

# Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



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

Newsletter-March 2017

P O Box 5949

Red Hill Rockhampton 4701

**Founded 1955**

## Editors notes

Welcome to Autumn, not that you would know it as on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March temperatures were sitting at 39 degrees at 4.30pm, and it was over 40 degrees in the hottest part of the day, and coupled with high humidity it was a very uncomfortable day. This afternoon, Wednesday, we have some very steady rain so hopefully it will stay around for a day or two. Fingers crossed that it will be fine this coming weekend for our bus trip to Bundaberg for the Triannual Field Days, which all participants are really looking forward to. As you read this newsletter the trip will be over and I am sure a lot more plants will be in member's collections.



Our Autumn Show is fast approaching and as I write my notes it is only four weeks from this weekend. The theme for this show is **EASTER ORCHID EGGtravaganza**. With the show being the weekend prior to Easter it gives members a chance to decorate displays and/or flower arrangements and corsages with the Easter Theme.

In this newsletter there is an explanation of the barcode system we are adopting for this and future shows and the list of member's names with their relevant person who will print your orchid plant labels.

As a follow up to a statement I made in last month's editor's notes I had mentioned it had been suggested to me that I use Rat Baits to control a cockroach infestation. I had stated that since using these I had seen new aerial root growth on my Cattleyas, but two weekends ago I repotted quite a few Cattleya plants and still found active cockroach life in the potting medium. As I was also struggling with a lot of ants compliments of our very dry weather I decided to spray the orchid house that weekend with *Fican* and this has curbed the ant problem and hopefully the cockroach one too. At our last meeting during the plant commentary, John Frisch one of our technical advisors spoke on the use of the rat baits and explained that the ingredients in the baits, metal phosphides, are designed to work on animals with blood and that cockroaches do not have blood. He said that they will eat the baits but they will not die from the consumption. I am now assuming that with the return of aerial root growth quite possibly my orchid house was also under attack by possibly rodents as well.

In this newsletter there are articles on the genus *Angraecum*, the species; Mealy Bugs & Scale and also a reproduced article by Sue Bottom called "Words of Wisdom" all kindly submitted by Hymn.

## **VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**MARCH MEETINGS A WEEK EARLY** - Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm . Our next New Grower's Workshop will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. This will be held at the home of Graham & Maxine Maunder commencing at 2.00pm. <sup>(16)</sup> Their address is 184 Stamford Street, North Rockhampton - Phone 4928 3212 for further details.

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

**The closing date for articles to be included in the next newsletter are to be received by the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017; articles received after that date will be included in the following month. Ed.**

**Rockhampton Orchid Society - Orchid Store**

**Property Officers - Faye & Barry English**

**110 Murray Street Rockhampton 4700**

**PHONE 4922 2637**

**Email - [englishf@aapt.net.au](mailto:englishf@aapt.net.au)**

**Closed Thursdays & Daily 12pm to 2pm**

**LARGE RANGE OF ORCHID SUPPLIES**

**FOR ROSI MEMBERS ONLY**

**SALES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**



**With the closing of Webber's Retravisation there is the opportunity for another business to be the sponsor of our Society. If you are interested & know someone who would be interested please contact the editor on [svpsli@bigpond.net.au](mailto:svpsli@bigpond.net.au)**

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

**Judges for the Meeting**

Terry, Jeff & Bernard

Assistants – Nat Lakey,  
Peter Jenkinson, Doug  
Chippendale

**NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday. 21/03/17  
at 7.30pm**

**Plants to be tabled by  
7.15pm**

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom\_ [bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bloxsom123@optusnet.com.au) 4928 6582

**Vice President:** Peter Jenkinson\_ [pe.oni@hotmail.com](mailto:pe.oni@hotmail.com) 0439 515 820

**Secretary:** Trish Craig [rockyorchidsoc@gmail.com](mailto:rockyorchidsoc@gmail.com) 4922 6621

**Treasurer:** Bill Richardson\_ [william.r@optusnet.com](mailto:william.r@optusnet.com) 4927 5759

**Committee:**

Jeff Glover	4928 7701
Moyna Richardson	4927 5759
Sue Eggleshaw	4936 2293
Bob Lakey	4928 8093
Terry Dean	4928 2278
Alan White	0419 580 086
Doug Chippendale	0418 793 153

**New Grower's Leader:**  
David Eggleshaw 4936 2293 or 0499 778 880

**Promotions Officer:** Sandra Rowcliffe 4936 4040

**Technical Advisers:** John Frisch / Jeff Glover

**Registrar:** Terry Dean 4928 2278

**Provider:** Maxine Maunder 4928 3212

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

**Librarians:** Jack Martin / Trevor Handley

**Raffle Plant Caretaker:** Terry Dean

**Property Officers:** B & F English

**Editor:** Sandra Rowcliffe Home 4936 4040  
[svpsli@bigpond.net.au](mailto:svpsli@bigpond.net.au) Mobile 0438 130 360  
P O Box 5041 Red Hill Rockhampton Q 4701

**Assistant Editor:** Jenny Moore 4923 7234  
[jkmoore53@gmail.com](mailto:jkmoore53@gmail.com)

**Webmaster:** Bob Lakey 4928 8093  
[rlakey@dodo.com.au](mailto:rlakey@dodo.com.au) (new email address)

**Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.**  
**Annual General Meeting Tuesday 28th February 2017**

**Attendance:** As per register

**Apologies:** As per register

**Minutes** of previous AGM meeting were approved as correct and accurate. No business arising from them.

Moved Allan White      Seconded Maxine Maunders      Carried

**President's Report:** Circulated in the previous newsletter. Jeff Bloxsom thanked all members for their support over the previous 12 months.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Bill Richardson (as per report distributed at the meeting). Bill moved that his report be accepted.                      Seconded Margaret Kydd      Carried

**Election of Officials:** President Jeff Bloxsom thanked committee members for all the good work during the year as well as all members whose participation at meetings, shows and trips have kept the club strong.  
All positions were declared vacant.

Jeff handed the Chair over to Peter Jenkinson who read out the nominations for the vacant positions.

**President:** Jeff Bloxsom                      - Elected unopposed

**Vice President:** Peter Jenkinson                      - Elected unopposed

**Secretary:** Trish Craig                      - Elected unopposed

**Treasurer:** Bill Richardson                      - Elected unopposed

**Committee:** 1. Jeff Glover                      - Elected unopposed

2. Moyna Richardson                      - Elected unopposed

3. Sue Eggleshaw                      - Elected unopposed

4. Bob Lakey                      - Elected unopposed

5. Terry Dean                      - Elected unopposed

6. Allan White                      - Elected unopposed

7. Doug Chippendale                      - Elected unopposed

**Librarians:** Jack Martin                      - Elected unopposed

Trevor Handley                      - Elected unopposed

**Editor:** Sandra Rowcliffe                      - Elected unopposed

**Assistant Editor:** Jenny Moore                      - Elected unopposed

**New Grower's Leader:** David Eggleshaw                      - Accepted

**Promotions Officer:** Sandra Rowcliffe                      - Accepted

**Registrar:** Terry Dean                      - Accepted

**Technical Advisors:** John Frisch                      - Accepted

Jeff Glover                      - Accepted

**Provedore:** Maxine Maunders                      - Accepted

**Door Monitors/Hostess:** Ellie Dean                      - Accepted

Lorraine Weaver                      - Accepted

**Property Officers:** Faye & Barry English                      - Accepted

**Plant Caretaker:** Terry Dean                      - Accepted

**Web Master:** Bob Lakey                      - Accepted



< Photo of the returned president, Jeff Bloxsom presented the outgoing new growers' leader, Keith Marsden, with a special mantle clock to mark the society's appreciation of Keith's dedicated service as leader of the new growers' group over the past 37 years.

Meeting closed at 7.57pm

## General Meeting Tuesday 28th February 2017

**Attendance:** As per register  
**Apologies:** As per register  
**New Members:** **101** Claud Swaffield and **108** Alan & Adele Rogers  
**Visitors:** Nil  
**Lucky Number:** **109** D & S Eggleshaw

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

Moved E Dean Seconded T Ahern **Carried**

### **Correspondence:**

#### **IN – NEWSLETTERS**

Blackwater & District Orchid & Foliage Club Inc.  
Childers & Isis District Orchid Soc. Inc.  
Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.  
Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc. – January & February 2017  
Maryborough District Orchid Society Inc.  
Mid Murray Orchid Club Inc.  
Nightcliff Orchid Society  
Pioneer River Orchid & Plant Assoc. Inc.  
The Orchid Society of NSW  
The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.  
Townsville Orchid Society Inc.  
Rockhampton Horticultural Society Inc.

#### **EMAILS**

STOCQ – meeting reminder – Gympie 11/2/17  
STOCQ – minutes of AGM, General Meeting, Treasurers Report, Copy of Bylaws – 11/2/17  
OQI – minutes of meeting – 11/2/17  
Boyne Tannum Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. Schedule & Classes for their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Show on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Alice's Orchids – 2017 Catalogue.

#### **MAIL**

Orchids Australia magazine  
Australian Orchids Review magazine  
Rock – statement  
Big Colour Works - statement  
Orchids Australia subscription renewal  
FM 98.5 – 4YOU – promotional and contribution notification  
Subs payment – Tony Welch (cheque) and Marlene Warry (cash)  
Australia Post – P O Box renewal  
Associations Incorporation – Annual return of association form

#### **OUT**

Sympathy Card to Jean Wust

Moved T Craig Seconded K Smith **Carried**

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's report was read and moved by B Richardson Seconded Z Kidman **Carried**

### **General Business:**

Jeff Bloxson mentioned that Berry Munro, a past member well known to many of our long time society members, has passed away.

Jeff also noted that Jeff Glover attended the STOCQ AGM & general meeting in Gympie on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Jeff Glover has been elected Assistant Registrar for the Northern Judging Panel.

There is only one more meeting before our Autumn Show in April. Jeff Bloxsom will be away so the meeting will be chaired by our vice president Peter Jenkinson. Job rosters for both days of the show and a list for people wanting to attend the dinner on the Saturday night will be circulated at that meeting. Plant sale tags will be available at that meeting. The theme of the show is 'Easter Orchid EGGstravaganza'. Names of members intending to put in displays (large, small and/or container) will also be required at the meeting.

The coach for the trip to Bundaberg will leave Lawrence's Holden at 5.00am sharp on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please be early so you can park your car in the secure lockup and board the coach on time.

#### **New Growers Report:**

David Eggleshaw reminded everyone that the first new growers' meeting would be at his home on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 2.00pm.

#### **Plant Commentary:**

John Frisch gave an informative commentary on the plants tabled at the meeting.

#### **Exhibiter Raffle:** T March

**General Raffle:** C Swaffield, R Wines, P Jenkinson, A White, Y Manning, S Peters, P March, S Eggleshaw, J Rawlings.

Next committee meeting will be held at Peter & Toni Jenkinson's home on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed 9.10pm.

*Jeff Bloxsom* (President)

*Trish Craig* (Secretary)

#### **Monthly Competition Results, February 2017.**

(Plants Tabled: Advanced 43; Novice 21)

<u>Judges Choice</u>	<i>Bc. Binosa 'Lynn'</i> ( <i>Den. "Burana Candy"</i> [not registered] <i>x Den. Chao Praya Gem</i> ) 'Delicate Dimensions' <i>Cygd. Taiwan Gold</i>	J&M Bloxsom  J&S Frisch K&R Smith
<u>Popular Vote, Advanced.</u>		
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Rlc. Glenlee Charlotte</i>	T&M Handley
Cattleya up to 100mm	( <i>C. Interglossa x Bc. Richard Mueller</i> ) 'Capricorn's Star Performer'	J&S Frisch
Vandaceous over 65mm	<i>V. Gordon Dillon 'Sapphire'</i>	T&E Dean
Vandaceous up to 65mm	<i>V. Marissa's Little Doll 'Bonnie's Wish'</i>	J&M Bloxsom
Dendrobium	( <i>Den. "Burana Candy"</i> [not registered] <i>x Den. Chao Praya Gem</i> ) 'Delicate Dimensions'	J&S Frisch
Species	<i>Rhy. retusa</i>	P&T Jenkinson
Miscellaneous	<i>Cygd. Taiwan Gold</i>	K&R Smith
<u>Novice.</u>		
Cattleya	<i>Rlc. Mount Isa 'Jean' x Rlc. Glenn Maidment</i>	R. Wines
Vandaceous	<i>V. 'Tilstar Gold 'Mandarin' " (?)</i> (not registered)	Z. Kidman
Dendrobium	<i>Den. name unknown</i>	D. MacKenzie
Miscellaneous	<i>Ons. Succubus 'Night Shift'</i>	T. March



## JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS

< *Cycd.* Taiwan Gold – K & R Smith



*Bc.* Binoso 'Lynn' – J & M  
Bloxsom – not actual plant photo(below)

*Den.* "Delicate Dimensions" J & S Frisch >



## New Growers Report

### **David Eggleshaw**

The first meeting for 2017 was held at our home on the 4<sup>th</sup> March and was well attended by forty members. The usual afternoon tea and raffle was held. There was an open discussion on the following –

- Trouble with names wearing off plant labels. The problem is not the marker or the pencil, but the label itself, being that the surface is too smooth, this can be addressed by using some 240 grit sandpaper and sand the surface of the label on one side, and you will not have names wearing off anymore.
- Cleaning your used pots – Place pots into a 75ltr bin of water and add 1ltr of vinegar, leave the pots to soak for a few days. Hose off pots and all residues should wash away. Then put these pots into another 75ltr bin of water and add 1.25ltrs of bleach, put on lid and let soak in a cool shady position for a few days. Hose off and let dry, they are now ready for use.



The next meeting will be held on the earlier date of Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 2.00pm at the home of Maxine and Graham Maunder 184 Stamford Street North Rockhampton. Please bring along a chair and a share plate for afternoon tea, and a donation or two for the raffle of either plants or anything you else wish to bring.

*Many thanks for the support all members gave me for our first meeting.*

*David Eggleshaw*





## **MARCH MEMBER PROFILE** **TRISH CRAIG**

*< Photo taken of Neil and Trish Craig at 2016 Conference.*

My name is Trish Craig. I live in Rockhampton with my husband Neil as well as two crazy dogs named Angus and George. Neither Neil nor I are from Rockhampton originally. I was born in Blackall and Neil came from Geelong. I moved around western Queensland for a few years before coming to Rockhampton in the mid 1970's – just in time for cyclone

David! I met Neil when he gave me a job as payroll clerk for the Godwin Group based at the P A Hotel. I subsequently spent just over 17 years at The Morning Bulletin as payroll officer and then office manager as well. I took a redundancy payout in 2000 when the administration of Australian Provincial Newspapers was moved to the Sunshine Coast. I have been retired ever since.

Orchids were definitely not my passion. To me they were beautiful, mysterious plants that I knew would be hard to grow. I confirmed this by killing every orchid that anyone was foolish enough to give me as a gift. I actually became quite afraid when someone offered to give me one for my birthday or Christmas. About ten years ago while I was at one of the orchid shows in Rockhampton a member of the society talked me into joining the society on the basis that I could learn how to grow orchids rather than kill them.

For about three years I was not able to attend the night meetings and only went to the new growers meetings where some of the older growers were willing to give me a few orchids along with plenty of advice. Some of the advice must have got through to me as I began to have some survivors and fewer casualties. Somewhere along the line I became hooked and began to acquire more orchids and eventually three greenhouses.

My collection of orchids mostly consists of Cattleyas and Vandas with a bit of everything else thrown in as curiosities. If I have a favourite genus I suppose it would be the Vanda (they seem to cope with my lifestyle of going away at the wrong time) but I'm fascinated by species orchids as well.

I do try to repot my orchids every two years, however, some always escape my attention and have to wait another year. My favourite time to repot is whenever I can find the time - generally not in winter. I rely a lot on slow release fertiliser with applications of liquid fertiliser, seaweed extract and occasionally fish emulsion when I am home and not tied up with my other interests. These include spinning wool and silk, weaving, felting and dyeing (at the moment botanical dyeing – I'm always looking at dead leaves and branches where ever I go).



I have been fortunate to team up with Moyna Richardson to present a small display at our shows for the last few years. With practice we are getting better and managed to win the small display section of the Spring Show last year. The Rockhampton Orchid Society is one of the friendliest groups I have joined. The social aspect of the society is one of the reasons I love being a member of the society.



# **NOTICE OF NEW LABELING SYSTEM FOR FUTURE SHOWS**

## **EXPLANATION ON HOW THE NEW SHOW LABELING SYSTEM WILL WORK AND WHAT MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO DO**

**“ONLY APPLIES TO ORCHIDS – DOES NOT INCLUDE FOLIAGE PLANTS AT THIS STAGE”**

AT OUR NEXT SHOW IN APRIL WE WILL BE INSTIGATING A NEW LABELING SYSTEM

THIS SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO STREAM LINE AND HELP WITH THE EFFICIENCY OF JUDGING AT OUR SHOWS. IT WILL IMPROVE THE TIME REQUIRED TO JUDGE SHOWS.

YOU MUST COMPILE A LIST OF **THE PLANT NAMES** OF ORCHIDS YOU **WANT TO ENTER** INTO THE SHOW- (COMPLETE NAMES AS ON YOUR LABEL INCLUDING CULTIVAR NAME IF ANY) THEN SEND TO OR DROP OFF TO THE RELEVANT PERSON (List on next page & contact details below) ASSIGNED TO YOU SO THEY CAN CHECK AND RECORD YOUR PLANTS.

**TRISH CRAIG** email [trishcraig@bigpond.com](mailto:trishcraig@bigpond.com) Phone 4922 6621

**BARRY ENGLISH** email [englishf@aapt.net.au](mailto:englishf@aapt.net.au) Phone 4922 2637

THEY WILL THEN ISSUE YOUR PLANT WITH A **UNIQUE PLANT NUMBER** FOR THAT SHOW. THE PLANT WILL HAVE A CORRESPONDING BARCODE ISSUED AGAINST THAT UNIQUE NUMBER. IF YOU HAVE A PLANT YOU ARE NOT SURE WILL BE READY FOR SHOW Eg. **IN BUD ALSO ADD TO YOUR LIST**. AS WELL IF YOU HAVE A PLANT YOU DO NOT KNOW THE NAME OF JUST MARK '**NAME UNKNOWN**' THEY WILL THEN PRINT OUT YOUR LABELS AND ADVISE WHEN TO PICK UP. YOU MAY EMAIL YOUR PLANT LISTS OR DROP IN A HARD COPY TO YOUR DESIGNATED COMPILER, BUT YOU **CAN NOT** PHONE YOUR LIST OF NAMES IN.

WITH THE NEW SYSTEM YOUR PLANT WILL BE CHECKED AGAINST ORCHIDWIZ FOR CORRECT NAME, SPELLING AND CORRECT WAY TO WRITE YOUR LABEL. THIS WILL BE A GREAT ADVANTAGE TO YOU AS YOU CAN UP-DATE YOUR COLLECTION WITH THE CORRECT PLANT NAMES AND LABELS ACCORDINGLY.

THIS **UNIQUE NO** IS WHAT THE JUDGES/STEWARDS WILL USE TO IDENTIFY YOUR PLANTS WHEN JUDGING. THIS NO WILL BE CHECKED AGAINST THE CORRESPONDING BARCODE TO PRINT OUT OUR SHOW RESULTS ON THE SHOW SCHEDULE AND THEN PRINT OUT OUR PRIZE CARDS.

IF YOU DO NOT SEND YOUR ORCHID LISTS IN TO BE CHECKED AND RECORDED – **YOU WILL NOT** BE ABLE TO ENTER YOUR PLANT/S INTO THE SHOW. YOU **CAN NOT** WRITE YOUR OWN LABELS AS THEY WILL NOT BE RECORDED ON THE SHOW SCHEDULE.

THERE WILL BE A **CUT OFF TIME** TO SEND IN YOUR PLANT LISTS – TO ENABLE YOUR COMPILER TO COMPLETE YOUR LABELS. THIS WILL BE THE **WEDNESDAY NIGHT** OF THE SHOW.

THE SYSTEM ONLY RECOGNISES REGISTERED ORCHID NAMES – IF A PLANT HAS BEEN CROSSED BUT NOT YET REGISTERED – ONLY THE FIRST TWO CROSSES CAN BE RECOGNISED, AND THESE TWO CROSSES WILL BE PRINTED ON YOUR PLANT NAME LABEL. THE **UNIQUE NO** WILL ALSO BE PRINTED ON THE FRONT OF NAME LABEL AND YOUR **NAME AND MEMBER NO** WILL BE PRINTED ON THE BACK. NOVICE GROWERS MUST STILL PUT A RED DOT ON THE FRONT OF THEIR NAME TAG TO ENABLE JUDGES TO IDENTIFY THEM AS A NOVICE GROWER.

**PLEASE CONSULT EXECUTIVE IF YOU ARE STILL UNSURE OF WHAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU.**



**TRISH CRAIG - RA****BARRY ENGLISH - RB**

MEM NO	MEMBER NAME	MEM NO	MEMBER NAME
71	AHERN	83	BREINGAN
12	BLOXSOM	39	BILLS
7	CARR	49	CHRISTENSEN
29	CHIPPENDALE	19	CONNOLLY
66	CRAIG	109	EGGLESRAW
122	CROSLAND	84	ENGLISH
7	DAHLER	13	FRISH
27	DEAN	17	GLOVER
63	GRAY	28	GUNDER
50	HILSIE	46	HANDLEY
57	HOWES	37	HOGAN
100	HUGHES	90	HOPES
120	I'ANSON	34	HUNBLE
43	JENKINSON	9	LAKEY
22	KIDMAN	64	LEDWAY
86	KYDD	67	LUCKE
78	LYONS	4	MARSDEN
107	MANN	95	MANNING
110	MARCH	18	MARCH
33	MARTIN	60	MIKKELSEN
118	MAUNDER	102	POWELL
36	MOORE	119	RANKIN
61	McKENZIE	121	ROWCLIFFE
8	PETERS	26	SMITH
96	RAWLINGS	56	SMITH
72	RICHARDSON	30	SORENSEN
40	WEAVER	11	TJERKSTRA
94	WINES	103	WALKER
		16	WHITE

**NB.** If your name is not on the above lists and you have a plant to enter into the show – please contact either of the above organisers. You are no longer able to just put a plant in without registering same. You cannot print your own labels.

## ANGRAECUM, the Species,

The genus *Angraecum* despite the fact that it contains around 200 species- many of them are quite showy & many are pretty ordinary, they are by & large moderately popular with the everyday orchid grower. This is due no doubt to the relative unavailability of nearly all the species except those few that are eye catchers. Angraecums are of a somewhat diverse vegetative appearance, also in their floral construction but in general they have short or lengthy monopodial (growing from it's terminal bud) stems, set mostly with plain fleshy leaves & bear short to elongate racemes of several small to large flowers, some species quite attractive. These flowers occur in shades of white and green & in lots of instances rather star shaped. The labellum (lip) has an extremity or as it is commonly known as a spur, which in the species *A. sesquipedale* reaches upwards of a foot (30 cms) long, this spur although the naturalists knew it contained nectar to entice some insect to visit as a pollinator – but what insect could possibly have a proboscis long enough to reach the nectar, carry off some of the pollen & propagate the species. Along came Charles Darwin the famed naturalist he when asked the perplexing question told them he thought there must be a night flying moth equipped for the task. Some fifty years the night flying Hawk moth *Xanthopan morgani var praedicta* was proven to be all that Darwin predicted, hence the name *praedicta*.

Distribution is mostly in tropical Africa & adjacent islands, although some species are to be found in Sri Lanka & the Philippines.

The species most common in our collections are of course, *A. sesquipedale* (pictured right) *A. eburneum*, *A. leonis*, *A. magdalenae*, *A. scottianum* & the hybrid *A. Veitchii*, this is a natural hybrid between *A. sesquipedale* & *A. eburneum*, the cross was made also way back in 1899 but the hybrids that are available are nowhere as attractive as the species (personal opinion).



CULTURE: The requirements of the *Angraecum* species vary greatly with their habitats. Certain of them do well on totems or bark mounts tho' I must admit I have had little success growing them that way. The smaller ones such as *A. scottianum* do well in small pots with a medium that will contain moisture not allowing the roots to dry out; by the same token they don't like wet feet. For the bigger of the genus, (I mean larger roots) I use a mix of med' bark & charcoal (only as a sweetener) & a little jumbo perlite for moisture retention. Most of them require rather diffused light & all, like other orchids, must have fresh free flowing air. While they are in active growth – which is for most of the year – water & fertilize regularly, you will find this is to your advantage. Temperature needs differ from species to species, but the majority that we will grow in C.Q. originate in warm, humid regions.

PRONUNCIATION: AN - GRY – CUM . SES – KWIP – EE – DAH – LEE.

Hymn.

### A Very Sneaky Pest in Your Bush House.

Mealy bugs and scale is probably the most common pest in our bush houses and the sneakiest; I think if you were to take a vote amongst growers I think you would find the vote winner to be scale of varies kinds. The same as the *Cattleya* genus has a very large number of species bearing its name; there are quite a number of species that come under the heading of scale. *Boisduval* scale, *Diaspis boisduvalii*, is often seen in *Cattleya* collections but perhaps through mis-practice on behalf of the grower or perhaps through ignorance. I have noticed over the years many growers spraying these with a spray completely unsuitable for purpose. Consequently they find they are infested with a very destructive pest. Just as common today are the various "soft" scales. Round or oval in shape, brownish of colour, species of soft scale infest any part of the plant. Taken all in all the damage they cause in sucking the plants vital juices is terribly significant. If detected early a cotton bud dipped in metho is often said to be an easy and safe way of removing scale insects and considered to be a fairly effective method. Sprays of insecticidal soap are the way to go for minor infestations

but given time and neglect by the grower, the situation can change dramatically and fast –super fast. Under the conditions that we grow our Orchids, (warm), scale insects multiply at a steady rate, so that, in a matter of weeks, a few scale insects here and there leads to countless millions everywhere. Believe you me they are very sneaky they hide everywhere you don't think to look until you notice a yellow spot on the leaf or on the pseudobulb; they hide in the crevice at the base or back of the leaves, under pseudobulb sheaths or at junction of the rhizome and pseudobulb.

The fact is that spraying with whatever one insecticide or another will solve infestations of scale is misleading and it is optimistic to believe that even two or three sprayings in periodic succession will completely eliminate a prolonged attack of scale. The first difficulty you will encounter is how do you achieve the thorough spray coverage that is necessary when the little suckers are everywhere. And even given you do achieve this, the insecticides most commonly used are Malathion\* and Diazinon\* they have a very short-term residual properties; that is, they remain active on the plant for only for a short time, at the very most two weeks. Most species of scale lay eggs, and since the females lay them under her shield, the microscopic young are quite often protected from such sprays – until they hatch and crawl out into the big wide world, don't scratch them off with a fingernail or such, you release millions of their young and rubbing them off with your fingers has the same effect as scratching them off . For most scale infestations of any severity, a series of spraying a week apart must be carried out until you are completely sure you have got on top of them, even then there are no guarantees! The only guarantee against such a “no-win” situation is to avoid it in the first place, with observation of the plants and a quick response once the pests are seen. Not “I'll do it tomorrow” – NOW.

This leaf was killed by *boisduvalii* scale



I have stipulated the genus *Cattleya* but these little suckers aren't at all fussy which Orchids they attack all are vulnerable. I have used many different types of sprays but I had most success with Natra Soap and Amgrow\* anti scale.

**Mealy Bugs.** Mealy Bugs are quite often mistaken for *Diaspis boisduvalii* scale but on closer examination you'll find they are nothing alike, like scale you'll find them in clusters or lone, they too are quite sneaky hiding in old sheaths and in the mix. Treat these differently to scale, although they have a protective waxy covering anti scale insecticides aren't of much value. I have had the most success with Confidor\*, this can be purchased in a concentrated form or in spray bottles. Ensure the plant is completely free of any sign of reinfestation before adding it to your bush house collection. After spraying wash the plant clean with a soft jet of water.

Hymn.

### **Words of Wisdom.**

By Sue Bottom, Sue is a prominent member of the St Augustine Orchid Society in Florida USA and has kindly given me permission to reproduce her article. Hymn.

Can't you just hear your mother giving you this advice, with an orchid twist?

**A fool and his money are soon parted** — The orchid books often advise growers to learn about the needs of different types of orchids and select orchids that are most suited for your growing conditions. Get real! Everyone has brought home a new and irresistible orchid and then struggled with making the plant thrive. Sometimes you learn how to grow orchids by making cultural mistakes that end up teaching you what conditions that orchid require and sometimes you learn the definition of insanity by continuing to buy beautiful orchids that will never achieve their potential in your environment.

**Caveat Emptor-** The best place to buy orchids is from a commercial grower who actually grows his or her orchids and sells them at society meetings, shows and often online on their own website or perhaps eBay. Commercial growers and hybridisers are a dwindling population that are an invaluable source of interesting plants, information and growing tips. Meet the orchid vendors, visit their nurseries, learn who has the healthiest plants and then buy from them. Everyone has bought plants from strangers online and sometimes it works out well and sometimes not.

**Do As I Say, Not as I Do-** You spend so much time with your orchids, watering, repotting, admiring, why not make staking your orchids a part of your routine? Start staking when the buds are developing so the flower can be encouraged to orient itself to its best advantage. You want to lift and separate, sort of like a Playtex bra. Don't wait until the flowers are formed and then say if only.....

**Grower Know Thyself-** Your watering habits and choice of potting mix or lack thereof are reversibly intertwined. It may be true that some orchids will do best if it is grown mounted rather than potted but if you get busy with your day job and only have time for watering once or twice a week, those orchids you have mounted will wish it had been potted with some mix that would hold a little moisture while you are toiling away for orchid money. Accept the time constraints life imposes on you and adjust your cultural conditions to accommodate that reality, your orchids will thank you.

**Man Works From Sun to Sun, an Orchid Grower's Work is Never Done-** Have you ever walked through your growing area and said everything has been repotted, watered and fertilised, my new buds are staked, there are no weeds in the orchid pots or under the benches and I've followed my preventative spray schedule? Me neither.

**All Work and No Play Makes Jack a Dull Boy-** It's all worthwhile when you see the first bloom on that seedling or smell that fragrant orchid. Spend time puttering around in your growing area so you can enjoy the sight and smell of your orchids. Bring your orchids into the house so you can enjoy them longer.

**Cleanliness is Next to Godliness-** Keep your growing area clean. Remove ferns, oxalis and other weeds from orchid pots before they take over and smother the orchid root system. Keep the area under the benches weed free to make sure pests can't proliferate there. Spray the outside of the pots and under benches with one of the fungicides containing quaternary ammonium compounds periodically to sterilise and help keep diseases in check. Sterilise your cutting tools between plants to prevent spread of disease.

**All Good Things Must Come to an End-** Your orchid bloomed and it was beautiful, absolutely beautiful. Some flowers last longer than others but all eventually will fade and it's time to remove the bloom spike. Most orchids enjoy a bit of a rest after blooming, let them recoup some of the energy they expended putting on that floral show. Keep them a bit drier. They'll let you know when they're ready to start growing again when you start seeing those little green root tips.

**An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure-** Preventing disease is much better for you and your orchids than treating disease in your growing area. Watering your plants properly and providing enough air movement will prevent many diseases from occurring, which will help minimise the need for chemicals as well as exposure to those chemicals while applying them. Keen observation of your orchids will keep you attuned to their health and the adequacy of the cultural conditions you provide for them.

**A Stitch in Time Saves Nine-** Never put off until tomorrow what you should do today. If you're watering, don't think about what you have to do this afternoon, look at each plant as you water it. Stop when you see a problem. Put the watering wand down and move the plant to your triage area, then resume watering. When you're done, the plant will be sitting in a high profile area to remind you that you now must address whatever problem it has.

**You Gotta Be Cruel to be Kind-** Remember when you used to visit the 50% off table to buy all the bloomed out or sick orchids? When you used to pot up all the back bulbs because you couldn't bear to throw them out? Eventually you tire of running an orchid infirmary and decide only to give bench space to healthy, vigorous plants that will bloom well for you. As you get more proficient in the fine art of culling, each plant you grow becomes a treasure rather than a liability.



**Don't be a Bull in a China Shop-** Want to be invited back to someone's nursery? Learn the rules of bush house etiquette, no bags or heavy coats in the growing area, don't touch the flowers, don't pull the tags out of the pots and don't move the plants around. Ask the grower if you have a question about this or that plant, keep your hands in your pockets and keep your elbows tucked in.

**Learn from Your Mistakes-** The sin isn't in making a mistake; it's making the same mistake twice. If you discover your roots are a sodden mess when repotting, ask yourself why. Did I water too much? Did I wait too long to repot? Is the mix too water retentive? Should I have added more Styrofoam or Lava rock at the bottom of the pot for improved aeration and drainage? If you can figure out why something bad happened, you might just be able to prevent that problem from happening again.

**Knowledge is Power-** The more you learn, from people, from books, from observations, the better you'll be able to grow your orchids. Say you read about some minerals being translocatable within (like magnesium) and some not (like calcium). Pretty dry stuff but if you don't supply enough magnesium to your plant it will rob magnesium from the older leaves to fuel the growth of the new leaves. In the spring, when the new growth begins, if you see an inordinate amount of leaf yellowing on the older growths, this little nugget of information would suggest you have a magnesium deficiency. Break out the Epsom Salts!!!

**Change is Constant-** We're always tinkering with our potting mixes, fertilisers, snake oils and growing conditions. Many moons ago, I grew Cattleyas in a pure tree fern mix and redwood bark mix, an open freely draining mix that would last for 4 or 5 years in the pot. Then the cost of the tree fern increased as the availability and quality decreased to the point where snow mould would occur in the pots within 2 years of repotting. Gradually more and more inert materials like hydroton, sponge rock and charcoal were added to the mix in lieu of most of the tree fern. Now redwood bark is no longer available. This year I am substituting the coarsest Orchid bark for about half of the dwindling amount of tree fern in the Cattleya mix. Who knows what the mix du jour will be next year.

**Everything Old is New Again-** Cypress mulch is back in vogue again. The South Florida growers used it for many years, growing many of the terete Vandas in it. Now different growers are using it for Cattleyas and other genera, either by itself, as an additive or as a top dressing.

**Trust Your Instincts Luke-** The speakers at your Orchid Society and your fellow Orchid growers all will recount experiences of what worked for them under their growing conditions. This is a beautiful thing but it doesn't mean that what worked for them will work for you. If someone's suggestion seems interesting enough, try it, experiment with it and with variations on the theme. Listen to what everybody says but in the end, trust your instincts and do whatever seems like the right thing to do.

Live long and prosper – Grow your plants well and they will reward you with bloom after bloom. To paraphrase the Irish blessing:



*May the bench rise to meet you,*

*May the wind keep away the black.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your leaves,*

*The rains fall soft upon your roots.*

*And until you bloom again,*

*May the orchid gods hold you in the palms of their hands.*



## Ellie's Corner

Hello everyone – welcome to Ellie's Corner for March 2017.

Another Annual Meeting has come and gone in a happy, well-ordered manner. Deep appreciation is due to our President, Jeff Bloxsom, our Executive, our Committee Members and all our enthusiastic members who combined to make it an outstanding year for our Society.

Bobby Kuhn and her daughter Shirley Kuhn recently became members. Bobby used to be a nurse and is now retired. Shirley worked in a Pharmacy for 40 years and she is also retired. They both used to breed Welsh ponies and travelled extensively with them (that sounds really exciting). Nowadays Bobby enjoys painting and many forms of craft work and Shirley tends the garden. They have a

small orchid collection from which they derive great pleasure. They are looking forward to learning as much as possible about orchids and their culture. We warmly welcome them both.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of June Mallory who is Pam Marsden's sister, recently. She had suffered greatly and it is a blessing that she is now in heaven, free from pain and at peace. Our love and prayers are with Pam and Keith and the family at this time.

Doug Wust, a long-time member died recently. Doug and his wife Jean joined our Society way back in March 1971. They were very highly regarded by all and were loyal, enthusiastic members who took full part in Society activities. Doug was a real gentleman. Jean is a lovely gentle lady and our thoughts and prayers go to her and their family.

We also mourn the loss of Berry Munro. Berry and her late husband Col became members in 1997. Advancing years curtailed their activities. Berry was a loving person with a very sweet nature. Our sympathy goes to her family.

It was good to catch up with Sandra Rowcliffe at our Annual Meeting. She told me that she and Michael enjoyed their 10 Night South Pacific Cruise on Explorer of the Seas in February and had a very happy time. Sandra does a marvellous job as our Editor and is also involved in other areas. She works full time and has a large orchid collection to care for as well. She certainly is a very valuable member.

Terry and I lost a dear friend when Rod Shoesmith phoned us earlier in the year to say that his mother Monty had died. We had known her for over 40 years and we had met many times over the years in Mackay and Rockhampton and at various Australian Conferences. We last caught up with her in September 2015 at the Australian Orchid Conference and Show in Mackay. At the Gala Dinner she was congratulated on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and given a beautiful bouquet. She was a legend in Mackay and further afield and was the oldest member and a Life Member of the Mackay District Orchid Society. Our sympathy goes to Rod and family. I bet Monty is growing orchids in heaven!



Happy Birthday to those celebrating in April.

Ralph Warner 3<sup>rd</sup>; Ray Stegemann 5<sup>th</sup>; Val Hewitt, Terry Ahern, John Dahler 7<sup>th</sup>; Sue Robb 8<sup>th</sup>; Helen Rowcliffe 9<sup>th</sup>; Shirley Peters 10<sup>th</sup>; Rose Tregea 17<sup>th</sup>; Jack Martin, Lynn Niven, Clive Russell 25<sup>th</sup>; Bobby Kuhl 27<sup>th</sup>; Bernie Peters 28<sup>th</sup>; Lyn Mikkelsen 30<sup>th</sup>.

A special cheerio to our long time member, Rose Tregea who celebrates her 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> April. She tells me she loves reading our newsletters.

Till next time my love and prayers are with you.

Ellie

## Several Popular Vote Winners Tabled at February Meeting

(*Den.* 'Burana Candy' x *Den.* Chao Praya Gem)  
'Delicate Dimensions' – John & Sharyn Frisch



(*C.* Interglossa x *Bc.* Richard Mueller) "Capricorn's Star Performer" – John & Sharyn Frisch



*Rlc.* Glenlee Charlotte – Trevor & Marg Handley



*Rhy.* Retusa – Peter & Toni Jenkinson



*Rlc.* Mount Isa 'Jean' x *Rlc.* Glenn Maidment – R Wines



*V.* Gordon Dillon 'Sapphire' – Terry & Ellie Dean



*V.* Marissa's Little Doll 'Bonnie's Wish'  
Jeff & Marilyn Bloxsom



*V.* 'Tilstar Gold Mandarin' – Zoe Kidman





If undelivered return  
Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc  
PO Box 5949  
Red Hill Rockhampton  
Queensland. 4701

**Print  
Post**  
100020042

**Postage Paid  
AUSTRALIA**



### **Your 2017 ROSI Orchid Diary**

18<sup>th</sup> March – Childers and IDOS Show

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> April – **ROSI Autumn Show**

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> April – Sunshine Coast Orchid Show

14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April – Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Club Easter  
Display and Plant Sales

15<sup>th</sup> April – South Burnet Orchid Show - Wondai

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> May – Gympie & DOS Show & Garden Expo

12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May – Bundaberg Orchid Society Show

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June – Boyne Tannum Orchid & Foliage Show

9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June – **Bus Trip to Townsville Orchid Spectacular  
& TQOC Conference**

21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Caboolture Orchid Show

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> August – Maroochydore Orchid Show

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> August – Agnes Water Orchid Show

12<sup>th</sup> August – STOCQ Meeting Agnes Water

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Nambour Orchid Show

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Childers Orchid Show

14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September – Maryborough Orchid Show

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September – **ROSI Spring Show**

22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Glasshouse Country Orchid Show

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October – Nambour Species Show

4<sup>th</sup> November – STOCQ Meeting – hosted by Glasshouse  
Country Orchid Club

8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November – World Orchid Conference Ecuador

**Date to be advised – ROSI Christmas Barbecue**

**Date to be advised – ROSI Christmas Dinner & Award  
Evening**

**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