

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

P. O. Box 594 Red Hill Rockhampton, 4701

Founded 1955



Newsletter May 2018

Editor's notes

I was reading The Morning Bulletin fishing notes last week and the author said it was 'maintenance time' that meant as in for trailers and boats as the wind was blowing too strong and likely to remain that way for the next few weeks. A pretty gloomy outlook, and I thought just as with fishing, in our hobby of growing orchids there is a down-time or maintenance time. Looking at this week's temperature forecast for later this week, 9 degrees Celsius minimum for Saturday and 10 degrees for Sunday I hesitate to say our orchid down-time has arrived.

Whether you believe in climate change or not, the seasons have become less reliable in what the expectations once were; however, Winter has long been regarded as the time of 'rest' or down-time for your collection and you the grower. The best way to determine if your plants think so as well is by observation. Cattleyas are great indicators in that the forward roots cease to grow on those plants that have extended over the edge of the pot. Likewise, in my opinion and even better, the best genera of all to indicate whether Winter is here and growth has ceased are Vandas. This is because the growth tips of Vandas in the most are exposed by being grown in baskets and can be easily inspected. The green of the root tips is covered by velamen which will seal over the growth tip once growth ceases. Putting any fertilizer onto plants in this situation is as useful as topping up the water in a Volkswagen Beetle's radiator.

Similarly, Winter is also the best flowering time for Cattleyas, so your work has been done, and once flowered don't bother with fertilizing until the indicators of a true change to Spring are apparent and I will discuss these in a Spring Newsletter. If this early cold change does materialize, the sub-family of orchids that have become very popular in recent times those of Catasetinae breeding, will be quick to show their reaction to a temperature drop; a greenhouse floor full of leaves. This is already the case in my greenhouse. Likewise, an early and long winter should be very good for those who grow soft-cane dendrobiums. These too will react by setting buds and by dropping their leaves, something you may have noticed at recent shows was absent, in that many plants still contained their leaves due to the mild winters. It is also a good time to get to know your greenhouse and how to do that I have expanded on in this months 'Growers Tip'

So as orchid growers we have plenty to be expectant of, if as the long-range forecasters predict that we are in for a long cold winter. In the meantime, have a break from, dividing potting, fertilizing, and managing pest and diseasesgo fishing!

Until next month, good growing or 'maintenance time' Jeff Glover

Office Bearers

Executive:

Patron: Vacant

President: Jeff Bloxsom

bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au 4928 6582

Vice President : Peter Jenkinson

pe.oni@hotmail ph.0439515820

Secretary: Trish Craig ph. 49226621

rockyorchidsociety@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sandra Rowcliffe:

svpsli@bigpond.net.au Ph. 49364040

Committee

Terry Dean 49282278 terryellie@optusnet.com.au

Jeff Glover j-glover@bigpond.com Ph. .49287701

Trevor Handley 0417605191

Marg Handley 31290348

Bob Lakey rlakey@dodo.com.au Ph.49288093

Nat Lakey 49288093

Tony March (contact details on application)

Bill Richardson william.r@optusnet.com Ph. 49226621

Allan White Ph. 0419580086

Ex Officio Positions

Society Registrar: Terry Dean

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Glover

Assist Newsletter Editor : Jenny Moore

Technical Advisors: John Frisch, Jeff Glover

Webmaster: Bob Lakey

ROSI Growers Co-coordinator Marg Handley

Providor Maxine Maunder

Promotion Officer Sandra Rowcliffe /Jeff Glover (STOC)

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Raffle Plant Caretaker: Terry Dean

Property Officers: Barry and Faye English.

Shows and Meetings

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Chief Steward: Moyna Richardson

Plant/Barcode collators Trish Craig & Barry English

Australian Orchid Council ROSI Based Judging Team

Judges:

Jeff Glover

Terry Dean

Marty Gunder

Faye English

Bernard Hilse

Associate Judges

Trish Craig

Doug Chippendale

Peter Jenkinson

Nat Lakey

Sandra Rowcliffe



Growers Tip My tip this month is to get to know your greenhouse. How you might well ask? Do I introduce myself, hang on you probably built it? Enough of the figurative, let's get literal. Undoubtedly, one of the great challenges of growing a mixed collection is managing your watering regime. However, have you ever walked into an orchid house and seen all of one genera in one part, and others placed together in other sections? You will see this especially in professional Orchid Nurseries. Do you think this is just for looks; in some cases, it may be, but in reality, many successful growers have got to know their greenhouses' micro-climates. That's right 'climate' a much-maligned term in the current climate change debate.

Your greenhouse contains areas that continually vary in the basics needed to support plant life throughout the year and as such, you need to know what grows best under the conditions your greenhouse provides. For instance, just consider one

factor, temperature, it will vary in the areas that are exposed to the most and least sunlight, that is the northern and eastern sections, while the west will remain the hottest and the southern side the coolest. Plants such as, Paphiopedilums and Phalaenopsis prefer lower light levels, yet in Winter to get Phalaenopsis to initiate spikes, more light is needed. While Paphiopedilums can tolerate colder conditions and also initiate spikes. Vandas will continue growing and flower all year if given enough heat and humidity. While plants such as,

Catasetinae that require a definite winter rest, need to be placed in an area of less light and sparingly watered. Plants that flower through Autumn and Winter such as many of the Lilliputia family (Catts), need to be in higher light areas to flower at their best. Get a thermometer and move it around your greenhouse, record the results, you will be surprised of the variations, even when compared with the daily temperature as supplied by the weather bureau, and even more so if you do the same in each season. So, I guess the message is be prepared to move your plants around your greenhouse's micro-climates throughout the year if you want them to do their best as, 'all greenhouses are not created equal'. 83

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

General Meeting Tuesday 24th April 2018

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: Don & Brenda Cramp; Jo Price

Visitors: Nil

Lucky Number: 43 - not claimed

Minutes of previous monthly meeting were approved as correct and accurate.

Moved Y Manning Seconded B Powell **Carried**

Correspondence:

IN – NEWSLETTERS

Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club Inc.

Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Inc.

Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc. including 2018 Show Schedule (5 & 6 May)

Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc.

Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc.

Mid Murray Orchid Club Inc.

Nambour Orchid Society

Nightcliff Orchid Society

Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc.

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.

Townsville Orchid Soc. Inc.

Emails re:

Herbert River Orchid & Allied Plant Society Inc. – Annual Field Day - 6th May 2018

Mackay & District Orchid Society Inc. – Field Day – 9 & 10 June 2018

Combined Garden Clubs Inc. – Invite to Special Event – 30th May 2018 at Noosa Botanic Gardens

John Rees — Bribie Island Orchid Society – offer to host STOCQ & OQI meetings on either 1st or 3rd Saturday in November 2019

Maryborough District Orchid Society – invite to regional meetings of STOCQ & OQI on Saturday 6th June 2018.

Jenny Moore – Member Rose Tregea – payment of membership, new address and phone number at the show

Request re sales site at STOCQ Conference in 2019

Mail:

Membership renewal fee – Rodney Russell

Statement – Big Colour Works

Rock – bank statements

Australian Orchid Review

The Australian Orchid Foundation – newsletter March 2018

OUT

Sympathy card to Dawn Barker

Email reply to request for sales site

Email to Editor of Orchids Australia requesting publication of Spring Show dates in June and August editions

Motion that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward correspondence endorsed:

Moved T Craig Seconded M Kydd **Carried**

Business arising from Correspondence: Secretary to send apology to STOCQ & OQI – June 2018 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Read and moved for acceptance by S Rowcliffe Seconded P March
Carried

President's Report:

Committee meeting: discussion regarding 2019 conference.

Growers Group Coordinators Report: Saturday afternoon at Peter and Jenny Moore' residence was a success. President Jeff Bloxsom discussed his method of growing his Vandas followed by an interesting question and answer session. Jeff had some beautiful examples on display.

General Business:

Trophies from the show now engraved and returned to relevant winners.

A couple of members were asked to pay to enter the show. The president reminded the meeting that members are **not** required to pay to come into our shows. It was stressed that members should wear their society badge or be able to quote the membership number when entering the show as the members on the door are not always familiar with all members. If members would like to have an entry into the lucky door prize then they need to pay the entrance fee.

To encourage more members to purchase name badges Moyna Richardson moved that the society in future subsidise the **initial** purchase of a name badge so as to reduce the member's cost to \$10.00. Seconder M Kydd **Carried.**

Members selling plants at the show must put member number and price on each plant tag. If you forget the plant will be priced at the discretion of the sales team and be designated as club sales. If the plant has a member number but no price an attempt will be made to contact the owner. If the owner is unavailable the price will be at the discretion of the sales team.

Jeff Bloxsom has confirmed that the venue for the STOCQ conference in September 2019 will be Korte's Resort.

The next priority is to set the show schedule.

Plant Commentary:

John Frisch gave a comprehensive and informative commentary on the plants tabled

Exhibiter Raffle: No exhibitors raffle this month.

General Raffle: Z Kidman, T Dean, R Wines, C McCabe, J Hogan x2, K Marsden, D Hughes, T March, J Lowrey,
S Rowcliffe, B Hilse.

Next committee meeting will be held at Sandra Rowcliffe's residence on Tuesday 1st May commencing at 7.00pm.

Jeff Bloxsom President

Trish Craig Secretary

General Cultural Guide April/June

<i>* Information is general in nature and given in good faith.</i>	Watering/Weekly	Fertilizer/Weekly	Pest/Disease Control	Comments
Cattleya	2-3times weekly	Blossom booster Low Nitrogen	Flower Thrips Yates Success or Pyrethrum on buds	Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools.
Dendrobium Hard cane		Reduce fertilizer and cease by Winter's onset	Flower Thrips Yates Success Pyrethrum on buds	Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools.
Dendrobium Softcane	Once to twice weekly	Cease fertilizer		If fertilizer is applied from now on, plantlets will form rather than flowers
Phalaenopsis	2-3 times weekly	Reduce fertilizing with cooler weather. Low nitrogen	Preventative Fungicide if wet cooler weather Mancozeb	Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools.
Vandaceous	Water daily in hot weather 2-3 days if cooler	Balanced fertilizer if still in growth Cease if weather cools	Flower Thrips Yates Success or Pyrethrum on buds	
Oncidium	In hot weather, every 2 days if cooler2-3	Balanced fertilizer if still in growth Cease if weather cools		
Paphiopedilums	Every 2 days in hot weather. 2-3 times weekly in cooler weather.	Balanced fertilizer	Preventative Fungicide if wet cooler weather Mancozeb	
Catasetinae	2-3 times weekly	Fertilizer should cease once flowering has initiated.	Plants will defoliate if weather cools significantly. (Normal reaction)	Watering should be phased out completely after flowering is finished.

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday 22nd May. Starts 7.30 pm.

Notice to Members: Please assist if you can with cleaning the hall after the meeting

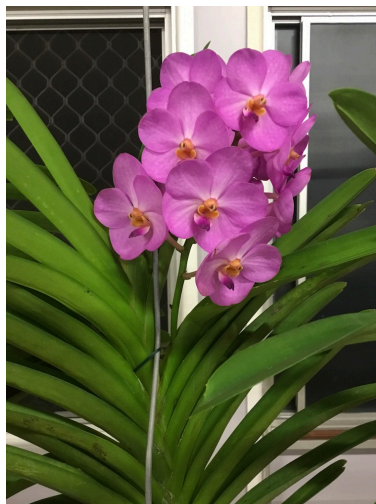
Monthly Competition Results – April 2018 (Plants tabled: Advanced 34; Novice 31.)

<u>Judges Choice</u>		V. Marissa's Little Doll	J&M Bloxsom
		Den. Miss Singapore 'Red Bull'	J&M Bloxsom
		Cycd. Jumbo Puff	T&M Handley
<u>Popular Vote – Advanced</u>			
Cattleya over 100mm		Rlc. Village Chief Headache 'Golden Pin'	J&S Frisch
Cattleya up to 100mm		C. Leopard Lou 'Orchis'	C.Christensen
Vandaceous over 65mm		V. Gordon Dillon x V. Pimporn	
		'Capricorn's Blue on Blue'	J&S Frisch
Vandaceous up to 65mm		Ren. Datin Blanche Olbery	J&M Bloxsom
Dendrobium		Den. Burana Pearl	J&M Bloxsom
Catasetinae	tie	Fdk. After Midnight x Ctsm. Orchidglade	T&M Handley
	tie	Ctsm. Orchidglade 'Davie Ranches'	M&S Rowcliffe
Species	tie	B. nodosa 'Grandflora'	T&M Handley
	tie	Ctsm. pileatum	T&M Handley
Miscellaneous		Paph. Vanguard	C.Christensen
<u>Novice</u>			
Cattleya over 100mm		Rlc. Brunswick Gem 'Coral'	S.Kuhl
Cattleya up to 100mm		Bc. Hawaii Stars 'Hsinying'	Z. Kidman
Dendrobium		Den. King Dragon x Den. Thailand White	R&L Mann
Species		V. sanderiana	R&L Mann
Miscellaneous		Aru. Sea Snake	Z. Kidman

Cycd. Jumbo Puff



V.Marissa's Little Doll



Den.Miss Singapore 'Red Bull'



R.O.S.I Growers Group Report

The April gathering of the ROSI Growers Group took place on April 28 at Peter and Jenny Moore's residence. They have a beautiful yard with many orchids growing in their trees and in the garden. 55 members attended and enjoyed seeing Jenny's orchid houses – especially her Vanda house. Thanks once again to Peter and Jenny for inviting us.

The Programme OrchidWiz was explained to the members present, in order to gauge if there was sufficient interest in obtaining a discount by buying 5 licences. At this time, it doesn't appear that we will have the number to obtain the discount however the cut off time for this decision will be the next ROSI meeting on Tuesday 22 May. OrchidWiz was available for demonstration on the afternoon.

The Guest Speaker for the afternoon was our President Jeff Bloxsom who explained how he grows Vandas and answered questions from the members. Jeff also brought a number of his large, showy plants to enhance his talk. The raffle was well supported and thank you to those who donated plants.

The next ROSI Growers Group outing will be held on May 26 at Rosemary Wines residence at 53 Angela Road, Rockyview commencing at 2pm. Rosemary's narrow driveway entrance is the first on the left after the white picket fence. Members are welcome to park on the lower area of Rosemary's yard but be aware of the Iron Bark trees that could drop branches. Please bring a chair and plate of food for Afternoon Tea. The topic for the afternoon will be Dendrobiums and their Winter Care including a discussion of some of the many different types of dendrobiums. We hope to have input from several of our experienced dendrobium growers.

Hope to see you at 53 Angela Road, Rockyview on May 26.

Marg Handley

Species of the Month



The species of the month is *Guarianthe skinneri*, once known as *Cattleya skineri* before the taxonomists had their way and reclassified it along with other bi-foliate *Cattleyas* such as, *Guarianthe aurantica*. and *Guarianthe bowringiana*. You could describe it as one of the basic building block of the Laelineae family loosely known as Catts. A check of Orchidwiz shows it has 100 primary hybrids which gives an indication of just how many hybrids would contain its genes. It grows well here in Central Queensland; being the national

***Guarianthe skinneri*, f. alba**

flower of Guatemala, (Central America) and if you know your Geography, is an indicator of why that is so. The rhizomes are stout and more circular, a feature of bi-foliate (two – leaves) *Cattleya* species. The canes taper to being relatively thin at the bottom and have an overall slender- tall appearance. It is an easy to grow orchid that will relatively clump into a large specimen if left undivided. Grow it in a standard orchid bark mix and reduce watering in Winter and fertilize regularly in the warmer months. It is quite common in older collections and a good one for the beginner and species collector.

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Your Orchid Diary 2018

<u>March</u>	30-31st Bribie OFS Show
	30-2 nd April Gladstone OFS Easter Show
<u>April</u>	6-7 th Caloundra OFS autumn Show
	14-15 ROSI Autumn Show
	21 st South Burnett Show Wondai
<u>May</u>	5-6 th Gympie District Show & Garden Expo
	11-12 th Noosa District OFS Show Cooroy
	11-12 th Bundaberg Orchid Society Show
	26-27 th Boyne Tannum OFS Show
<u>June</u>	16 th STOC Meeting Maryborough
<u>July</u>	13-15 th Qld. Garden Expo Nambour
	20-22 th Caboolture OFS Show
<u>August</u>	10-11 th Maroochydore Orchid Show
	31-1 st Sept Nambour Orchid Show
<u>Sept</u>	14-15 Noosa Dist. Orchid Show
	TBA Caloundra Spring Show (closed)
	21-22 nd Glasshouse OFS Show
	29-30th ROSI Spring Show
<u>Oct</u>	12-13 th Bribie Island OFS Show
<u>Nov</u>	2-3 rd Nambour Species Society Show
	STOC Meeting Caboolture

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Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at St Stephens Presbyterian Church Hall, Burnett St. Nth Rockhampton; commencing at 7.30 pm. Plants must be tabled by 7.15pm.

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