

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



[www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au](http://www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au)

PO Box 5949 Red Hill Qld. 4702

Founded 1955

## Newsletter March 2014

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### Editors notes.

The once a year field day is over for another year, this year we were guests of Boyne/Tannum orchid & foliage soc and we thoroughly enjoyed the bush houses that we visited, although perhaps a few more orchids would have been more in our line but never mind that's the way it goes. You will find a full report is written in this journal.

This years A.G.M. was once again reasonably short and sweet but not as short as usual years, with a secret ballot having to take place for the vice presidency with P.Jenkinson winning the vote. Congratulations are the order of the day plus a huge welcome to Peter and a subtle warning (you don't know what you've put yourself in for), I'm sure you will enjoy your apprenticeship to one day take over the reins and give Jeff a well earned rest. At this point I'm sure we would like to thank our outgoing vice president for capably filling the role and wish him all the best in his retirement. Also welcome to Sandy, I think you'll enjoy your place on the committee. Maxine has taken on a pretty thankless task as providor, from us all I say thank you to each and every one of you, I feel sure you'll enjoy it.

The display tables at the general meeting weren't actually groaning under the weight of blooms but a definite improvement on the month before which I think we all suffered with the rather warm spell we had,(warm - B\*\*\*\*y H\*\*l that was HOT), any buds that were formed in the sheath stewed in the oppressive heat, even tho' I misted every two hours or so the temperature in the bush house wouldn't stay down climbing to over 50 degrees but I think that is all behind us now and we can look forward to many superb blooms and a very successful show in April.

This month with the kind permission of Sue Bottom we are commencing a series regarding pests and diseases in orchids. Sue is vice president of St Augustine O/S in Florida U.S.A. as one member said to me what do we want articles from America for? –Well you people won't provide me with them so I have to get them from somewhere. You'll enjoy them believe me.

On June 7 we will be convening the STOCQ meeting, all members are welcome to attend. **If you intend to come let Jeff know by May 25. More info at a later date.** Numbers planning to attend are essential.

*Pete & Kate*

**Notice to Members please assist with cleaning the hall after the meeting**

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**The closing date for articles to be included in the next newsletter are to be received by the 14<sup>th</sup> of April; articles received after that date will be included in the following month. Ed.**

# Orchid Society Stores

*For all your orchid supplies.*

Pots many & various as well as many different potting mixes.

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

*Barry and Faye English:*  
**Ph 49222637**

***For Members Only***

*Closed Thursday and lunchtime*  
**12 – 2pm.**

*(Please note: This work is carried out 7 days a week voluntarily)*



***Sponsors of the Rockhampton Orchid Society***

## Judges for the Meeting

J. Glover T.Dean

B. Hilse S.Peters

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday. 25/3/14**

**at 7.30pm**

**Plants to be tabled by**  
**7.15pm**

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom  
jmbloxsom@hotmail.com 49286582

**Vice President:** P.Jenkinson  
pe.oni@hotmail.com 419725173

**Secretary:** Gloria Wakefield  
rwa13788@bigpond.net.au 49224289

**Treasurer:** Bill Richardson  
william.r@optusnet.com 49275759

**Committee:**  
Jeff Glover 49287701  
Peter & June Shelton 0487298520  
Jenny Moore 49237234  
Ellie Dean 49282278  
Trish Craig 49226621  
Sandra.Rowcliffe 49281588

**New Grower's Leader:**  
Keith Marsden 49282752

**Public Relations:** Ellie Dean 49282278

**Technical Advisers:** John Frisch / J.Glover

**Registrar:** Terry Dean 49282278

**Provider:** Maxine Maunder 49283212

**Door Monitors/ Hostesses:**  
Ellie Dean / Lorraine Weaver

**Librarians:** Jack Martin / P.Shelton

**Raffle Plant Caretaker:** Terry Dean

**Property Officers:** B &F English 49222637

**Editors:** Peter Shelton & Kate Woollett  
sheltonpj@optusnet.com.au 49266889

**Asst Editor:** Trish Craig 49288093  
trishcraig@bigpond.com

**Webmaster:** R. Lakey 49288093  
r.lakey@bigpond.com

## **New Growers Report.**

On Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> the new growers met at our place for the first meeting for 2014. Pam and I were pleased with the number of members who were able to make it also very pleased to have 2 new members join the society. Our president Jeff was available to welcome the new members and wished them a long and happy relationship with the society.

The agenda for this meeting was to gather the member's ideas for the year and find out which members will open up their bush houses and allow us to conduct a meeting there.

My thanks to the members who assisted me with the year's plans, I will do my best to achieve an interesting year for our members but please give me any ideas you may have on subjects you think may be beneficial to our newer growers.

The afternoon concluded with a plant raffle which gave to the lucky ones another plant to add to their growing collections. Thanks to all who donated plant prizes.

The next meeting will be held at the home of **Peter and June Shelton** at **Rockhampton North Retirement Resort, 19 Schuffenhauer Street, North Rocky.**

Pete and June have invited us to have our meeting in the club rooms of the resort and look over their small collection. There will be no need for a chair as they are available at the resort but a plate for afternoon tea would be appreciated along with a donation to the raffle (that's if you like to donate.)

Please phone Pete or June on **49266889** or Pam and myself on **49282752** for further information if required.

*Keith Marsden*

Phone- 49282752

### **Apology**

The editors would like to apologise for the mistakes in the show dates last month, maybe a computer glitch or maybe our mistake, whichever please accept the apology offered.

### **Missing Plant**

It's happened again ones missing, this time a Phaly with a couple of spikes. Did you go on the bus trip to Boyne/Tannum? **HAVE YOU GOT IT???** Please return!!!!

## **Field day at Boyne/Tannum.**

Once again we had an enjoyable trip aboard John's trusty steed which has now had a conversion to automatic. Thanks for your excellent driving skills which get us in and out of some very tight places.

We all met at the community centre and had a cuppa and chin wag, then we were delegated our coach director (which was our own Jenny Scott) and headed for the Austin's place, how they manage to keep this collection in order I don't know but it really is something to behold, healthy and happy. I think we might have left a few dollars behind there. Then to the Barker establishment, they are new growers I believe and if they grow orchids anything like they keep their garden they will be a force to contend with. We visited the gardens and bush houses of the president Mary Cochrane and Pershouses before partaking of a packed salad lunch and more flapping of the lips.

After having the ribs well packed up all aboard and off to the McKenzie garden which we have been hearing so much about only to be disappointed, not for the garden itself which for the little we managed to see was Magnificent, the subject of everyone's conversation was, how do they find time to eat and sleep. That's right it bloody well rained and having to spend the rest of the day in wet clothes didn't appeal at all.

We then gathered at the venue for more food, anyone on a diet should forgo these trips as you do eat an enormous amount of food, every time you turn around they are slapping more tucker in front of you and of course we can't be rude and not eat it can we? We then visited the Timms & Johnson collection and then last one for the day the Welburns, by this time us oldies were sagging at the seams and looking forward to a break. This was forthcoming in the Motel which was one of the best I have ever stayed in, evidently it used to be an old peoples home the owners then converted it into a motel – crystal clean & a genial staff - beautiful.

Then we all converged on the Calliope bowls club for our evening meal prior to a good nights rest.

Sunday saw us well rested and after a supa-dupa brekky at the motel we kept up the good work with our bush housing visiting Mollenhauer's first, then to Markswells he has predominately Bromeliads but a nice collection of Oncidiums. Our member Jenni Scott was next on the list, have you got some work ahead of you there Jenni but overall a very well housed collection. We had more sustenance there (like as if we needed it) and journeyed off to see what Cornales place was like after it was completely devastated by the floods, it was a pleasant surprise Richard has done a lot of work and it is gradually getting back to what it was, Rich & Di lost somewhere in the vicinity of 10,000 plants, break your heart wouldn't it?

Next stop home sweet home. Did you enjoy it?

**Hymn.**

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### ***Trivia.***

*Elvis Presley decided to enter an Elvis look alike conducted by a local burger joint.*

***He came third.***

**Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**  
**General Meeting Tuesday 25/2/2014**

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**Visitor:** Noel & Dawn Barker

**Lucky Member:** none

**Minutes:** of previous monthly meeting approved as correct and accurate, Moved Bev Powell second Burnie Peters Carried.

**Correspondence: In** = Newsletters, Childers & Isis Orchid Society. Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc, Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc, Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc. Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Orchid News NSW. Nightcliff Orchid Society. Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc. Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society, STOC QLD, Orchids Australia, Australian Orchid Review. John Rees, Orchids QLD, Nambour Orchid Society, Government Paper Work, L.Humble, Peter & Lorraine Carter Membership, Royal Adelaide Show, 4YOU

**OUT** = Sympathy card to Daphne O'Brian, Sympathy card to Marilyn & Jeff Bloxsom. Moved Gloria Wakefield Second by Jan Rawlings Carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Bill Richardson read and moved second by Nat Lakey Carried.

**New Growers:** Keith Marsden talked about the new growers for the year, at his house please bring a plate for afternoon tea and a fold up chair.

**General Business:** Jeff Glover received 3 awards for the same plant.

Report on the trip to Boyne-Tannum trip, Still one plant missing after the trip. At this stage there is no other trips planned for this year. The theme for the Autumn Orchid Show is "Easter Orchid Spectacular " The STOC Conference for 2014 is in Rockhampton on the 7-8th June.

**Plant Commentary:** John Frisch great talk and very good information was passed on to everyone Thanks John.

**Lucky exhibitor:** Nat & Bob Lakey.

**Raffle:** Dianne Hughes, Karen Carr, Richard Mann, Patricia March & Peter Jenkinson.

**Meeting closed:** 9.35 pm.

**Next Meeting:** 25 th March 2014

Jeff Bloxsom President

Gloria Wakefield Secretary

## Monthly Competition Results. February 2014

(Plants tabled: Advanced: 40. Novice: 20.)

### Judges Choice:

*Cyc.* Tawny Bar

*Rly.* Red Stella

*Rhy. retusa*

K & R Smith

B & N Lakey

P & J Jenkinson

### Popular Vote – Advanced:

Cattleya up to 75mm:

*C.* Hsinying Cognac x *C. aelandiae*

B & N Lakey

Cattleya over 75mm:

*Rlc.* Ann Clen (Not registered)

J & S Frisch

Vandaceous up to 60mm:

*Vasco.* Alice's Annie

M & B Richardson

Dendrobium:

(Burana Candy x Chao Praya)

Tied with: Jade Junior (Not registered)

J & S Frisch

Phalaenopsis: Alice's Heart

B & N Lakey

Oncidiinae:

*Hwra.* Lava Burst

J & S Frisch

Species:

*Psy. papilio*

K & R Smith

Miscellaneous:

*Cyc.* Tawny Bar

K & R Smith

### Popular Vote – Novice:

Cattleya:

*Lctna.* Thuptim Thai

M & C Dahler

Vandaceous:

*Ascda.* Yip Sum Wah

P & T Jenkinson

Dendrobium:

*Den.* Sonia

S Rowcliffe

Species:

*C. bowringiana*

M & C Dahler



*Cyc.* Tawny Bar



*Rly.* Red Stella



*Rhy. retusa*

## **Are Your Plants Ready For The Show Bench.**

As the show comes closer faster than a speeding train, we should have our plants ready for the bench. We have them all properly prepared. pots clean and free from weeds, plants have been staked neatly and racemes loosely staked for display, labels correct and clearly marked, plants clear of old husks and all the necessary things required to make your plant pleasing to the judges eye. **Well, have you?**

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### **Keeping your bush house moist.**

There has been some discussion lately about the for and against of spreading gravel on the floor of your bush house and how this can help in providing humidity for your orchids. People on the land and also backyard gardeners are aware of the benefits of putting mulch down to keep the moisture in your paddocks or garden beds.

If you want to keep the soil in your bush house <sup>(121)</sup> wet, cover it with gravel. The gravel will prevent the moving air from making any contact with the soil and when you water or it rains the soil will get wetter. You can prove this yourself by taking two buckets and by placing an inch of water in each. In one bucket, pour gravel or sand into the water until the water is just visible on the surface. Then place another two inches of gravel on the top. Place the two buckets in a sunny position and when the bucket without sand is dry, check the other one ----- surprise!

Surely wet gravel will evaporate moisture to the atmosphere and because of the larger surface areas is quite effective but only in evaporating the water that has been sprayed on from above. As soon as the upper surface of the gravel becomes dry it ceases to improve the humidity and it will not suck up water from beneath. Capillary action works better when the capillaries or voids between the particles are small. Soil is a better wick than sand and sand is better than gravel. If you want a good surface to walk on without too many weeds, lay pavers or bricks on the floor. Clay bricks are better than concrete ones because they are more permeable and they will draw moisture from the soil and help to keep the humidity in your bush house.

On my bush house floor I have weed-mat laid first followed by 10 mm gravel it gives me exceptional humidity Ed.

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### ***Trivia***

*The word "SPUD" comes from the name for a narrow flat spade that was used for digging up potatoes.*

*The canopy of a rainforest is so thick that only about one per cent of sunlight reaches the ground.*

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Over the next few months we will be featuring Sue's articles on pests & diseases, some of the treatment will be foreign to most of us & we will do our best to use Australian terminology. P & K



# Orchid Pests and Diseases

## Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

by Sue Bottom, [sbottom15@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net) (Revision 1)



- **Plant Sap Feeding Insects**
  - Scale
  - Mealybugs (NEXT MONTH)
  - Thrips
  - Aphids
  - Whiteflies
- **Mites**
- **Chewing Pests**
  - Snails and Slugs
  - Caterpillars
  - Roaches and Grasshoppers
- **Ants**



# Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects Scale

**Symptoms:** Scale are sucking insects that attach to and feed on the underside of leaves, in leaf axils, on pseudobulbs and on rhizomes. They often are hidden under old leaves and pseudobulb sheaths. Severe infestations cause chlorotic areas to appear on the leaves and plant surfaces which will yellow and may darken and can cause the leaf to drop prematurely.

**Varieties:** The white boisduval scale is the bane of the cattleya grower's existence. Mature males are cottony white masses while the mature females lay their eggs under whitish circular shields. The crawlers are the nymph state that emerge from under the shield until they find their new home.

- Hard scale is another armored scale that ultimately forms a brown conical structure protecting the scale underneath it.
- Soft brown scale is light yellowish to dark brown with oval to circular shells appearing on leaves, flowers, flower spikes, pseudobulbs and sometimes rhizomes and roots. Soft scale produces honeydew while hard scales do not.



## Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects Scale (cont'd)

**Treatment:** If there are only a few scale, use a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol or toothbrush dipped in a pesticide like Malathion, Orthene, Summer Oil or Safer Soap (used per label instructions) to physically remove scale. For more severe infestations, apply the pesticide at the crawler stage and repeat the application 2 weeks later. Be sure to spray all plant surfaces, particularly the undersides of leaves and leaf axils. A drench with one of the Bayer products containing imidacloprid will also kill them. With the Bayer product containing 1.47% imidacloprid, add 1.5 tsp into a quart of water and pour it through the mix to thoroughly drench the potting mix. The orchid will absorb the imidacloprid through the roots into the leaves and kill the scale from the inside out. Distance is an expensive insect growth regulator that will eliminate scale from your orchids.

**Prevention:** Remove old leaf and flower sheaths to eliminate scale hiding places and allow easy inspection. Check new plants carefully before adding to the growing area.



I use the product called Malascale with good results Ed.

**Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**

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**Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**  
[www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au](http://www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au)

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

**Disclaimer**

Rockhampton Orchid society Inc. disclaims all responsibility for any losses or damage, which may attributed to the use or misuse of any material published in this Newsletter

**Your Orchid Diary 2012**

April 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> – Boyne/Tannum Orchid Expo  
April 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunshine Coast O/S Show  
**April 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton Autumn Show**  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> – Gympie Garden Expo & O/S Show  
May 9<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Bundaberg O/S Show  
**June 7<sup>th</sup> STOCQ meeting Rockhampton**  
July 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Caboolture Orchid Soc  
August 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Maroochydore O/S Show  
March 15<sup>th</sup> - Childers & Isis District O/S Spring Show  
September 5<sup>th</sup> – 6 Nambour O/S Show  
**September 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Rockhampton Spring Show**  
September 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Nambour Spring Show  
September 19 – 21<sup>st</sup> Maryborough Show  
September 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Glasshouse Country O/S Show

2014 TQOC Atherton  
2015 TQOC Mackay