



# Nambour Orchid News.

May 2020

## April flowers in the green house

This autumn season has certainly been a good one for the orchids with many spikes appearing especially on *Dendrobium* species. I have provided images of some of the more interesting flowers. **Wayne.**



*Bulbophyllum rothschildianum*



*Dendrobium mannii*



*Dendrobium taylori*



*Dendrobium erectifolium*



*Dendrobium lankaviense*



*Bulbophyllum cominsii*



## Vale Robert Wright 1925-2020

In early 2005 when I was researching past members of the Orchid Society to send invitations for our 50th anniversary celebrations, I came across Rob Wright in the records.

As he was an inaugural member he was invited and accepted the invitation to attend as our Guest and cut the cake at the celebrations at our Spring show in September

In 2012 Rob and his wife Margie attended our January meeting and asked for an application to re-join the society. We learned that Rob & Margie originally owned a nursery and were very involved in the community and were plant lovers of all kinds, especially Orchids & Foliage.

Rob often expressed regret at having let his membership lapse for so many years and it was great to see the pleasure he got from his involvement.

In 2015 at our AGM the Society was in a position where we required a new Patron, so we approached Rob who was delighted to be asked to fill the role. He did so with great enthusiasm and gained a lot of pleasure from being involved at meetings and shows.

Rob's failing eyesight did not allow him to participate in the building of displays at shows, but whenever there was a show, he always rang me to say Alison come and get whatever plants you need to put in the show. He was a very gentle and generous person and insisted on donating a Patrons prize at each show, and then with guidance chose the best Novice plant in the show.

When Rob had to move from home to Sundale nursing home due to his health, he was unable to attend but Margie kept him up to date with the happenings of the society.

I was privileged to be invited as one of ten people due to Covid 19 restrictions allowed to attend his funeral. The family did him proud on Friday 8th May with a beautiful farewell live streamed to all those who were unable to attend.

Rob passed away one month short of his 95th birthday.

RIP Rob. You will be missed.

Alison Parkes

### Secretary news May:

With a three stage plan to map the countries way out of Covid 19 now in place, hopefully it will not be too long before we can get back to meetings.

Not a lot to report in the Secretary news with no meetings and shows, but I have heard of a couple of members who have used the time to become a little bit shall we say tech savvy!! by sending emails with attachments and photos with text. Well done to those I have heard about.

A big thank you to all the members who have contributed so far. Keep your photos and articles coming. This is a great flowering time of the year so there should be plenty to share.

**Please include the name of your plant with the Photo for inclusion in the newsletter.**

You will notice the shows calendar has disappeared for now from the back page. It will be reinstated when we get to the other side of Covid -19.

Members who have not paid their 2020 subscriptions can do so via Direct Deposit. There are still quite a few who are not financial at this stage. Bank details will remain on the newsletter.

**Thank you to those who have paid since last newsletter, if you are not sure weather you are financial please contact me to check.**

## President's Report

We are almost at the middle of the year and what an odd time so far, with the restrictions in place here in our country to minimise the effects of the virus that has caused so much heartbreak all over the world. We can be very thankful that so far, Australia has escaped the terrible statistics that we are hearing about daily. I hope that all our members are managing to find plenty of tasks to fill each day. We have had lots of uninterrupted time to garden, attend to orchids and other activities. As a result of the work, the trips to the dump with a trailer load of garden waste has been our weekly excursion highlight! Hopefully, we will continue to see an easing of the lockdown requirements and while this may be some time, we can be optimistic about a return to some normality in time.

Meanwhile, keep in mind the photo competition and items of interest for the newsletter.

And the usual from Roger Rankin. **“Orchid spikes are like a piece of barley sugar: a bit twisted, quite brittle but delightfully sweet”** Gina

### *Pterostylis baptistii*

This terrestrial orchid is distributed in Eastern Australia from Queensland through NSW to Victoria. It has the largest flower in this genus, having one flower on each stem which grows up to 40cm. This plant is growing in a polystyrene container with holes in the bottom covered with very large gravel which is then covered with fly screen mesh.

Growing medium is made up from different grades of sand and leaf mould sieved.

Six tubers were planted last autumn and were allowed to dry back during summer.

When they started emerging after a light watering a layer of sieved leaf mould and a sprinkling of sheep manure was spread over them

There are now 25 plants in this box, only 10 are flowering size, the height of flowering plants vary from 43cm. to 50cm.

These are controlled watered and under cover. **Rod**



**Delwyn** sent in the following link, Very good post for beginners

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1418058205148122/permalink/2756934177927178/>

## For Sale

Swagman 16 litre rechargeable 12volt sprayer with wheels \$70. Phone Tom 54490506.



## An agriculturalist's entry into growing Phalaenopsis

Ongoing medical issues over a number of years precipitated leaving behind a career lecturing in horticulture. Commercial honey production, pollination of tree crops, marketing of honey, and dabbling in cattle breeding became our focus for a time until these activities were curtailed on health grounds.

An initial gift of a *Phalaenopsis amabilis* was housed along with several other orchid genera in a standard domestic weld mesh shade house covered with medium density shade cloth. The *Phalaenopsis* collection has since grown to fifty as a consequence of rescuing a few 'near dead' from a Bunnings markdown trolley along with purchases from Robertson Orchids Woombye and Orchids Mackay at Mackay.

It wasn't long before the growing environment in the original shade house was found to be less than suitable to grow *Phalaenopsis*. After researching Australian and International orchid society technical notes and publications, consulting local orchid growers for their experiences, a 6 m x 1.5 m weld mesh shade house was purchased.

The roof is permanently covered with solar weave and overlaid with medium density black shade cloth which also covers all four sides of the structure. The structure was positioned on the only available environmentally friendly site giving some protection from the hot westerly sun and east/south easterly winds. The shade house sits on a brick base with the internal pathway covered in 100 mm of wood chip. A single line of overhead misters is positioned internally under the roof.



Overhead misters or a battery-operated mister drawing water from a bucket are used to drop ambient temperatures from the high 30's to below 30 deg C. Troughs filled with water sit on the floor underneath the orchids to increase humidity.

Anthuriums grown under the benches assist with maintaining a humid environment, along with misting and watering down the wood chip on the floor. All *Phalaenopsis* are hung from under the bench during the months of Nov- March providing a better temperature/humidity environment.

Light levels are measured and adjusted by adding extra shade cloth or removing same to achieve the recommended light levels 10,000- 15,000 lux. This has been a very hit and miss affair but to date all *Phalaenopsis* have managed to grow and flower reasonably well. There is always the concern that the environment is too dark.

Our experience has shown the growth parameters of temperature, light and humidity are extremely difficult to keep within acceptable ranges for growth and flowering in this type of structure and climate.

Potting mixes have varied (by deliberate experimentation) from single charcoal or scoria to combinations of kiwi orchid bark, pine bark, perlite, charcoal, coco chip and coco blend. Hard experience quickly concluded that large pots can hold too much water particularly when coco pith dominates the mix. *Phalaenopsis* although preferring roots to be kept damp do not like mixes which remain wet and soggy. We have found by allowing the mix to become almost dry hasn't unduly affected growth to date. Our watering practices regularly need to be adjusted according to the openness or fineness of the media and the prevailing temperatures and humidity.

The phalaenopsis have grown well in single charcoal or scoria but on occasions some orchids struggling in fine mixtures holding excess moisture have had to be repotted into a more open media mix. Phalaenopsis nutritional needs are provided using foliar applications of a biological fertilizer marketed by Neutrog rotated with Horticultural Solutions HSO 12 or 22. The timing of these applications is governed by the stage of growth, prevailing temperatures, visual identification of growth and general plant vigour.

Foliar applications of a liquid microbial inoculant sold by Growth products as 'Companion' and containing *Bacillus subtilis* is being tried. This product is marketed as a broad-spectrum biological fungicide for the prevention, control and suppression of soil borne and foliar diseases. Our limited usage suggests there may be some response by our orchids, anthuriums and bromeliads in growth and vigour.



← Yellow Sticky Insect traps are routinely used as monitoring devices for the presence of mites, aphids etc.

Mealybugs have been the most common pest in the Phalaenopsis shed. This insect pest was sprayed with Yates Confidor (now no longer sold) to kill the organism hiding deep in the axils of the leaves and in inaccessible parts of the plant. Scale insects have not been a problem. Spot applications of Eco Oil has been used to manage mites.



Plants are hung above the bench in the cooler months and well-spaced to keep airflow to a maximum assisting with disease management. Wetted wood chip floors and potted Anthuriums assist in increasing humidity

In any agricultural enterprise plant growth, vigour and crop yields can vary from season to season as environmental conditions and cultural practices vary. We've found a variation exists within the Phalaenopsis genera in insect and disease resistance, tolerance to light, moisture and temperature regimes.

The framework for our Phalaenopsis growing system was developed using the advice of published experienced industry specialists and personal communication with Australian orchid growers. These sources of advice coupled with my background in agricultural crop and pasture production has helped to make sure no orchid has died but least grown and flowered if not anywhere near their full growth potential. **Steve S.**

## Gardening! it's a help!

A study that tracked 2,800 Dubbo residents aged 60 plus and initially free of cognitive impairments found over a 16 year period that those who gardened regularly had a 36% lower risk of dementia than those who didn't.

Extract from an article in the Weekend Australian Magazine April 18-19, 2020.

*Den. pulchellum* - Steve S.



## Growing orchids in your Garden

Having made the whole garden a tidy site worthy of praise and admiration have you thought of orchids in the garden? They do have a place apart from in the greenhouse and will add a spark of interest and intrigue to the envy of your neighbors!



*Dendrobium nobile*

An ideal plant for a host palm.

**Aspect and Bark types:** Most of the orchids that we grow in our greenhouses are epiphytes so it would be natural to look to the trees in our gardens as potential hosts. But not all trees have a suitable bark. Most *Eucalypt* species have a very smooth bark or one that is shed annually. Many palms have a stem which appears to not have bark but the surface is indeed rough enough to make a very suitable substrate for orchid growth. The most important attribute is that the host plant does not shed its bark regularly.

**Mounting the plant:** There are many ways that the plant can be attached to the host. My favorite method is to use large wire staples and a good hammer. The plant must be firmly attached.

The choice of plants is almost endless. Small seedlings may be difficult but keikes with two or more leads are perfect. Divisions from larger plants or advanced seedlings are also suitable.

Many orchids also grow as lithophytes, i.e. they attach their roots to a rocky surface for support. In this case a rockery in the garden can accommodate certain orchids.

You will also find that by locating your new plant close to the base of the host e.g. a clump of palm stems, is a very convenient position for the orchid.

**A few selected rocks will also enhance the position.**



*Dendrobium speciosum* in a rockery



*Dendrobium speciosum* used as a feature plant

**Shade:** A few plants may survive beneath full sun conditions but most will appreciate filtered light, particularly during the hotter times of the day.

**Support:** plants that are large such as some of the *Dendrobium* and *Vanda* species may require staking to maintain stability.

**Timing:** It is important to time the operation to coincide with the season of active root growth and this is generally in spring or early summer.



**Watering:** every time that you pass the plant with a hose in your hand, give the plant a splash! My outdoor plants get very little attention and natural rainfall is mostly sufficient.

**Fertilizing:** not often!

**Pests & diseases:** be vigilant especially for the dreaded *Dendrobium* beetle. Scale and mealy bug can be controlled with white oil or eco-oil.

**Terrestrial orchids** These plants require special treatment because they are dependent on soil based conditions for optimal growth. If planted in the ground the soil must be free draining with a good quantity of coarse sand as the main component. **Wayne K.**



***Phaius tankervilleae***

A plant for the garden with sandy soil. Keep well watered in summer. Grows to about 2m. Part shade.



***Sobralia xantholeuca***

A tall growing species for the sandy garden. Forms good sized clumps but flowers are short lived. Will take some full sun



***Oncidium spathulatum***

Forms large clumps with many flowers.



***Geodorum densiflorum*,**

a native species that emerges in gardens, particularly in mulched beds.



***Cattleya intermedia***

Ideal on a host tree.



***Dendrobium pulchellum***

Another species with long canes.



***Dendrobium crumenatum***

Massed flowering after rain.



***Dendrobium fimbriatum***

Will form large clumps.



***Cattleya skinneri***

Good on trees or in a rockery



***Cattleya percivaliana***  
Good on trees or in a rockery



***Dendrobium moschatum***  
Will form large clumps.



***Dendrobium signatum***  
Ideal on a host tree.

### A Cattleya with 3 Labellums??

The photo shows *Rlc.* Hsinying Mariaoki 'Flamingo'. At first glance, it appears to have 3 labellums. This is because the petals have the colours and much of the shape of the labellum. The plant belongs to a group described as "Splash Petal" Laeliinae. Most, if not all of these have a particular cultivar of *Cattleya intermedia* described as forma *aquinii* in their parentage. This grex has only 6.7% of *C. intermedia* forma *aquinii*. There are 7536 registered hybrids that contain *C. intermedia* somewhere in the parentage. How many of these are descendants of fma. *aquinii* is unknown as RBG Kew does not separately recognise "horticultural forms" and the RHS which registers hybrids does not record varieties or forms of the parents. Popular examples of other hybrids exhibiting this characteristic include *C. Cariad's* Mini-Quinee, *Rlc.* Village Chief North and *Rlc.* Coconut Ice, all of which we have seen at local shows in recent years. **Charlie**





Members Photo's.



*V. luzonica* - Bob & Joan



*Den. fairchildiae* - Wayne



*C. Dals Perfection* - Tom & Kirsten



*Blc. Village Chief Headache*  
Roger



*Fredclarkera Turning Point* - Don.



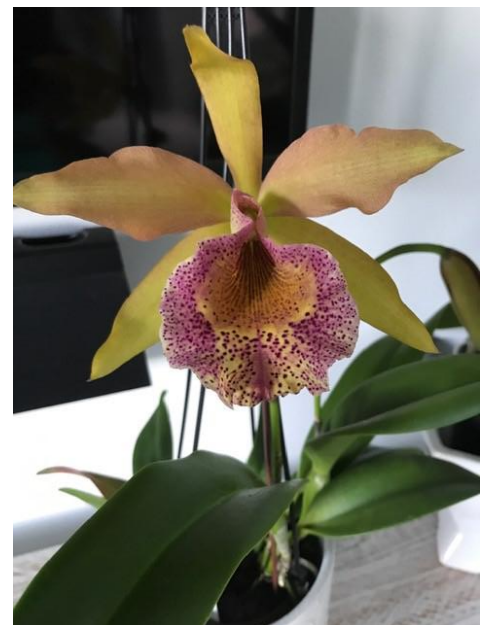
*V. Precious* - Richard



*Den bigibbum* - Charlie & Gina



*C. Walkeriana* - Tom & Kirsten



*Bc. Keowee 'Vi Galaxy'*  
George & Helena

# Nambour Orchid Society



Nambour Orchid society meets on the 4th Saturday each Nambour Uniting Church Hall, Cor

**Business meeting** commences at 12.45pm prior to the cultural meeting.

**Cultural meeting** Follows the business meeting at 2pm.

All members and visitors are welcome to both Business and Cultural meetings.

**Plants are to be tabled for judging by 1.30pm** .

**Charlie's** Cultural corner from 1.15pm to 1.45pm each meeting day.

**The Species Appreciation Group** is held monthly from February to November at member's homes .

**Contact the Secretary for details.** at [nambourorchids@gmail.com](mailto:nambourorchids@gmail.com)

All **STOCQ** members welcome. Bring your species plants, a chair, a cup and a plate to share for afternoon tea

Patron	Rob Wright		
President	Gina McMonagle	07 5439 6353	
Vice President	G Robertson	07 5442 1288	
Secretary	Alison Parkes	07 5441 7201	<a href="mailto:nambourorchids@gmail.com">nambourorchids@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Jean Harris	07 5445 3307	
Editor	Richard Hand	07 5442 2879	<a href="mailto:rhand39@gmail.com">rhand39@gmail.com</a>

**All correspondence to the Society should be addressed to [nambourorchids@gmail.com](mailto:nambourorchids@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter:** Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to the editor at [rhand39@gmail.com](mailto:rhand39@gmail.com).

Digital copies of all photographs appearing in Newsletter are available to all members free of charge

**FOR SALE : NOS.** members may use space in the Newsletter to sell Orchid related items free of charge.

All adds, articles and no later than 2 weeks prior to the monthly meeting

Members can sell Orchids or foliage plants at our meetings. Only plants that we would use in show displays are permitted. **Please remember to add your gold coin donation to the honesty box.**

**Direct deposits for Shirts, name Badges and Membership are encouraged to the Club Bank Account.  
Commonwealth Bank BSB 064424 A/c No 00909232.**

Add your name as a reference so our Treasurer knows who the money is from.

**Club shirts are available , cost to members, \$25 for shirt with logo + \$5.50 if you require a pocket**

**Name badges, cost is \$7.00 for new members after attending 3 meetings, or \$10.95 for a replacement**

PO Box 140, Nambour QLD 4560 [\\_nambourorchids@gmail.com](mailto:_nambourorchids@gmail.com) [www.nambourorchidsociety.com](http://www.nambourorchidsociety.com)

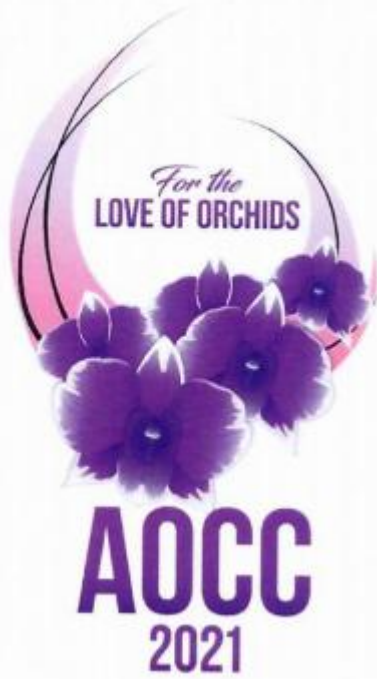


## Supporters of Cittamani Hospice Services

Cittamani Hospice Services are in Palmwoods and provide end of life palliative care for people in need in their own homes.

They also provide essential equipment free of charge for patients use in their own home.





# 22nd Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show

1 - 5 September 2021



## Planning Committee Update May 2020

### Postal Address:

163 Pine Mountain Road,  
BRASSALL QLD 4305

### AOCC 2021 Planning Committee

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John Rooks  
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### Major Sponsor:



### Event Partner:

**FLIGHT CENTRE**

Welcome to our latest planning update for the 2021 AOC Conference & Show.

What a difficult and unique situation we are all negotiating presently with COVID-19. The Planning Committee, as with the rest of Australia, is now only able to meet electronically, so members are holding regular Skype meetings. We are forging ahead with plans for a spectacular AOCC Conference and Show with the expectation that by early next year, all will be clear for September 2021. Things are definitely looking more promising than they were a month ago, but because there is still uncertainty around what the conference could look like, or if indeed it may need to be postponed due to government restrictions, we are **EXTENDING THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT to 31 March 2021.**

**But planning continues for 1 to 5 September 2021!**

### CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

We are putting together a truly impressive line-up of presenters for registrants to learn from. **Olaf Gruss** and **Fred Clarke** are the latest of our international speakers to be confirmed. Information about speakers and their topics is being added to our website regularly, so visit [aocc2021.org/speakers](http://aocc2021.org/speakers) to get the latest on the speakers in the scientific program.

There are probably many of you who have attended a presentation by **Fred Clarke** from Sunset Valley Orchids, just north of San Diego in California, on one of his previous visits to Australia. I'm sure you were impressed with his passion for orchids, which he has been growing for over 40 years, and hybridizing for 38 of them. He's an extremely interesting and engaging speaker, and even if you have seen him before, you will not regret adding at least one of his talks to your 'to do' list.



Fred's new presentation on *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes* and *Catasetum* will feature a review of the important species, historic and recent hybridizing trends, fascinating pollination strategy and fundamentals for the best cultural practices to grow these plants successfully. His other talk, **Becoming an 80<sup>th</sup> Percentile Grower**, will promote a new perspective on growing orchids: imagining our orchids as a living art collection with ourselves as curators. It certainly has me intrigued, and I'm looking forward to being there.

#### **WEBSITE**

Our website is active, and hopefully can provide you with all the information you require. The domain name is [www.aocc2021.org](http://www.aocc2021.org) and the email address [info@aocc2021.org](mailto:info@aocc2021.org). It is also accessible through the AOC's website [orchidsaustralia.com.au/index.php/events-shows](http://orchidsaustralia.com.au/index.php/events-shows).

#### **FACEBOOK**

To join our Facebook group, click on the **f** in the footer of any page of the website, or go to [www.facebook.com/groups/AOCC2021](http://www.facebook.com/groups/AOCC2021). This is a private group so you will need to answer a couple of easy questions to be invited.

As always, if you have a question or concern, or simply want more information, send us an email or give us a call. We're here to provide you with the best possible experience at next year's conference and show, and welcome your feedback.

Robyn Brown

AOCC2021 Planning Committee Member

[robynbrown8@bigpond.com](mailto:robynbrown8@bigpond.com)

Logan Metro Indoor Sports & Events Centre

