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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 JULY 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone

We're strange creatures. When we're young, we wish time would go faster so we could do grown up things sooner. When we get old, it seems that our wish at last comes true as time seems to rush by. It's the middle of the year already!

The open show season is fast approaching. For those new to this whole show thing, the two shows we've had this year were closed shows. This means only our own members could put flowers on display.

In an open show, any member of a society affiliated with the Sub Tropical Orchid Council Inc can put flowers on display.

This is mostly people from Caboolture to Gympie. Gympie has had theirs and the next one is Caboolture at Morayfield with set up on 22 July. This is also a benching show for us.

Set up for our own show is on 5 August. It's time to start getting your plants ready. More about that at our next meeting on 6 July.

Some people said they'd like to see more live demonstrations of how to care for various orchids. I have a large *Maxillaria tenuifolia* that needs repotting. I won't be putting it in a bigger pot so there'll be some bits left over for members.

Lionel's doing a presentation at the July meeting so I'll hold off until the August meeting. **Editor's note: Lionel Kirby is one of our master growers. Think about what questions you might have for Lionel, as he enjoys an interactive session.**

Some growers are repotting their hybrid *Cattleyas* now, but you need to be careful with some of the bifoliate species as they don't like disturbance at the wrong time of the year. This is particularly important for *Cattleya intermedia* and to some extent *Cattleya bicolor*. They should be repotted only when they have new roots getting away. I found this out by experience, and someone said, 'you should have known that' and I replied 'how could I have, nobody's ever told me that'.

I hope you're all well and keeping warm and I'll see you at the next meeting.

DUNCAN McMARTIN
MOS President

URGENT APPEAL FOR ORCHID SEEDS

by the Australian Orchid Foundation

The Australian Orchid Foundation runs an international seed bank to promote and facilitate the propagation and conservation of orchid species. The Orchid Species Seed Bank urgently requires more fresh seed.

AOF members and friends frequently ask 'what can I do for the AOF?' There is something everyone can do, that being, donate seed from at least one ripe capsule, just every year, and suggest that your friends do this too, especially from that interesting species in your collections.

Cross pollinate flowers of different clones if possible which will produce more viable seed. Send the dry seed to the seed bank, harvested as the capsule yellows. Place in a paper envelope and post in a crush-proof container such as a small postal carton. Believe it or not, orchid seed is delicate and can be crushed in the mail.

Try your hand at pollination for the conservation of species.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For all seed and protocorm enquiries, please contact

Mr Richard Thomson

AOF Species Seed and Protocorm Bank

PO Box 2152

Templestowe Lower VIC 3107

Phone: 0427 046 414

Email: protocorm@australianorchidfoundation.org.au

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

While the Editor endeavours to ensure the reliability of this newsletter, neither the Editor nor Maroochydore Orchid Society Inc. can assume any responsibility for the information or advice given to readers of The Observer.



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee approved the membership of Rosemary Simmons. Welcome Rosemary to the Maroochydore Orchid Society. Mitzi Matthews and Sue Murtagh were given their name badges.

Our 50th Anniversary Show on 6 and 7 August was the main topic of discussion.

Advertising will include a quarter page advertisement in 'My Weekly Preview' as well as an editorial. 'Your Time' and 'The Range Gazette' will also be approached for an editorial or small community notice. Information about the show will be sent to radio stations and Channel 7 for the 'What's On' by Rosanna Natoli. Banners and roadside signs will be prepared for members to put out.

Del Whittaker has painted a magnificent 50th Anniversary sign with the society's emblem of *Vanda hindsii*. With all this planning our annual show will be a show to remember.

A special award has been added to the show schedule: 'Best Golden Flower' with a prize of \$50. It can be any genera and any size. The only requirement is the colour.

Random prizes of orchids will also be awarded during the show. The specifics of this will be finalised at our next meeting.

Another class for soft cane dendrobiums is being added to the show schedule.

A member for Maroochydore will be contacted for the official opening at 11.00 am on the Friday. Who this will be is yet to be confirmed.

Editor's note: Planning for our 50th Anniversary Show is ongoing. Any questions, suggestions, and ideas from members are open for discussion at our July meeting. Additionally, any concerns or requests in general should be directed to Duncan, Kathy, or Desiree in person, in writing, or via email.

KATHY HOWATSON
MOS Secretary



Kathy and Del with hand painted signs for our 50th anniversary.

JUDGING RESULTS – JUNE 2021 MEETING

CATTLEYA

- 1 Rlc. Dreamtrader ‘Southern Cross’
- 2 Rlc. Donna Kimura ‘Paradise Tami’
- 3 Burdekin Dream ‘D’

MEMBER

- Nev D
John S
John S

POPULAR VOTE

- Nev D Rlc. Dreamtrader ‘Southern Cross’

DENDROBIUM

- 1 Den. Jessica Stripe
- 2 Den. Caesar ‘Green’
- 3 Den. Pink Sparkle

- Loraine H
John S
Loraine H

- Loraine H Den. Pink Sparkle

VANDA

- 1 V. Pure’s Wax ‘KBR’
- 2 V. Fuchs Spotted Orange
- 3 V.Brighton’s Ruby Jewel

- Loraine H
John S
Loraine H

- Loraine H V.Brighton’s Ruby Jewel

ONCIDIUM

- 1 Wils. Hilo Firecracker
Oncostele Hilo Firecracker =
Onc. Catatante x Onc. Aloha Sparks
- 2 Oncsa. Sweet Sugar ‘Lemon Drop’
- 3 Oncsa. Sweet Sugar

- Loraine H
Loraine H
Loraine H

- Loraine H Oncsa. Sweet Sugar ‘Lemon Drop’

ANY OTHER GENERA

- 1 Bulb. Wilbur Chang
- 2 Paph. Leeanum
- 3 Cyc. Jumbo Puff

- Loraine H
Loraine H
John S

- Loraine H Bulb. Wilbur Chang

SPECIES

- 1 V. testacea
- 2 V. sanderiana
- 3 Cym. erythrostylum

- Loraine H
John S
Rod A

- Loraine H Onc. sotoanum

NOVICE

- 1 Catasetum After Dark ‘SVO’
Fredclarkeara After Dark ‘SVO’
- 2 Bsn. Maikai ‘Mayumi’
- 3 C. Prism Palette ‘Rainbow’

- Greg D
Desiree W
Lyn V

- Greg D Catasetum Fredclarkeara

FOLIAGE

- 1 Begonia
- 2 Anthurium
- 3 Ledebouria socialis

- Loraine H
Desiree W
Loraine H

- Loraine H Begonia

NAME CHANGES ARE IN ORANGE (please update your tags)

CATTLEYA



The Cattleyas are certainly turning it on this month



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Dream
Trader 'Southern Cross'



Rhyncholaeliocattleya
Burdekin Dream 'DJ'



Rhyncattleanthe Alyssa
Valmadre 'Clifton'



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Donna
Kimura 'Paradise Tami'

DENDROBIUM



Dendrobium Jessica Stripe



Dendrobium Ceasar 'Green'



A hardcane Dendrobium



Dendrobium Pink Sparkle



Beautiful upright spike presentation on this 'blue' Dendrobium

VANDA



A lovely Vanda Guo Chia Long hybrid



Vanda Pure's Wax 'KBR'



Papilionanda Gwi Kiat Hoon



Vanda Fuch's Spotted Orange



Vanda Brightons Ruby Jewel

ONCIDIUM



Oncidesa Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop'



Oncidesa Sweet Sugar

SPECIES



Oncidium sotoanum syn. *ornithorhynchum*



The species section is never short of diversity in form



Cymbidium erythrostylum

OTHER GENERA



Paphiopedilum Leeanum



Cycnoches Jumbo Puff

NOVICE



Fredclarkeara After Dark 'SV0'

FOLIAGE



Ledebouria socialis



Miltonidium Super Spot, 'Everglades'



Brassanthe Maikai 'Mayumi'



Begonia Rex

SEED CAPSULE MATURITY

by Australian Orchid Foundation

Estimating the ripening time of a seed capsule is a difficult task. Many an amateur and professional hybridisers have had the disappointment of finding the seed capsule of that desired cross split and its contents scattered to the wind.

There are many factors that come into play regarding the ripening of a seed capsule e.g. time of the year, weather conditions during maturation of the capsule, the fertility of a cross etc.

After fertilisation, seed development can be gauged by the swelling and ripening of the developing seed capsule which may take a few weeks or occasionally as long as a year or more, depending on the genus. As a seed capsule ripens it changes colour from green to yellow or brown then splits to release the seed into the air. It is recommended that when the seed capsule begins to yellow at one end, it is ripe for harvesting and sending to the seed bank.

If you are unsure of how much time is left before the capsule will split, try tying tissue paper or an empty tea bag over the capsule a few weeks beforehand and examine it from day to day.

Below is a list of the expected time for ripening of seed capsules. This is an approximate guide only and may be of assistance to new growers.

GENUS TIME REQUIRED FOR RIPENING

Ascocentrum	150-170 days
Laelia	140-160 days
Phalaenopsis	130-140 days
Bulbophyllum	80-120 days
Leptotes	120-140 days
Phragmipedium	180-190 days
Cattleya	160-180 days
Masdevallia	100-110 days
Pleurothallis	45-50 days
Cymbidium	250-30 days
Maxillaria	130-150 days
Renanthera	180-200 days
Dendrobium	160-180 days
Miltonia	145-160 days
Sarcochilus	200-210 days
Encyclia	160-180 days
Oncidium	100-130 days
Restrepia	50-80 days
Epidendrum	130-145 days
Paphiopedilum	150-170 days
Sophranitis	100-120 days

THE WORLD'S RAREST ORCHIDS

by Barry Woods

Orchids have become one of the most widely collected and cultivated flowers. They're vibrant and beautiful and always draw a lot of attention at shows and garden events.

A huge number of species have been collected from nature for trade, most often on the black market, for large sums of money. This has devastated orchids in their natural habitats around the world with many now extinct in the wild or in such few numbers as to be classed rare and endangered. Compounding this is the destruction of native habitats, human activity, and climate change.

Some of the orchids listed below are quite common in cultivation, with flasks of line bred cultivars far superior to their wild cousins readily available. Nevertheless, orchids continue to be collected illegally in the wild. All native plants in Australia, including all our native orchids, are protected by law and are illegal to collect without appropriate licencing. Australian orchid nurseries, Australian Native Orchid Societies (ANOS clubs) and members of Maroochydore Orchid Society have vastly superior cultivars of all the Australian orchids that are suitable for cultivation.

According to www.rarest.org, the rarest orchids in the world are:

PAPHIOPEDILUM FAIRRIEANUM

Current estimates for this orchid are fewer than 50. It's found in the Eastern Himalayas to Assam, India and is listed as critically endangered. Like many of the rare orchids, the beauty of the Fairrie's Paphiopedilum is the major cause of its critically endangered status. The Fairrie's Paphiopedilum has vibrant purple and white petals and yellow-green markings and is one of the most popularly cultivated orchids around the world. In the past, the Fairrie's Paphiopedilum was found in Bhutan as well as India. Today, the only surviving population of Fairrie's Paphiopedilum is in the eastern Himalayas to Assam. The Fairrie's Paphiopedilum went extinct in Bhutan not long after it was first discovered in 1904.

WESTERN UNDERGROUND ORCHID

There are fewer than 50 of these remaining in the wild. Located in Western Australia, its scientific name is *Rhizanthella gardneri*, and it's listed as critically endangered.

As its name suggest, it spends its entire life underground and even blooms underground. It really is one of the most unique flowers in the world. It has no green parts by way of stems or leaves and does not photosynthesize. This Western Australian orchid obtains all of its nutrients from a fungus that grows on the roots of the broom bush. To get an exact count on the population is a task in itself as it often takes many hours of digging to find just one Western Underground Orchid.

VIETNAMESE PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paphiopedilum vietnamense is listed as critically endangered with fewer than 50 in the wild, although some believe it may already be extinct. Its range is limited to Thai Nguyen Province in northern Vietnam. Although it may already be extinct in the wild, it's still widely grown by orchid collectors around the world. Like most orchids, both the rare ones on this list and species with stronger numbers, the Vietnamese *Paphiopedilum* is over harvested in the wild.

HAWAIIAN BOG ORCHID

The Hawaiian Bog Orchid, or *Peristylus holochila* is critically endangered. The last count in 2011 found 30 plants across 3 islands. The biggest threat to this orchid has been destruction of habitat by humans, domestic and feral animals, and invasive plants.

In recent years, conservationists have been growing Hawaiian Bog Orchid seedlings and re-planting them in the wild. Conservationists hope that the seedlings can survive long term and stabilise the population.

ZEUXINE ROLFIANA

The rarest orchid in the world is *Zeuxine rolfiana* with an estimated total of around 18 specimens remaining in the wild. It is native to Mount Harriet, South Andaman island, India.

Zeuxine rolfiana was rediscovered in the wild in 2010 after only being known from records from over 121 years ago. While finding the actual plants is significant, unfortunately, researchers only found approximately 18 sterile plants. With so few individuals left and no sign that the remaining plants will reproduce, the *Zeuxine rolfiana* is the rarest orchid in the world.

The team of researchers from 2010 did collect three specimens of this orchid and brought them back to the Botanical Garden of St Joseph's College in Kozhikode, Kerala, India. The orchid did end up flowering at the gardens but died not long after. The habitat of the *Zeuxine rolfiana* is threatened by extensive construction in the area.



The Western Underground Orchid or *Rhyzanthella gardneri* comes out for sexy time only (photo by Jean and Fred Hort)



Peristylus holochila seedlings



Zeuxine rolfiana



Paphiopedilum fairrieianum (photo by Rakeshkdogra)

PLANT OF THE NIGHT

by Loraine Hocking

Bulbophyllum Wilbur Chang is a 'primary hybrid' because it is a cross between two of the showiest species of Bulbophyllums (Bulb. echinolabium and Bulb. carunculatum). It has huge flowers in bronze tones flowering sequentially on a spike. It's very easy to grow in an intermediate to warm area with low to medium light levels.

Wilbur Chang has strong influences from both parents, the colour from Bulb. carunculatum and the lip and flower shape from Bulb. echinolabium. It's pollinated by flies which are fooled into believing the flower's a piece of rotting meat.

I've had this Bulbophyllum sitting in a warm northern spot on a table on my patio where it's thrived and has been flowering for many months.

I water two to three times per week. I fertilise with Peter's excel cal mag finisher in the warm months and Peter's Bloom Booster in the cooler months.

If you can ignore the awful smell, it's definitely a must in your orchid collection.



Bulbophyllum Wilbur Chang

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Christine Lasko and Jack Szydzik



How did you get the Orchid bug?

When I moved to Australia and married Jack, I had had very little experience growing orchids. I had a few when I lived in Washington State, but it's a totally different climate, and it was much harder to grow Orchids. Jack had a huge collection of orchids at our home in Kuranda.

Jack's gone through several collections and dispersed them at different times in his life. I have Jack to thank for getting the Orchid Bug again.

What was your first Orchid?

My first orchid was Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit' x 'Alberts' from Venezuela, a big, beautiful lavender Cattleya. We still have it, and it is now recovering from my learning experience.

Jack's first orchid was a bright white Cymbidium that he got for his mother with his very first paycheck at the age of 16. It grew so big and produced so much pollen that his mother got hay fever from it and gave it back to him. He has been smitten by the orchid bug ever since.

How long have you been growing Orchids?

I've only been involved with orchids for two years and I'm so impressed with their resilience and desire to live. Jack on the other hand has been growing Orchids for many years. `

What type of Orchids do you grow?

We grow a little bit of everything – Cattleya, Dendrobium, Oncidium, Vanda, Cymbidium, Brassia, and finally, Phalaenopsis. Trying to limit the variety has been hard because they're all different and beautiful in their own way.

Like many new growers, we started with a scattergun approach, but are now focusing on what works for us and what we like.

Where do you grow your orchids?

We grow our orchids outside under avocado, orange, and Frangipani trees, and have one very small greenhouse where we put seedlings until they're ready to go outside. We rearrange our collection around the garden as the sun moves lower in the winter, shining under the trees rather than through them – some plants thrive in our windy environment and some struggle.

Do you have a favourite Orchid?

Jack's favorite orchid is Cattleya C.G. Roebling 'Blue Indigo' and she's a particularly good orchid. She was the first one we brought to a meeting and does very well in our environment.

I think mine's Cattleya Tahoe Rose. She was kind of spindly when we got her, and still is, but I hope she develops into a robust plant. Her blooms are beautiful and smell of roses.

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

There are several on our wish list. Cattleya Jungle Queen x Rlc. Southern Cross is one that Jack's looking for, but I don't know where we'd put any more orchids. Having said that, we always seem to find room for more.

What's your watering, fertilising, and pest control program?

We water daily in summer, especially the Vandas.

We changed our potting material last October and it's made a big difference, but we've had to water more frequently since. The breeze dries the plants out and getting the water and potting mix right has been a real process. I hope we've finally got it right.

We don't have much of a pest problem at all because the wind blows most of them away. We watch for Dendrobium beetles on our sacrificial Crucifix orchids (where they seem to appear first) and we're always looking for the odd bit of scale, but other than that, we're blessed... so far.

Jack fertilizes with a dilute solution of Rooster Booster (as per advice provided by Barry at one of our meetings).

Every three months we also include Epsom salts in the in the liquid fertilizer and a sprinkling of eggshells.

Do you have other interests and hobbies?

I've recently taken up painting, acrylic fluid painting to be more precise and am loving it. I think I have two addictions: Orchids, which I share with Jack, and painting, in which he supports me.

Jack's an avid fisherman and boater. He gave his boat away before we moved down here and has not been fishing since. He is jonesing for a boat and fishing.

What's your highlight since joining Maroochydore Orchid Society?

My highlight since joining MOS was when we brought Cattleya C.G. Roebling 'Blue Indigo' to the meeting and won Judges' Choice, People's Choice, and Best in Show. I was thrilled but didn't know what we were doing. Indigo just liked where she was, and told us we were doing SOMETHING right. Then, one year later, we were again encouraged to keep going with Brassia Kyellee's Star.

We learn so much from our Bush House visits, particularly from the one at Russell and Jan Hopkins in Ningi. What we learned at this visit was such a revelation to us that we went home and repotted absolutely everything we have. Our Orchids looked better immediately.

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

We really enjoy the informational talks given by guest speakers at our meetings. In fact, after the talk about Catasetums at our very first MOS meeting, we realized we had done everything wrong with one we had recently received – we went home, pulled it from the pot and stuck it in a drawer to wait out its dormancy cycle.

We really appreciate the talk on fertilizers. We'd like to hear more about specific care needs for particular species, information about propagation (like dividing Vandas) and the proper time to divide/repot Bifoliate Cattleyas.

We have learned so much just going to the meetings, listening to everyone, and asking questions of those more experienced.

Thank you, Christine and Jack, it was a pleasure chatting with you. Happy growing and flowering. Say hi to CHristine and Jack at our next meeting and if you can help them out with the orchids at the top of their wish lists, they'd be incredibly happy.

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



50th ANNIVERSARY ORCHID SHOW

8.00 am to 4.00 pm on Friday 6 August 2021
8.00 am to 2.00 pm on Saturday 7 August 2021

Buderim Uniting Church Hall
Corner Gloucester Road and King Street Buderim

Benching from 4.00 pm on Thursday 5 August 2021
to be completed by 6.00 pm

Presentations from 2.30 pm on Saturday 7 August 2021

THE QUEENSLAND GARDEN EXPO

The Queensland Garden Expo is back!

With over 55 nurseries represented (including a handful of Queensland Orchid Nurseries), lectures, demonstrations, and workshops across all 3 days, stalls on everything outdoors, and lots of providers and food trucks, there's something at the Expo for everyone.

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 July 2021
Coronation Avenue Nambour

Gates open 8.00 am daily

This year, **tickets must be purchased online**. Tickets will not be available for purchase at the gate.

To buy your tickets, go to Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/queensland-garden-expo-nambour-showgrounds-9-11-july-2021-tickets-119024295873>

\$20 per person per day
\$35 two day weekend pass
\$50 three day pass

\$18 per person per day for groups of ten or more

Free entry for children 15 years and under

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Queensland Garden Expo

Fri 9 to Sun 11 July
Coronation Avenue Nambour

Caboolture Orchid Society Winter Show

Fri 23 to Sun 25 July
Morayfield Community Hall, 298 Morayfield Rd Morayfield

Set up 2.00-5.30 pm on 22 July, pack up by 3.00 pm on 25 July
Email cosinc@outlook.com.au if you wish to bench orchids

AUGUST

Maroochydhore Orchid Society 50th Anniversary Show

hosting Subtropical Orchid Council Queensland
Fri 6 and Sat 7 August
Buderim Uniting Church Hall

Agnes Waters Show

hosting Subtropical Orchid Council Queensland
Sat 14 and Sun 15 August

Childers & Isis District Orchid Society Show

Fri 27 and Sat 28 August with set up on Thur 26 August

SEPTEMBER

Nambour Orchid Society Bench Spring Show

Fri 3 and Sat 4 September with set up on Thu 2 September

Maryborough District Orchid Society Show

Thur 16 to Sat 18 September with set up Wed 15 September
St Paul's Church Hall, 178-202 Adelaide St Maryborough

Noosa District Orchid and Foliage Society Show

Thur 16 and Fri 17 September with set up on Wed 15 September

Glasshouse Country Orchid Society Show

Fri 24 and Sat 25 September with set up on Thur 23 September
Beerwah Community Hall, 25 Peachester Rd Beerwah

Hervey Bay Orchid Society Show and Garden Spectacular

Fri 24 to Sun 26 September with set up on Thur 23 September

Rockhampton Orchid Society Spring Show

Sat 25 and Sun 26 September

SUPPER ROSTER

JULY

COL & BEV, MITZI M

AUGUST

JOHN S, LORAIN H

SEPTEMBER

JOE M, IAN W

OCTOBER

KEN J, BARRY W

NOVEMBER

SHARYN P, DESIREE W

DECEMBER

EVERYONE TO BRING A PLATE