orchids.

All species orchids should be entered in the SPECIES ANY GENUS class at monthly meetings and shows. The only exceptions are where there are separate species classes, e.g. *Paphiopedilum* Species or Australian Native Species.

Article courtesy of Orchid Society's Council of Victoria

GROWING ORCHIDS ON MOUNTS by Brian Milligan (Photos added to original article)

Most of the epiphytic orchid species in our collections grow in nature with their roots partly or fully attached to tree branches or trunks. Why then, do we try to grow them in pots? Mainly for convenience – most orchids on mounts need to be watered daily during their growing season, whereas those in pots may be left for two or three days between watering's in summer and for a week or two in winter before they need to be watered again. But there are disadvantages in trying to grow some species orchids in pots; it's very easy to rot their roots by keeping the potting mix too wet, especially when the orchids in its natural dormant season and its roots are incapable of transferring the moisture to the rest of the plant. Those species with long dormant periods, such as *Barkerias*, *Euchile citrina*, *Laelia speciosa* and some *Oncidium*s, grow much better on mounts; cultivation in pots often leads to slow decline unless great care is taken to water only when absolutely necessary.

Tree branches are the natural hosts for many orchids, so it seems logical to use tree branches for mounts. In nature, however, many orchid species prefer particular tree species and it follows that these orchids may not do as well on some mounts as they do on others. Unfortunately, in many instances, especially with exotic species, the natural host is unprocurable here in Australia, so we must make do with branches from our common garden trees. Generally, the branches of rough-barked hardwood trees, such as oak, casuarina, peach, apricot etc., are most suitable. Orchid roots seem to cling better to rough bark than to smooth, and rot-resistant hardwood is more durable than many softwoods, such as pine. Unfortunately, no timber mount lasts forever and eventually the orchid will need to be remounted when the mount sheds its bark, rots or is attacked by borers or other insects. Some growers dip their mounts periodically in insecticide solution to deter insect attack.



*Cattleya* on a tree at the home of W & J Harris



*Cattleya pumila* mounted on cork



*Dendrobium tetragonum* growing on Callistemon

Many alternatives to timber, cork or tree fern mounts have been tried as orchid mounts. Examples include slate, sandstone, upturned terra cotta pots and terra cotta agricultural pipes. One ploy to avoid the need for frequent watering is to mount the orchid on a terra cotta pipe blocked at one end by a suitable plug. The pipe is then hung from the shade-house roof and (during the summer months) filled with water. Slow diffusion of water through the porous pipe keeps the orchid's roots damp and also helps to maintain a more humid environment

I've seen this method used for growing the Australian thumb-nail orchid, *Dendrobium linguiforme*, but don't know how well it works in the long term.

When tying orchids to mounts, it's important that the plant be secured firmly so that the developing root tips are not damaged when the plant is moved during handling or by wind. The plant should always be placed directly on the mount, never with a layer of moss between the two. A thin layer of moss may be placed over the roots to conserve moisture but the new roots seem to attach themselves faster to the mount if no moss is used (assuming that you can water the plant daily).

Nylon fishing line is often used to secure an orchid to its mount. It must be pulled tight enough to fasten the plant to its mount firmly but not so tight as to cut the pseudobulbs or roots. Copper wire is sometimes used for large plants. I prefer to use plastic-covered wire because it is less likely to damage the plant, even when pulled tight. Yes, I agree that it's unsightly, but it can be removed within a year or two, as soon as the roots have taken a good hold of the mount. If you are unable to water your mounted orchids often enough to maintain good growth, try placing their mounts on the bench rather than hanging them. Hanging mounts seem to dry out twice as rapidly as those lying flat. Mounted orchids are best fertilised by dipping the entire mount in a dilute solution of liquid fertiliser. I dip my mounts in a very weak solution stored in a 40-litre plastic bin in my glasshouse on most days during the growing season.

A recent innovation, which I first heard of about a year ago, is the use of recycled rubber floor matting for orchid mounts. These mats are made of shredded car tyre rubber which has been bonded together to form a water-permeable mesh about 12 mm thick. The matting holds a lot of water when first wet but drains and dries quickly because none is absorbed by the rubber itself. These mats are not cheap (about as expensive as natural cork) but have the advantage that they should be almost indestructible, being resistant both to decay and to attack by insect pests. Mounts can be cut to size with a pruning saw and drilled like tree branches to attach wire hangers. They have a very coarse surface, to which most orchid roots readily attach themselves. Orchids growing successfully for me on rubber mounts include *Dendrobium loddigesii*, *D. schneiderae*, *Ornithidium sophronitis*, *Encyclia polybulbon*, *Gomesa echinata*, *Zygostates grandiflora* and *Polystachya pubescens*.

[More from The Show](#) (Photos contributed by Charlie McMonagle)

Champion Specimen *Cym.* Dr. Len owned by  
D & L Lee - Noosa





*Dendrobium speciosum* - Champion Orchid, Champion Aust.Native, Champion Species owned by M & A Vlekkert - Nambour



*Paphiopedilum malipoense* owned by J Robertson



Reserve Champion Winner J Evans with President Gina McMonagle



*Lycaste* James Miller owned by P Henssler



Champion Foliage -*Anthurium* Black Queen owned by K & R Gowlett

## AUGUST MEETING



### Judges Choice.

C. Mark Jones 'SVO' HCC/AOS X C. Katherine Clarkson HCC/AOS I purchased this plant as a small seedling from Rosella Orchids at the Gympie Orchid Show two years ago. This is the first time it has flowered and is still quite a small plant. It is growing in my standard Cattleya mix of perlite and peat (12-1) with small amounts of bark, charcoal and diatomite. I add a small amount of osmocote High K twice a year, use various foliar fertilisers once a week, and spray insecticides and fungicides occasionally, or when needed. The pot is clipped on the northern wall of the shadehouse, (run out of room on the benches), with 70 percent shade cloth on the roof and 50 percent on the sides. I cover the roof with solar weave over winter, as a rough guide I put it on around Mother's Day, and remove it just after Father's Day.  
Judy Robbins



*Rlc.* Cherise Nishioka - B & M Morris

### Novice Judges Choice

Ctt. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'  
Perfumed flower that flowers twice per year. Potted in bark and a small amount of charcoal and fed with liquid orchid food and slow release fertiliser. Blossom booster is used when the buds are first forming. Plant is very hardy and I purchased it over 20+ years ago. It's grown under 50% shade cloth and I periodically rotate plants to get sun on all sides.

Patrick English



*Dendrobium tetragonum*  
W & J Harris

**Species group.**

Plants tabled at the September get together held at the home of Charlie & Gina McMonagle

*Bulbophyllum lasiochilum*, *Bulbophyllum saurocephalum*, *Bulbophyllum schillerianum*, *Cattleya aurantiaca* Yellow & Red, *Cattleya caulescens*, *Cattleya jongheana*, *Cattleya loddigesii*, *Cattleya walkeriana*, *Coelogyne tomentosa*  
*Cymbidium lowianum*, *Dendrobium bilobum*, *Dendrobium discolour*, *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum*, *Dendrobium macrophyllum*, *Dendrobium nobile* var x 4, *Dendrobium tenellum*, *Dendrobium teretifolium*  
*Dendrobium tetragonum* x 2, *Dendrobium triflorum*, *Dendrochilum yuccifolium*, *Epidendrum centropetalum*  
*Mormolyca ringens*, *Octomeria gracilis*, *Paphiopedilum tranlienianum*, *Phalaenopsis equestris*, *Phragmipedium pearcei*,  
*Pleurothallis matudana*, *Vanda coerulescens*, *Vanda denisoniana*, *Vanda tricolor* x 2



Judges choice - *Epidendrum centropetalum* owned by Richard Hand

I have owned this plant for several years and it grows in a net pot with plantlets growing around the outside. It is watered frequently in dry weather and not as much in the winter months. I use Peters fertiliser. In Woombye, it grows in between where the 50% and the 70% shadecloth meet. I think 70% fully would be too much shade. This plant is found in Nicaragua, Cost Rica and Panama, as an epiphyte found on montane slopes facing the Pacific Ocean at elevations of 1000-4000m. I have to give credit to Mal Rivers as his advice and mentoring has resulted in such good results.

Cultural Plant- *Dendrobium bilobum* owned by Bill Letcher

*Den. bilobum* is found in coastal New Guinea and south as far as Fiji up to elevations of 1500 m. as a warm growing plant. This means that it is amenable to culture in subtropical Qld.

I acquired the plant many years ago, from where I don't recall. For the last few years it has been grown in a mesh pot in a medium bark, charcoal and perlite mix. Most days it gets splashed with water but will grow with just normal watering and fertilised once a week with all the other plants. It is hung so that the long canes can hang down as nature intended not staked upright as some people think that most orchids should be.

Because the canes are thin the water storage of this plant is limited therefore one has to make sure that it's canes do not start to shrivel due to dehydration. I grow it hanging above the bulbophyllums which are watered every couple of days so it gets watered with them. This plant is best grown for its foliage as the flowers are only 10 mm. across. Because of its foliage it is one of my favourite orchids. It is closely related to the Australian *Den. Malbrowonii*. I had a lovely piece of this growing well for years but soon after I broke the plant up for repotting all divisions subsequently died. Therefore, I am not sure if this is the same case for *Den. bilobum* as I have never divided it. Well worth having if you find one for sale.







# SPECIES ORCHIDS OF THE WORLD

## ORCHID SHOW & TRADE FAIR 2016

*Nambour Orchid Society Inc.*

**UNITING CHURCH HALL  
CORONATION AVE.  
NAMBOUR**

*(Parking off Donaldson Road)*

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 8.30am – 4pm  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 8.30am – 2pm**

***Open Benched Orchid Show***

***Plus Vendors-:***

***Robertson Orchids – Orchid Species Plus- Aranbeem  
Orchids – Darryl Banks Orchids - Woolf Orchidculture  
Rolin Farms Orchids - Orchidaceous Supplies***

**Refreshments available**

**Admission: \$3.00**

*Show Dates 2016 – NOS commitment*

Date & Show	Location
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
<b>Fri 23rd &amp; Sat 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Glasshouse Country Orchid Show</b>	<b>Beerwah Community Hall, Peachester Road, Beerwah</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
<b>Saturday 8 &amp; Sunday 9</b> Hervey Bay Orchid Show	PCYC O'Rourke Street, Pialba
<b>Sat.15 &amp; Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> (Set up Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.)</b> <b>Bribie Island Orchid Show</b>	<b>The Orchid House 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Bribie Island</b>
<b>Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sun. 16<sup>th</sup></b> Boonah Orchid Show	Boonah High School Boonah
<b>Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; Sun 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Orchid Species Society Show	Auditorium Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
<b>Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> Set up Thurs. 27<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Nambour Orchid Species Show &amp; Trade Fair</b>	<b>Uniting Church Hall</b> <b>Coronation Avenue, Nambour</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. (Set up Fri 4<sup>th</sup>)</b> <b>Pumicestone Orchid Show</b>	<b>CT Williams Hall, Caboolture Showgrounds</b>