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CULTURAL MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Buderim Men's Shed 34 Advance Road Kuluin
 Plants are to be tabled by 7.00 pm for judging

THE NEXT CULTURAL MEETING IS ON TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone.

Firstly, I'd like to officially welcome our new members Sue Murtagh, Jay Murray, Lionel Barry, and Margaret Kirby.

Well, our show is nearly upon us. I was really pleased with the display at our March meeting. We need this and more to make our show great, so if you have any reasonable blooms, please bring them along. If you have spare plants, you can sell them at the show. Please inspect them carefully to make sure there are no bugs on them. It's useful to spray them anyway.

We need everyone's help to set up the show at 6.00 am and as many members as possible to help throughout the day. This is the first show in the region since our March 2020 show and we expect a good crowd of people to come.

I know with everyone working together, we will make this a great success. The sales bench is not just for the public, you could find some treasures to add to your collection.

I will see you all on Saturday 20 March at 6.00 am and hope you'll have a satisfying time getting your plants ready.

For newer members and some not too sure, I've made up some dummy labels for show plants and a dummy label for selling plants. You'll find them on page 5 of this newsletter opposite Rod's guide to preparing your orchids for the show.

Cheers.

DUNCAN McMARTIN
 MOS President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The one day show at the Buderim Uniting Church Hall was the main item for discussion at our February meeting. In addition to the usual details, Covid-19 requirements were thoroughly discussed, and procedures put in place to comply with all government regulations. Thanks to Del, Fay, Desiree, Barry, and Roger who have offered to do their bit to help prepare the show. The kitchen will not be operating so that will free up several people to help with cleaning and serving on the sales table.

Advertising for the show includes roadside signs, banners on the church fence, flyers to distribute amongst your friends and family, and contacting local newspapers, radio, and TV stations.

Desiree organised a visit to Fame Nursery at Thornlands in Brisbane for Saturday 6 March. It was an enjoyable self-drive outing. Many new orchids were purchased.

A discussion regarding the purchase of a flash ring for taking photos for the newsletter resulted in a wait and see decision. The black background that Barry organized will go some way to improving the quality of the photos of the first, second and third prize orchids for each section.

The Bribie Island Easter Show and the Sunshine Coast Caloundra Show have been cancelled. This means the first open show to be held is the Gympie Orchid Society Show on 1 and 2 May at the Albert Park Bowls Club, with set up on 30 April. It will be a benching show. Hopefully, this is the beginning of the return to normal.

KATHY HOWATSON
 MOS Secretary

ORCHID GENERA NAMES AND PRONUNCIATION

Following on from last month's introduction to orchid names and how to pronounce them, some more names to roll into your vocabulary.

Clowesetum	klo-SEE-tum A hybrid of Clowesia and Catasetum
Clowesia	klow-EE-zee-ah or KLOWZ-ee-ah or KLOW-see-ah or KLOWS-ee-ah This is a genus consisting of 7 species
Coelia	SEE-lee-ah There are 5 accepted species names
Coelogynne	see-loh-GYE-nee or see-loh-GYNE-nee or see-LOJ-ih-nee
Cycnodes	SIK-noh-deez A hybrid of Cycnoches and Mormodes
Cycnoches	SIK-noh-keez or sik-noh-KEEZ or sik-NOH-keez A genus of 34 currently accepted species
Dendrobium	den-DROH-bee-um
Dendrochilum	den-droh-KYE-lum

Borrowed from www.pvorchids.com

LIBRARY

An orchid book library is available for all members to use. Please ensure borrowed books are signed out by our Librarian Joe Merceria.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have an interesting article to share in the newsletter please contact the Editor. See front cover for contact details.

DISCLAIMER

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This project is proudly supported by Sunshine Coast Council's grants program

START SMALL & WORK YOUR WAY UP

By Barry Woods

We can't have the orchid house of our dreams when we start cultivating orchids. It pays to start small, trying different genera that appeal to you, figuring out which do well for you, and which do not.

Be a sponge, absorb all the information you can get from the internet, and other growers, especially growers in your Society who live in your area and are more or less subject to the same conditions.



The glass house of your dreams may look something like this. While there's no denying it'd be nice to have, don't get caught up trying to get your proverbial ducks in a row.

A north facing structure like the one below is perfect for starters and it's inexpensive to build too.

You'll need to keep a watchful eye on pests with an open front, but it's still a great way to start. Some flywire across the front to stop the pests while still allowing maximum light would be better than using shade cloth.

A spot along a fence line facing north with a wide over hanging roof will limit the hot overhead sun in summer but still allow the milder winter sun to come in.



Start with a simple structure that's relatively easy to build.

CURIOSITY CORNER

We often think of orchids as small to medium in size, especially genera like *Bulbophyllum*, however, at the February meeting, we were treated to a large orchid in flower, a *Grammatophyllum*, belonging to Lionel.

To the right is *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* from New Guinea, a massive orchid many years in the growing. Fair warning – the flowers on this orchid have a distinctly unpleasant smell.

If you're curious about *Bulbophyllums*, Duncan (our President) is the person to speak to. He's an avid grower and more than happy to share his knowledge and enthusiasm for all things *Bulbophyllum*. There are so many plants in this genus and only a few with an unpleasant smell. Just look at the beautiful *Bulbophyllum* specimen to the right.



MARCH PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Kathy Howatson

Orchid Name: *Cattlianthe Fantasia Jibara*
(labelled *C. Fantasy Jibara* when I bought it)

History of the plant

I bought this plant on 29 June 2001 from Brighton Orchids for \$6. It must have been on a bus trip organised by the Society. It's a hybrid seedling of *Ctt. Chocolate Drop* x *C. tigrina*. I can't remember how long it took to flower for me, but whenever it does flower, the inflorescence is always a good size and shape. Usually there's only one inflorescence, but this year there are two. The fragrance is also a noticeable bonus. Just beautiful.

On a subsequent bus trip, I bought another *C. Fantasia Jibara* from Brighton. While exhibiting the same shape, the flower is a darker red/maroon in colour with no spots at all.

Growing Procedure

I grow the plant in my 7½ x 4 metre shade house with the high roof under 50% black shade cloth. It gets watered every 2 to 3 days in summer and maybe once a week in winter. I have repotted this plant several times but I must admit, I've only done it when I've had to (2004, 2006, 2012, and 2016). It doesn't make many side shoots so in all this time, I've only been able to get two extra plants out of it. It gets fertilised with all the other cattleyas, mostly Horticultural Solutions 22 Blue for growing (spring to mid summer) and Horticultural Solutions 12 Yellow for flowering (mid summer to winter). It tends to put on a really good flower display every two years.

Awards

This year it was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) at an award judging with 78.5 points, so it's now *Ctt. Fantasia Jibara 'Rosemount'* HCC/AOC/STOCQ.

See page 8 for a photo of Cathy's *Cattlianthe Fantasia Jibara*

Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis



A couple of *Bulbophyllum lobbii* flowers

DRESSING ORCHIDS FOR A SHOW

by Rod Aisthorpe

Rod Aisthorpe gave an excellent presentation to members at our February meeting on how to prepare and present plants for orchid shows and benching. Here are some of the tips he shared with us.

IN THE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SHOW

You can over stake to train the flower raceme as it's maturing towards its desired position so start preparing the plant before the flowers have set. It takes about 3 days for the flower to first open and then set, with the colour then at its best. The best look for blooms is for them to face outwards, with the labellum pointing down.

Many growers will use staking to support the plant while transporting to a show and then remove the support when benching the plant.

Staking can help when orchid spikes are developing, but when being presented at a show only stake up to the first flower.

PRIOR TO SHOW DAY

Use a damp paper towel to wipe the leaves and pot clean. Use the water sprayer to help. Wipe from the base of the leaf out to the tip, being very gentle.

Plants at shows must be in excellent health and insect free so have a good inspection before benching.

Remove all dead flower spikes, sheaths and damaged leaves that detract from the plant's presentation. Be gentle so you don't damage the plant or its blooms.



Rod dressing his orchids for the show bench.

Use green tie wire or very small green clips that blend with the foliage. Trim the tie wires as necessary.

Green stakes are more camouflaged against the plant, putting the plant in the spotlight. I sometimes spray tan bamboo stakes with green spray paint.

Aesthetically, black pots look superior to coloured pots. The colour contrast is at its best, they create an overall uniformity on a display bench, and let the plant be the focus.

ON SHOW DAY

Stakes should not stick up high as this detracts from the look and are a safety risk. Simply trim stakes with cutters.

Sadly, sometimes a flower gets knocked off in its journey to a show. If that flower is placed in the pot at the base of the plant, the judges can then still see and judge that flower.

A BAG OF TRICKS

A basket of equipment on hand for preparation of your orchids on show day is useful. Include stakes, ties, flower clips, and secateurs.

Some plants are awkward to present. Break out your handy person skills to make stands that secure the plant and display it at its best. Paint your bespoke stands black to blend into the background and let the orchid shine.

Thank you Rod for sharing your knowledge from decades of orchid growing. Rod has reiterated that he still learns, and that we can all learn by asking questions.



Staking an exhibition Cattleya hybrid for showing.

GUIDE TO DISPLAY PLANT LABELS

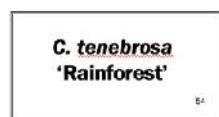
For Latin binomials, the genus is always capitalised while the species name is lower case, and both are italicised.

Names of hybrid orchids should be capitalised regular text (no italics), and with the name of the cultivar in inverted commas.

Always put your member number in the bottom right corner.



Lsz. is the abbreviation for the *Leomesezia* genus. Lava Burst is the name of the hybrid. 'Puanani' is the name of the cultivar.



C is the abbreviation for the *Cattleya* genus while *tenebrosa* is the species. 'Rainforest' is the name of the cultivar.



Rlc. is the abbreviation for *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*, and the name of this intergeneric hybrid is Wakiki Gold.



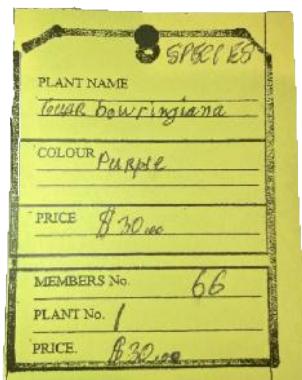
Stanhopea is the genus and the species is *wardii*.

GUIDE TO SALE PLANT LABELS

Duncan has filled in the example below using his member number. You would of course use *your* member number. You may also attach a photo of the flower (if available) to your label.

Once a plant is sold, the bottom section is cut off and kept so the Treasurer has a record of what's been sold and can pay the appropriate sellers at the end of the day using the member number on the tag. Allocate each of your sale plants a number to keep track of which plants sold (this stub will be returned to you with your sales proceeds).

10% of the sale price is the Society's commission. The commission on this \$30.00 plant would be \$3.00.



Popping the petals on a Vanda flower so it presents well.



A custom stand for a rambling Vandaceous species orchid.

JUDGING RESULTS – MARCH 2021 MEETING

CATTLEYA

		MEMBER	POPULAR VOTE
1	Ctt. Fantasia Jibara 'Rosemount' HCC/AOC	Kathy H	Kathy H Ctt. Fantasia Jibara 'Rosemount' HCC/AOC
2	Ctt. Fantasia Jibara 'Rosemount' HCC/AOC	Kathy H	(Plant of the Night)
3	Rth. Dal's Reward x C. Lulu	Kathy H	

DENDROBIUM

1	Den. Asternova Snow Drop 'Kathy' AM (QOS, AOC)	Lorraine H	Lorraine H Den. Asternova Snow Drop 'Kathy' AM (QOS, AOC)
2	Den. Chatuchak	Lorraine H	
3	Den. Caesar Green 'Orchidworld'	Nev D	

VANDA

1	Vandachostylis (Van.) Janice Allison	Lorraine H	Lorraine H V. Kulwadee Fragrance
2	V. Fuchs Sunglow 'Orange'	Lorraine H	
3	Vanda (V.) Marissa's Little Doll 'Baby Pink'	Lorraine H	

ONCIDIUM

1	Miltoniopsis (Mps.) Lillian Nakamoto	Col & Bev H	Col & Bev H Miltoniopsis (Mps.) Lillian Nakamoto
2	Oncostele (Ons.) Warm Memories 'Wildfire'	Col & Bev H	
3	Ons. Catatante 'Pacific Sunspots'	Nev D	

ANY OTHER GENERA

1	Galeopetalum (Gptm.) Arlene Armour	Lorraine H	Lorraine H Galeopetalum Arlene Armour
2	Grammatocymbidium (Grcym.) Lovely Melody 'Lipstick' x Gram. speciosum	Lorraine H	
3	Bulb. Meen Mercury Sandal	Duncan Mc	

SPECIES

1	Gram. scriptum var. citrinum	Lorraine H	Lorraine H Gram. scriptum var. citrinum
2	Dendrochilum (Ddc.) magnum	Lorraine H	
3	Den. cumulatum	Duncan Mc	

NOVICE

1	Aliceara (Alcra.) Pacific Nova 'Okika'	Mike K	Mike K Aliceara (Alcra.) Pacific Nova 'Okika'
2	Brassidium (Brsdm.) Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	Desiree W	
3	C. Mark Jones 'Mac'	Christine L	

FOLIAGE

1	Begonia	Lorraine H	Lorraine H Bromeliad
2	Fittonia	Lorraine H	
3	Bromeliad	Lorraine H	

NAME CHANGES ARE IN ORANGE (please update your tags)

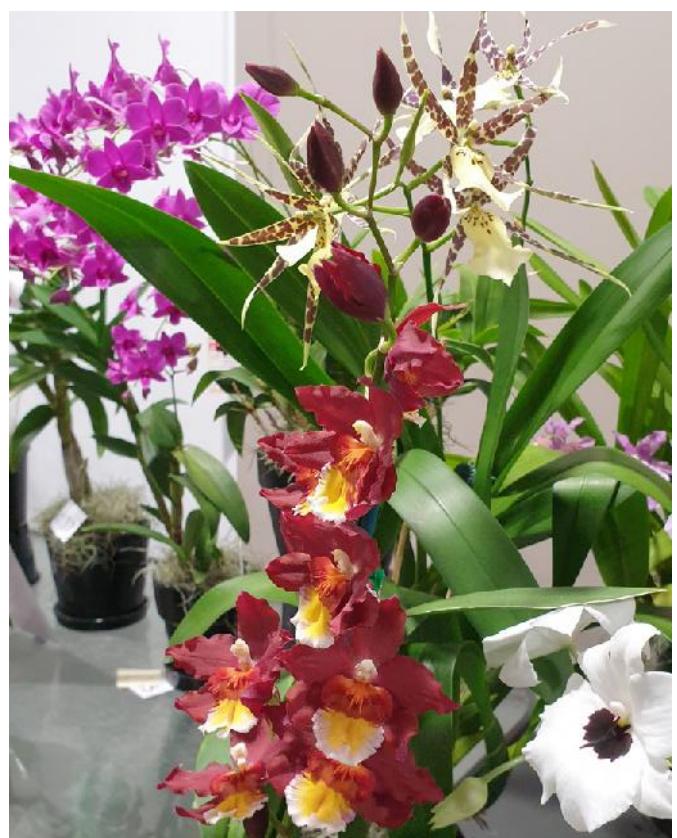


There were some stunning orchids at the March meeting. With Rob Aisthorpe's pointers on presentation, these will be the stars of the future.

SUPPER ROSTER FOR 2021

There are still some spots vacant which we'll fill at the April meeting.

APRIL	PETER H	BILL G
MAY	CHRISTINE L	VACANCY
JUNE	TEDDY G	MIKE K
		LYN V
JULY	COL AND BEV H	MITZI M
AUGUST	VACANCY	VACANCY
SEPTEMBER	VACANCY	VACANCY
OCTOBER	KEN J	VACANCY
NOVEMBER	VACANCY	VACANCY
DECEMBER	EVERYONE TO BRING A PLATE	



CATTLEYA



Ctt. Fantasia Jibara 'Rosemount' HCC (AOC, STOCQ)

DENDROBIUM



Dendrobium Chatuchak



Rhyncattleanthe Dal's Reward x Cattleya Lulu



Den. Asternova Snowdrop 'Kathy' AM (QOS, AOC)



Dendrobium Caesar Green 'Orchidworld'

VANDA



Vanda Janice Allison



Vanda Fuchs Sunglow 'Orange'

ONCIDIUM



Miltoniopsis Lillian Nakamoto



Oncidium Warm Memories
'Wildfire'



Oncidium Catatante
'Pacific Sunspots'



Vanda Marissa's Little Doll 'Baby Pink'

SPECIES



Dendrochilum magnum



Dendrobium cumulatum



Grammatophyllum scriptum var. *citrinum*

OTHER GENERA



Galeopetalum Arlene Armour



Grammatocymbidium
Lovely Melody 'Lipstick' x
Grammatophyllum speciosum



Bulbophyllum
Meen Mercury Sandal

NOVICE



Aliceara Pacific Nova 'Okika'



Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight'

FOLIAGE



Begonia



Fittonia



Bromeliad



Cattleya Mark Jones 'Mac'

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This month, we're getting to know one of our newest members, **Jay Murray**



How did you get the Orchid bug?

I was suffering cabin fever over 2020 with the Covid lockdown and decided to go outside and tend the few orchids I had. A couple had passed to heaven. I started with inherited plants and ones given as presents, and now I'm hooked.

What was your first Orchid?

It was an unnamed Phalaenopsis given as a gift.

How long have you been growing Orchids?

Only about 12 months now.

What do you love about growing Orchids?

I love the fact that with some care and attention, my orchids are rewarding me with lots of new growth and hopefully many flowers.

What type of Orchids do you grow?

I have some Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, Dendrobium and Vanda.

Do you have a favourite Orchid?

I do love Vandas and a close second is Phalaenopsis.

What is the Orchid at the top of your wish list?

Rhynchorides 'Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset', it's just so beautiful.

Where do you grow your Orchids?

Under the dappled light of trees. I have some hanging from a timber pallet. They seem happy there and it is protected from cold winds but still gets a good breeze with fairly high humidity.

Do you have a regular program for watering, fertilising, and pest control?

All these things are still quite new to me, so I'm learning all the time. I have a timetable worked out for now and hope to learn more.

Do you have a mentor or inspiration in the orchid community?

I have two! Barry Woods and Roger Lodsman.

Do you have any other interests and hobbies?

Yes, I love to travel when I can, photography and French.

What's your highlight since joining Maroochydore Orchid Society?

I love the feeling of inclusion and the enthusiasm of the other members. I also love the magnificent turnout of orchids at meetings.

What topics would you most like to hear a talk or presentation about at some stage?

I'd love a talk or presentation on everything pest control. I'd also like to hear about viruses in Orchids, how they start, what conditions causes them, how they spread. I also very much enjoy any of the potting presentations too.

Thank you, Jay, it was a pleasure chatting with you. Happy growing and flowering.

Say hi to Jay at the next meeting, and if you can help Jay out with the orchid at the top of her wish list, that would make her incredibly happy.

Would another member please volunteer to answer these questions for the April edition of The Observer?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2021

Rockhampton Orchid Society Autumn Show

Saturday 10 April to Sunday 11 April

Caboolture Orchid Society Closed Show

Morayfield Shopping Centre

Thursday 29 April to Saturday 1 May

MAY 2021

Gympie & District Orchid Society Open Show

(as part of the Garden Expo)

Albert Park Bowls Club

Saturday 1 May to Sunday 2 May

Set up Friday 30 April at 2.00 pm

Queensland Orchid Society Autumn Show

Belmont Shooting Complex (1485 Old Cleveland Rd Belmont)

Sunday 3 May to Monday 4 May

Noosa Orchid Society Closed Show

CWA Hall (Maple Street Cooroy)

Friday 7 May to Saturday 8 May

Bundaberg Orchid Society Autumn Show

Bundaberg Civic Centre (Bourbong St Bundaberg)

Friday 7 May to Sunday 9 May

Maroochydore Mother's Day Closed Show

Bli Bli Uniting Church Hall (Lefoes Rd Bli Bli)

Sunday 9 May