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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 TUES 7 DECEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone, and another year is coming to a close.

We've just had another successful one day show, the third this year, and the second at Buderim, and although a little down on the March show, it demonstrates that our efforts with one day shows at Buderim and Bli Bli over the last 20 years are now bearing fruit. We need to pay attention and be willing to adapt our schedule to maintain the community's appetite for orchids.

Covid's given a boost to all things garden related, because people can't go floating around the ocean or trip around the world, so, a lot of them are taking more interest in their gardens.

A big part of the soul of an orchid society is fostering the appreciation and love of orchids in members and the wider community. The one day shows are the main way to do this.

They're not just about making a bit of money, although a society does need some money to cover the costs of insurance, the renting of halls, etc, as well as some reserves for a year like last year. I've probably bored you enough with this now.

A very sad thing that happened at our last show was when Del received news that Richard, her husband had fallen ill and had been taken to hospital. **Our thoughts are with Del and Richard, and we wish Richard a speedy and solid recovery.**

As usual in signing off, watch out for bugs and I've just seen a small snail. Snails and bugs love orchids.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year we celebrated **the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Maroochydore Orchid Society in 1971**. This is a major milestone, and we're thankful to the many members of the Society over those decades who kept our Society alive and encouraged the sharing of knowledge with like minded orchid lovers, while fanning the flame of interest in new growers to encourage subsequent generations of orchid enthusiasts.

The Sunshine Coast community has enjoyed our many shows over the years. Our tradition currently is to have three shows per year at Bli Bli and Buderim. Unfortunately, we were unable to have our Golden Anniversary Annual Show. It was scheduled for August but cancelled just a few days out due to a Covid-19 outbreak. Not to be defeated we scheduled a spring show for Saturday 13 November at the Buderim Uniting Church Hall, and it was a great success. **Thank you, members, for all your dedicated help running the show, and for the many blooms you were all able to pool. Everyone was very complimentary about the beautiful orchid display.**

After several moves in recent years, we've settled in at Buderim Men's Shed and have **one more cultural meeting this year. There are some fun activities planned, so bring a plate to share and any recession dollars you've earned over the year.**

I'm also looking forward to the **Christmas lunch on Sunday 5 December at the Maroochy Surf Club.**

DUNCAN McMARTIN
 MOS President

DESIREE WATSON
 MOS Secretary

PLANT OF THE NIGHT



Dendrobium Egret Gold 'Baz'

by Roger Lodsman

I bought this plant from Barry Woods when it flowered for him last year. I've always admired *Dendrobium tangerinum* so, buying an orchid that is 65% *tangerinum* was a no-brainer.

Barry's was a first flowering with 2 spikes, this year it has 14 so I must be doing something right!

We've always talked about taking advantage of microclimates in our growing areas and this is particularly important when growing orchids outside their home range. To this end, **Baz is grown semi-hydro during the warmer months to simulate the heavy summer rains and swampy conditions of its parents' northern home, gets a north west position in almost full light with lots of reflected heat from a window and brick walls for winter, and is brought into the courtyard with a northern aspect to protect the blooms and set an arching habit to the spike.**

I grow all my hard cane Dens in net pots so I can water them heaps in summer and they can dry out quickly after rain in winter (I don't have a hard roof in my growing area).

The plants get a dose of 6-month, low nitrogen/high potassium prills in spring, a solid dose of lime in autumn, and a high potassium liquid fertiliser all year round.

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**

GROWING BULBOHYLLUMS

By Duncan McMartin

I was asked to give a little talk on Bulbophyllums at our last cultural meeting as I grow, or try to grow, a few of these species. As luck would have it a fair range of them were coming into flower. There were no umbel types, but *B. maximum* stood out. This is a rachis type from Africa. Some people call it the Black Snake Orchid. Many African Bulbos have two leaves per bulb and a rachis of flowers. A rachis is a flat stem with small flowers along each side. Those with a short rachis often have all the flowers open at once. Those with a long rachis open a few at a time over many months working along the rachis. The rachis on *B. maximum* can reach over half a metre long.

I grow these rambling types in a shallow saucer. Clumping ones can be grown in a squat port pot. Small rambling ones I'm growing on the outside of a mesh pot, where they can grow around it without taking up more room. The small *B. johnsonii* from Atherton Tablelands is on an 80 mm mesh pot where it'll be happy for many years to come. As I grow them in a coconut/perlite mix I have to be mindful it doesn't get soggy. The ones on a 140 mm mesh pot have an 80 mm mesh pot inside it so the mix is only about 25 mm thick around the side and bottom, with the middle empty. Ones in a fairly big pot have a bark/charcoal mix on the bottom with about 40 to 50 mm coco mix on the top.

Bulbos should not dry out completely except some deciduous ones. The *B. lemniscatoides* that's in flower hasn't had water since May. It's now time to start watering and fertilising it to get new growth. Some of the large rambling Bulbos like *affine* or *lobbii* can fill a 300 mm saucer quite quickly. My big leaf *B. baileyi* from Cape York grows 3 bulbs per year 100 mm apart. That's 300 mm and often branching at the same time per year, but they don't like the cold. If you get below 10°C in winter, grow the small leaved ones instead. Many of the large flowered ones are sequential flowerers, meaning they have one flower open at a time on a stem. When that flower falls off, the next bud on the stem grows and opens. These can flower over a long period.

As with most orchids, you have to watch out for bugs. You need to watch the leaves and bulbs for tiny scale, and the flowers, buds, and new growths for other small sucking bugs.

I hope this little story is of some use to you and happy growing.



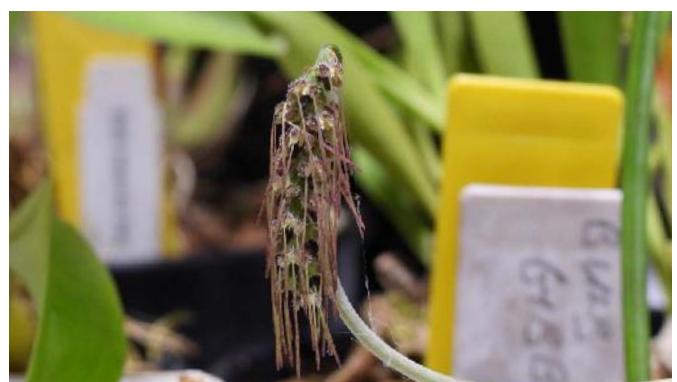
A lot of the Bulbos love to roam



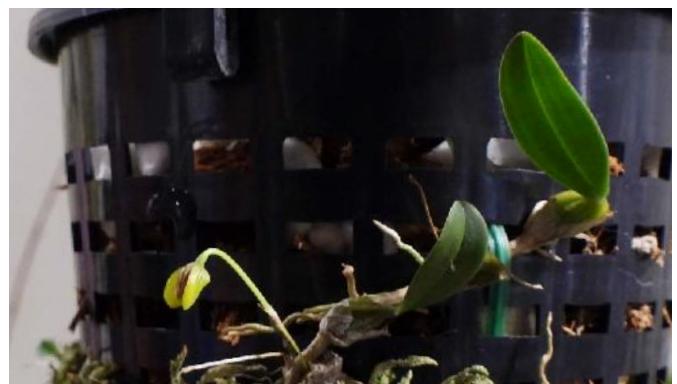
Duncan and his *Bulbophyllum maximum* with a flowering rachis



Individual flowers on Duncan's *B. maximum*



The deciduous *Bulbophyllum lemniscatoides*



Bulbophyllum johnsonii from the Atherton Tableland

NO LONGER A NOVICE

This year two of our novices won blue ribbons at a Sub-tropical Orchid Council of Queensland (STOCQ) Show which, according to our processes, lifts them up from novices to the open section in recognition of their Orchidaceous Excellence.

Our novices join Maroochydore Orchid Society to better their cultural practices by learning from the more established growers, who, in their turn, boost the novices towards benching their plants at cultural meetings and orchid shows. A bit of bravery on the part of our novices in putting their plants up for judging also helps.

Greg's Rhyncholaeliocattleya Karen's Sunrise won him a blue ribbon at the Caloundra Spring Show.

Christine's Gongora bufonia won her a blue ribbon at the Nambour Species Show.

Greg and Christine's blue ribbon orchids are pictured here. They've each written a short piece on their respective blue ribbon plants detailing the care that's led up to this moment (see next page).

Enjoy the read, and congratulations on your promotions Greg and Christine.



Christine's Gongora bufonia



Greg's Rhyncholaeliocattleya Karen's Sunrise



Close up of a Gongora bufonia flower

BUSH HOUSE VISIT TO DOUG WANKA

Gongora bufonia by Christine Lasko

We got this Gongora bufonia in a 3 inch pot three years ago. Jack wanted a Gongora species, and I didn't know this plant or what it was going to look like. It's grown well through all my repottings so I would say it's easy to grow and very forgiving. I had my doubts about this odd bloom last year but as it opened, I discovered it resembled a wasp, nothing like the toad the botanists named Gongoras after! I was enchanted by the uniqueness of the bloom and the healthy foliage.

This year, we hung it under the Frangipani with the Vandals and it loved it. Over 18 racemes with most of them having 25 or more buds. At our October meeting, only one raceme had bloomed but by the Nambour Species Show 15 racemes were in bloom.

Barry Woods encouraged me to bench the plant at the Nambour Species Show, thinking I could win the Division, which got me pretty excited. Thinking to protect the plant, I moved it to a 'safe' place on our front porch but finding the wind blowing the plant every which way the next day, I moved it back to a more protected position in the Frangipani only to find it on the ground the following day with the branch it was hanging on broken in pieces – it must have fallen like a parachute because everything was spread out and no damage was done. I moved it again to a solid, safe location under the Avocado.

I had repotted the plant last November into a more open potting mix. We water frequently as it is windy here and the orchids do dry out. It's fertilised monthly in the winter and fortnightly in summer with diluted Rooster Booster.

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Karen's Sunrise by Greg Davies

I purchased this orchid from Doug Wanka a couple of years ago. It had two flowers for its 1st flowering in my collection and was awarded on a single flower at its second flowering.

I've been following John Greene's advice and the plant has been on the same cultural program as the rest of my collection. It is grown under Solarweave with an extra layer of 50% shade cloth and receives a weekly dose of Campbells or Peter's liquid fertiliser. I grow the plant in a coarse bark mix.

I sent a photo of the flower to John Greene and he said it was worth benching at the Caloundra Spring Show. As I had never done this before, a blue ribbon was a nice surprise.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The big exhibition Cattleyas take a lot of care and patience to be flowered to perfection. The greens especially require special attention to light levels to bring out their best colour. Greg has done a fabulous job to win the blue ribbon that lifts him up to the open grade for 2022.



Doug, as always, generous to a fault as Mitzi and Teddy roam



A stunning specimen of *Miltonia flavescens*



Cattleya schilleriana



Dendrobium anosmum



Dendrobium Chet's Choice

Desiree organised a Bush house visit to Doug Wanka's yard, always a welcome trip. Some of us came to say hello, some of us came to roam the yard and pick Doug's brain and, some of us came to indulge in Doug's legendary hospitality.

JUDGING RESULTS – NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING

CATTLEYA

	MEMBER	POPULAR VOTE
1 Guaritonia Why Not 'Hildos'	Nev D	Nev D Guaritonia Why Not 'Hildos'
2 Rhyntonleya Red Stella 'Hildos'	Nev D	
3 Epidendrum Bangjong Red	Nev D	

DENDROBIUM

1 Dendrobium Egret Gold 'Baz'	Roger L	Roger L	Dendrobium Egret Gold 'Baz'
2 Dendrobium Foundry Salad Bowl	John S		
3 Dendrobium Matos	Lorraine H		

VANDA

1 Vanda Fuchs Spotted Orange	John S	John S	Vanda Fuchs Spotted Orange
2 Vanda Boonyarit Little Flame	John S		
3 Papilionanda Adkins Sweetness	Lorraine H		

ONCIDIUM

1 Odontocidium Formosa Yellow	Lorraine H	Lorraine H	Odontocidium Formosa Yellow
2 Oncidium Pacific Pagan	Lorraine H		
3 Oncidium Pacific Passage	Lorraine H		

ANY OTHER GENERA

1 Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin	Peter H	Peter H	Miltoniopsis Breathless 'Florence'
2 Miltoniopsis Breathless 'Florence'	Peter H		
3 Phalaenopsis OX Red Sesame '1699'	Lorraine H		

SPECIES

1 Vanda ampullacea	Lorraine H	Ian W	Dendrobium tortile
2 Paphiopedilum × leeanum	Lorraine H		
3 Dendrobium tortile	Ian W		

NOVICE

1 Brassia Rex	Jack & Christine	Jack & Christine	Brassia Rex
2 Brassanthe Sunny Delight	Greg D		
3 Vanda Fuchs Spotted Cat	Jack & Christine		

FOLIAGE

1 Begonia masoniana 'Iron Cross'	Peter H	Peter H	Begonia masoniana 'Iron Cross'
2 Caladium	Desiree W		
3 Caladium	Desiree W		

NAME CHANGES ARE IN ORANGE (please update your tags)

THE BENCHES



Quite a spread on the novice bench



A good variety of plants on the benches tonight

CATTLEYA



Brassanthe Sunny Delight



Guaritonia Why Not 'Hildos'



Rhyntonleya Red Stella 'Hildos'



Epidendrum Bangjong Red



A cute little Epidendrum

VANDA



Lots of colour among the Vandas



Vanda Fuchs Spotted Orange



Vanda Boonyarit Little Flame



Vanda Fuchs Spotted Cat



Papilionanda Adkins Sweetness

DENDROBIUM



Dendrobium Egret Gold 'Baz'



Den Foundry Salad Bowl



Dendrobium Matos



A lovely Phalaenanthus Dendrobium



Dendrobium Gatton Sunray

ONCIDIUM



The Oncids were beautifully presented



Brassia Rex



Odontocidium Formosa Yellow



Mps Breathless 'Florence'



Oncidium Pacific Pagan



Oncidium Pacific Passage

OTHER GENERA



Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin



Phalaenopsis OX Red Sesame '1699'

SPECIES



Duncan's Bulbos swamped the Species section



Vanda ampullacea



Paphiopedilum x leeannum

FOLIAGE



Begonia masoniana 'Iron Cross'



Phaius tankervilleae



Dendrobium tortile



Caladium



Cattleya aclandiae



Caladium

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2021

Maroochydore Orchid Society Christmas Lunch

11.30 am on Sun 5 December

Maroochy Surf Club, 34-36 Alexandra Parade Maroochydore

FEBRUARY 2022

STOCQ AGM/OQI

Sat 12 February

The Albert Bowls Club, River Road Gympie

MARCH 2022

Maroochydore Orchid Society Closed Show

Sat 19 March

Buderim Uniting Church Hall, corner King St and Gloucester Rd

APRIL 2022

Childers and Isis Orchid Society CCharity Show

Fri 1 and Sat 2 April with set up on Thu 31 March

Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Benched Show

Sat 9 and Sun 10 April with set up on Fri 8 April

Caloundra Uniting Church Hall, corner Ulm and Queen Streets

Rockhampton Orchid Society Show

Sat 9 and Sun 10 April with set up and judging on Fri 8 April

Bribie Island Orchid Society Show

Fri 15 and Sat 16 April with set up on Thu 14 April

Gladstone Orchid and Foliage Show

Fri 15 to Sun 17 April with set up from 5.00 pm on Thu 14 April and judging from 7.00 am on Fri 15 April

Toyota Hansen Road, Gladstone

SUPPER ROSTER

DECEMBER **EVERYONE TO BRING A PLATE**

JANUARY **NO MEETING**

FEBRUARY **VACANCY**

MARCH **VACANCY**

Please get in touch with Desiree (0431 435 181) if you'd like to sign up to the supper roster for early 2022.

IN BETWEEN FLOWERS

If you have a plant that's flowering beautifully in between shows and meetings, send a photo or two and a description under 100 words. Send your in between flowers by email to tarundea@bigpond.com.au or text them to 0404 175 172.

END OF YEAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH AND FINAL CULTURAL MEETING

by Desiree Watson

Hello MOS Members. **Thank you everyone who helped support our Show in Buderim on Saturday 13 November.** It was a real success. It was wonderful we had so many blooms to share with the community and that we all worked together to make the day a success. The feedback from the public seemed wonderful to me, and I'll be interested in hearing from you all as well. If you have any feedback on the show please let me or another committee member know.

As the year starts drawing to an end it's time for celebrations. **Our 50th Anniversary End of Year Lunch** is being held on **Sunday 5 December at Maroochy Surf Club.** It will be a sit down menu with alternate drops from the following two menu items:

Entrees

Fresh Mooloolaba prawns, avocado, shredded red onion, cured tomatoes, laced with citrus dressing, soft herbs, and fried basil (gluten free)

Mini beef fillet mignons, sesame glazed bok choy, chilli beansprouts & Thai dressing (gluten free)

Mains

Pan seared fillet of Tasmanian salmon, baby chat potatoes, green beans, olives, and balsamic roasted cherry tomatoes (gluten free)

Prosciutto wrapped chicken breast roasted on the bone, sauteed French bean salad, potato gratin & jus (gluten free)

Please let me know whether or not you'll be attending by Wednesday 24 November. This is important as we have to pay the surf club a deposit and advise our numbers. Partners are invited too. We're hoping to hear some short stories about the Society and its history.

We're hoping to take some commemorative photos of the day including of our anniversary cake. If you have a particularly pretty orchid in bloom that we could put on the table with the cake that would be lovely. Also if you have ideas for jazzing up the tables do also get in touch with me. **Set your alarms and calendar reminders** as the lunch is before our final cultural meeting for the year. **Thank you Fay for organising this event.**

Our **final cultural meeting for the year** will be held on **Tuesday 7 December** and will also be fun.

We'll have the recession dollar plant raffle so **make sure you bring your recession dollars** along. Loraine says the plants up for auction are great.

There'll still be a monthly raffle and could everyone **please bring a plate to share.** I've been amazed throughout the year by all your great supper dishes.