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**PATRON** ROSANNA NATOLI

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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 5 OCTOBER

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

While the nights are cool enough to keep the mozzies at bay, the days are warming up. The Calanthes are getting their new growth now, so it's time to repot them before they get lots of very brittle new roots. Bulbophyllums are sprouting new growths all over the place, including neighbouring pots.

**Our members won a truckload of ribbons at Noosa Society's Spring Show** on 18 September, including: Rod (Grand Champion and others), Loraine (Champion Specimen and a carload of others), Joe (Champion Australian Orchid and others), John (a ute load of ribbons), Fred and Marge (all five plants they entered got ribbons), Ian (scooped the Epi section), Kathy, and Peter.

I didn't go with high expectations and wasn't disappointed. I was happy to have contributed to the diversity of the show. **If only champion orchids were entered it would've been a very sparse show** and hardly worth looking at. If you have an orchid that looks nice, consider entering it in the next show. **Some very colourful flowers may not win prizes because their shape is a bit novel, but this doesn't stop the public admiring them.**

You may remember an orchid of mine I just laid on its side to keep the roots and potting mix dry. This was a Thunia that had lost its leaves, as they do. I'll show you how I repot these and then put it in the raffle. With a bit of luck, it should flower by the end of November.

As ever, watch out for bugs and happy growing.

DUNCAN McMARTIN  
 MOS President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Our AGM will be held at the commencement of the October meeting.** This will be followed by a Thunia repotting demonstration by Duncan. There will then be a workshop on creating a garden feature using orchids by Roger.

#### SELLING ORCHIDS AT OUR CULTURAL MEETINGS

The Committee would like to reinvigorate the concept of members selling orchids at our cultural meetings. The plan is to put aside a sales table in the outside area and members who wish to sell orchids can place them there. It's hoped that members with surplus orchids will support this, and that newer members can get some good in house deals.

How it works:

- Each orchid is to have the owner's name and a price marked on the plant.
- There'll be a box on the table into which the seller will place a gold coin for each plant sold. This commission will go to the Society.
- If you wish to buy a plant, please pay the owner of the plant directly.

**Bring along some cash if you wish to purchase plants.**

KATHY HOWATSON  
 MOS Secretary

## PLANT OF THE NIGHT

### Dendrobium Canary Bird 'Watermelon'

I bought this soft cane plant from Iris Grant in 2005. It's always been easy to grow and always puts on a good show of flowers, but the substance isn't as good as newer varieties.

I pot up keikis in September/October into a peat mix which will hold water during the hot summer. The plants go into a shade house with 50% shade cloth. I water at least twice a week, and fertilize every week. The plants are not fussy when it comes to fertilizer. Use a variety is the best idea. You want them to grow over summer. The hardest part is tying the canes so they grow straight without strangling them. Leave room for them to fill out.

Mine take two years to get to a good flowering size. I don't repot them every year.

In Autumn, after Easter or **when the sun has lost its bite, I hang all the soft canes out in full sun.** I put them on a mesh fence which isn't ideal. The flowers grow in one direction and get stuck in the fence. Something like a clothesline is better where they can hang and rotate so that the sun gets to all sides of the plant. I don't water these very much. **Only a light water, once a week at the most.**

This particular plant has put on a good show of flowers this year.

by Kathy Howatson



Kathy with her Plant of the Night

## 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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Layout design by **Mika Lodsman**



Plant of the Night – Dendrobium Canary Bird 'Watermelon'

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

#### Caloundra Orchid Society Show

Fri 1 and Sat 2 October with set up on Thur 30 September  
Uniting Church Hall, corner Queen St and Ulm St Caloundra

#### CANCELLED: Bribie Island Orchid Society Show

Fri 8 and Sat 9 October with set up on Thur 7 October

#### Caboolture Orchid Society Closed Show

Thur 21 to Sat 23 October  
Morayfield Shopping Centre, 171 Morayfield Rd Morayfield

#### Nambour Species Show

Sat 23 October with set up on Fri 22 October  
Buderim Uniting Church Hall, corner King St and Gloucester Rd

### NOVEMBER 2021

#### Caboolture Orchid Society hosts STOCQ meeting

Sat 6 November  
Morayfield East State School, Graham Rd Morayfield

#### Tweed District Orchid Society Spring Show

Sat 6 and Sun 7 November

#### Maroochydore Orchid Society Spring Show

Sat 13 November  
Buderim Uniting Church Hall, corner King St and Gloucester Rd



### SAVE THE DATE

for our

### SPRING SHOW

Saturday 13 November 2021

Buderim Uniting Church Hall  
Corner Gloucester Road and King Street Buderim

## ORCHID GENERA NAMES AND PRONUNCIATION

Let's pick up where we left off last month and learn how to pronounce some more orchid names

Laelia	LAY-lee-a
Laelianthe	lay-lee-A-thee
Laeliinae	lay-lee-EE-nee
Laeliocatanthe	lay-lee-oh-kat-AN-thee or lay-lee-oh-KAT-an-thee
Laeliocatarthron	lay-lee-oh-kat-ARE-thron
Laeliocattleya	lay-lee-oh-KAT-lee-ah
Laeliopsis	lay-lee-OP-sis
Lankesteriana	lank-ess-ter-ee-AY-nah
Latourea	la-TOUR-a
Latouria	lah-TOUR-ee-ah
Lepanthes	leh-PAN-theez
Lepanthopsis	leh-pan-THOP-siss
Leptospermum	lep-toh-SPER-mum
Leptotes	lep-TOH-teez
Lichenastrum	like-en-AUS-trum
Liparis	LIP-ah-riss
Lissochilus	liss-oh-KYE-luss
Listera	LISS-ter-a
Lockhartia	lok-HART-ee-ah
Lowii	LOW-ee-eye
Ludisia	loo-DISS-ee-a
Lueddemannia	lew-deh-MAN-ee-ah
Lueddemanniana	lew-deh-man-ee-AY-nah
Lycaste	lye-KASS-tee or LYE-kass-tee
Lycomormium	lye-koh-MORE-nee-um

Borrowed from [www.pvorchids.com](http://www.pvorchids.com)

## SUPPER ROSTER

OCTOBER	KEN J, JAY
NOVEMBER	SHARYN P, DESIREE W
DECEMBER	EVERYONE TO BRING A PLATE

## THE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

by Barry Woods

I remember some of the first orchids I started growing when I moved to the Sunshine Coast 26 years ago – Indian Hard Cane Dendrobiums, Soft Cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, and Vandas. So different to what I was able to grow in Hobart! I did well with the Indian Hard Cane Dendrobiums and the Cattleyas but struggled with the Soft Cane Dendrobiums and Vandads. I persevered with both genera, but real success eluded me. The Soft Canes were going backwards, and the Vandads were growing but not flowering. I decided to start moving the Soft Canes out into the garden on trees and palms to give them one last chance to thrive. John Salway said to put a Stag or Elk Horn above them on the tree. I did this and over time, they grew well but flowered poorly with lots of keikis. It wasn't until I joined MOS that I learned the piece of information I needed for success: **keep watering to a minimum between Mother's Day and Father's Day**. I do tend to be heavy handed with the water all year long.

Once established on a tree, the roots of the soft canes find their way up behind the Elk or Stag Horn and get all the moisture they need to carry them over the winter period. The odd banana skin thrown behind the fern, animal and bird droppings, and decaying leaves supply a small amount of fertiliser. Over summer and autumn, I feed them on a weekly basis. I now enjoy them flowering the full length of the canes and there's very little in the way of keikis. I still do badly with Soft Cane Dendrobiums in a pot but am starting to improve.

I realise that because I grow quite a few different genera, I've become a Jack of all trades, master of none. I just need to speak to the right growers, listen to the advice they give, and apply this advice to my conditions.

I'm still not good with Vandads. I purchased one probably a good 10 years ago. It was quite small but grew well over this period to become a large flowering sized plant but no flowers. I tried moving it around to different spots, changed fertilisers weekly, and...

Nothing. No flowers.

Last year I decided the basket it was in could be put to better use so, out it came. I plonked it in amongst ferns at the base of a palm in dappled light, tied it up and thought, "Out of sight, out of mind". To my surprise, it showed its first ever flower spike this year and quite a nice flower in size and colour!

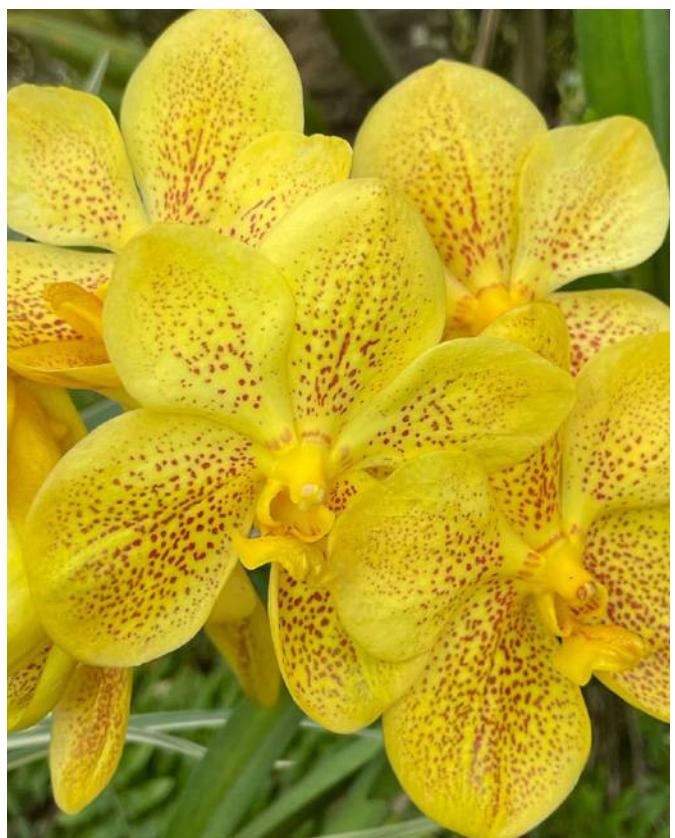
It's a joy having orchids throughout the garden and there are always different microclimates to make use of. They're fixed though, and no matter how nice when in flower, they're impossible to bench at a show or bring along to a meeting.

I really want success in pots with Soft Canes and Vandads and will make sure I **speak with and listen to the right people** this year and into the next, **learn about their growing techniques, and apply this to my own plants**. I'm hoping that in a couple of years, I'll have a few in full flower to bring along to meetings.

The lesson in this is: don't just give up and say 'I'm no good at growing these'. **Try things and be open to learning**.



Dendrobium Yukidaruma 'The King'



A Vanda thriving in Barry's garden

## CURIOSITY CORNER

### Seven little known orchid facts

1. The genus *Orchis* comes from an Ancient Greek word meaning 'testicle' because of the shape of the bulbous roots. The term 'orchid', which is just a shortened form of the family *Orchidaceae*, was not introduced until 1845.
2. *Orchidaceae* is one of the two largest families of flowering plants with over 25,000 naturally occurring species in the world. The number of orchid species is almost five times the number of mammal species.
3. The smallest orchid in the world features flowers that measure in at a little over 2 mm wide. The flower petals are transparent and are only one cell thick. This teeny tiny orchid belongs to the *Platystele* genus.
4. While orchids are commonly thought to be tropical plants, you can find orchids growing on every continent except Antarctica.
5. Orchid seeds are the smallest seeds in the world and are comparable to the size of a particle of dust. Each orchid seedpod can contain millions of orchid seeds. The minuscule size of the seeds makes it incredibly difficult to propagate orchids in this manner.
6. Some orchids strangely resemble creatures from the animal kingdom. *Ophrys apifera*, better known as the Bee Orchid, lures male bees with its enticing smell and bee like appearance. When a male bee approaches the flower to mate, it becomes covered in pollen and is sent off to pollinate the next orchid it visits.
7. The vanilla we use in our kitchens actually comes from the orchid *Vanilla planifolia*. The flavour is made from the orchid's seed pods and seeds. Pickers work in very hot humid conditions. It's hard work so cherish that delicious flavour.

by Melanie Dearringer



Hand pollinated vanilla pods ready for harvesting



*Orchis ustulata* or Burnt Tip Orchid on a staycation in Europe



The tiny *Platystele jungermannioides*



*Ophrys apifera* doing its best bee impersonation



Vanilla pods graded and ready to go to market

## JUDGING RESULTS – SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING

### CATTLEYA

	MEMBER	POPULAR VOTE	
1	Rlc. Ubon Treasure	John S	Lorraine H Sgr. Yokosuka Story
2	C. Jungle Elf x C. Ollies' Folly	Kathy H	
3	C. Redland Show	John S	

### DENDROBIUM

1	Den. Canary Bird	Kathy H	Kathy H Den. Canary Bird
2	Den. Elegant Smile	Lorraine H	
3	Den. Cherub	John S	

### VANDA

1	V. Garrett Godwin	John S	John S V. Garrett Godwin
2	V. Ubon Fragrance	John S	
3	V. unknown	Lorraine H	

### ONCIDIUM

1	Gomesa echinata (This is a species)	Lorraine H	Lorraine H Gomesa echinata (This is a species)
2	Onc. Moonlight Star	Nev D	
3	Onc. Pacific Panache	Lorraine H	

### ANY OTHER GENERA

1	Paph. Leeanum	Lorraine H	Lorraine H Paph. Leeanum
2	Phal. unknown	Lorraine H	
3	Paph. Snow Squall	John S	

### SPECIES

1	V. luzonica	Lorraine H	Lorraine H V. luzonica
2	C. loddigesii	Kathy H	
3	Den. trilamellatum	Joe M	

### NOVICE

1	C. Aran Powder Puff	Greg D	Desiree W Den. lindleyii
2	Den. lindleyii	Desiree W	
3	Rlc. Cosmo-Zelle	Greg D	

### FOLIAGE

1	Fittonia	Lorraine H	Lorraine H Fittonia
2			
3			

NAME CHANGES ARE IN ORANGE (please update your tags)

## THE BENCHES



The benches were chock full again



A great spread on the novice bench

## CATTLEYA



Cattleya Aran Powder Puff



Rlc. Ubon Treasure



Rlc. Cosmo-Zelle



Crucifix orchid season is here



Sergioara Yokosuka Story



Cattleya Redlands Show



C. Jungle Elf x Ollies' Folly

## DENDROBIUM



Quite a range of Dens this month



Phalaenath Den. hybrid



Dendrobium Cherub

## VANDA



Lots of colour in the Vanda section



Vanda Garrett Godwin



Vanda Ubon Fragrance



Dendrobium Elegant Smile



Vanda Unknown



Vandas wear dark purple well



A pretty little Aeridovanda

## ONCIDIUM



Oncidium Moonlight

## OTHER GENERA



Paphiopedilum Leeannum



Phalaenopsis Unknown



The any other genera section looked great



Paphiopedilum Snow Squall



Another cute Phalaenopsis

## SPECIES



*Vanda luzonica*



*Dendrobium lindleyi*



*Dendrobium trilamellatum*



*Cattleya loddigesii*



*Bulbophyllum picturatum*



*Gomesa echinata*



*Dendrobium tetragonum*



*Paphiopedilum phillipinense*

## THE MYSTERY ORCHID

by Tracey

Let me tell you a story about something a little different and a little special.

Many, many years ago while clearing fallen trees and tidying up the undergrowth to make some bush tracks in my little piece of paradise here on the Sunshine Coast, I came across a leafless weedy looking climbing plant with many buds on it. I soon found six of them and most were climbing up the tree trunks, attaching themselves with suckering little side arms. They never grew any leaves and when the buds opened, they were a creamy golden colour and looked orchid like. Every year they popped up, quickly grew to about 3 metres, flowered, and then shrivelled up.

It was another ten years until I actually knew what they were, as no one I knew had seen or heard of these before. This is actually *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, an orchid native to Queensland, NSW, and nowhere else.

It's a saprophyte, has no leaves or green bits, and survives by growing in rotting organic matter in partnership with a fungus. Unfortunately, it can't be transplanted and when one food source of rotting tree stumps and its partner fungus is gone, so are my special climbing orchids. I enjoy seeing them pop up again each year. Nowadays, I only have three plants to admire.

Remember to open your eyes and look around as it's so amazing what nature can provide, sometimes at your doorstep.

A saprophyte like *Erythrorchis cassythoides* is a leafless orchid that lacks chlorophyll to photosynthesise and thus forms a symbiotic relationship with a mycorrhizal fungus to gain carbohydrates and proteins for growth and reproduction. The fungus breaks down organic matter in the soil (leaves, twigs, logs of wood, tree stumps), which it transports to the orchid's tissues via a network of fungal hyphae, its mycelium. All orchids are born saprophytes, most develop leaves with chlorophyll, but some (like my climbing mystery) stay saprophytic all their lives.

For more information, see:

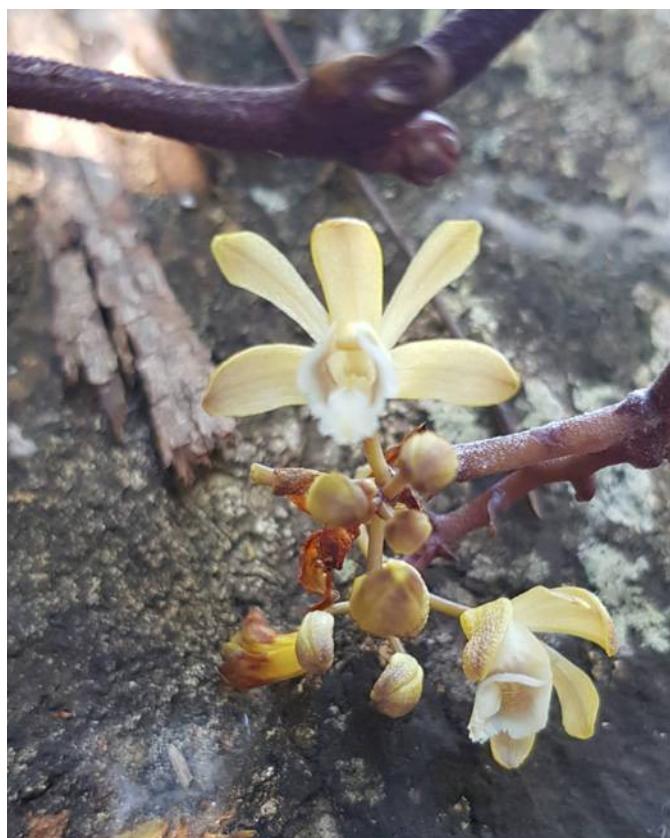
Australian Orchids by Barbara Mullins, Margaret Martin  
Native Orchids of Australia by David L Jones



What could this mystery climber be?



Is it an orchid?



It's an orchid!