

The Observer



November 2025

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Cultural Meetings are held at Buderim Men's Shed 34 Advance Rd, Kuluin at 6:30pm

President's Report

President's Report for November 2025

A great welcome to new member Marlene Deller. Marlene used to be a member of our Society, and in fact she is a former President. It is lovely to see a number of new faces this year.

Tuesday night's meeting was well attended with a good display of flowers. I am always amazed to see plants that I have never seen before.

Congratulations to 2 of our members who had plants awarded at the Bribie Island Orchid Show. Loraine's plant of *Trichopilia hennisiana* 'Loralie' received an AM/AOC/STACQ with 80 points and John's plant of *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* 'Audomlak' received a FCC/AOC/STOCQ with 86 points. This is a First Class Certificate for John. Well done.

Desiree is planning a fun night for the December meeting. There will be a trivia contest with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Loraine is purchasing orchid plants for the Auction where the Recession Dollars that she has been giving out will be used to bid for the orchids. This is always a fun activity. Everyone brings a plate of food to share. Supper is always a popular part of our meetings. I am sorry I will miss this fun. I will be in Singapore visiting family.

Thank you to Charlie Truscott for his informative presentation on fungal disease commonly called Thai disease in orchids, mainly vandas. I am sure everyone went home and cast a critical eye over their collection. Remember, it is better to address issues when they are small rather than waiting for a major problem to appear.

I wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and the hope that all your orchids grow well over summer.

Secretary's Report

November 2025

Hi MOS members. It is nearly December and I am getting sick from already having my Christmas tree set up in November! Cheeky of my family to play games with the Christmas cook! ☺

Thank you Rosemary for doing the newsletter again this month, the members really enjoyed the last one.

Remember everyone that the December meeting has the very competitive orchid auction, and even more competitive trivia night. This is always a fun night. Those who bring plants to monthly meetings will have collected some banana dollars that can be used at the auction so gather up your notes \$\$\$

There is no plant judging at the December meeting but please bring along your plants to make a lovely display. Also, all please bring a plate to share at our Christmas supper.

Del has booked our Christmas part at the **Headland Golf Club**, on Golf Links Drive, Buderim, Saturday the



13th of December. Please arrive at **11.30 am**.

Nambour's Species show was the last on the Sunshine Coast for 2025. The first show the MOS will hold in 2026 will be on Saturday 21st March in Buderim (public hours 8.00 am to 3.30 pm) with the setup on the night before.

A last reminder to all of us that we don't have our monthly cultural meeting in January so our first meeting will be the **3rd of February 2026**.

See you all at the 2nd December cultural meeting. Please table plants by 6.45.

Desiree Watson

Secretary

For those of you who have missed our meetings through poor health, medical problems or Just life, we hope that things will improve for you. We miss you. Come back to us when you can. In the mean time, read the Newsletter to keep in touch with the club's doings or go online to our webpage.

Goodies for Growing Orchids

If you are new to the club and need orchid growing supplies, head for a nice drive to Yandina and visit Fernland at 31 Paulger Flat Rd. They have a wide range of bark, perlite, charcoal, pots, fertilisers, stakes and hangers. Just mention that you are a member of the Maroochydhore Orchid Society and you will receive a discount. **Warning: it is very easy to lose your head and overspend!**

My Fertilising program from mid October to mid March. By Peter Henssler

Quick Measurements

1/4 Teaspoon = 1.25ml 1.25g

1/2 Teaspoon = 2.5 ml 2.5g

1 Teaspoon = 5 ml 5g

1/2 Tablespoon = 10ml 10g

1 Tablespoon = 20ml 10g

My electric sprayer unit of 25 litres.



Instead of fertilising once a fortnight I go into fertilising twice a week with fertiliser with a higher rate of nitrogen and with all the trace elements to increase growth rate.

The fertilisers I use at this time are Calcium Nitrate, Campbell's Growth (Blue), Worm Juice and Campbell's Diamond Special T.

- Calcium Nitrate 2 g/L = 25 g/25L
- Campbell's Blue growth = 35 g/25L
- Worm juice = 500 g/25L
- Campbells Special T = 13 g/L

All the measurements above are at ½ strength for 25L sprayer.

The above is completed twice weekly.

Before I spray with fertiliser in the warmer months I give all plants a light watering (just to wet the leaves). I believe that this method gives the plant more ability to take in the application of fertiliser.

I do not like mixing the above different ingredients together. I use one at a time and occasionally use Condys Crystals with the mix around once a month at 4g/25L, this is a natural fungicide when humidity shows a high reading.

Mancozeb Plus Garden Fungicide and Miticide

When humidity rises, I use a stronger fungicide like Mancozeb. I use this at the rate of 80g/25L. I include 10mls of green food dye to stop the browning showing on the leaves from the Mancozeb.

Around the middle of Summer, I will use Epsom Salts, but this is only used about once a week after I have stopped all other fertilising chemicals. After I use the Epsom Salts, I don't use other fertilisers due to a possible chemical imbalance for the plants. I only use the compound in the middle of summer and middle of winter.

I use this method to help plant fluids move up and down the cells during these periods. At this time of the year is very stressful for plants.

I mainly water/fertilise in the afternoon in the hotter months from around 3 o'clock, as the orchid houses are in the shade. My watering is worked out when the days have reached lowest temperature of 15 degrees in the morning. When the temperature is below 15 degrees, I go back to watering/fertiliser in the morning.

P L Henssler OAM/JP

Remember to look at our website for information

Supper Roster

December supper is shared, so everyone, bring along your goodies.

February – **looking for volunteers at the December meeting.** Please make sure you put your name

down for one of the months. All members should have a turn



Orchid Growing for Beginners

If you are new to orchid growing here are some useful tips for becoming a successful orchid grower.

1. Begin by finding books and online information and read.
2. Establish a good basic cultural regime – growing medium, pot sizes and shapes, watering, fertilising and light needs.
3. Do not overcrowd your plants. They need light and airflow. Too crowded and disease can spread.
4. Try not to get too many different types of orchids too quickly. Learn to grow a few well. Once this is done, expand your collection.
5. Try to buy plants in bloom as very small ones can take several years to flower. You don't want to lose heart.

Upcoming Events - 2026

14th February STOCQ meeting at Gympie Bowls Club

21st March Maroochydore OS closed show, Buderim Uniting Church Hall (public hours 8.00-3.30)

11th April Glasshouse Country OS closed show – Glasshouse Community Hall

17th April Sunshine Coast OS – Uniting Church Hall, Queen St Caloundra

This is the last cultural meeting of the year. Our **first meeting for 2026 is February 3rd at 6:30pm.**

Our December meeting will have no benching, but bring along any plants that you wish to display.

Also bring along your banana dollars for the Auction.

Things to do over the summer break:

Repot overcrowded orchids or if the mix is old and breaking down. Do not overpot ie use a pot that is much larger than the one the orchid is currently growing in. Orchids like to be snug in their pot.

Water well and fertilise regularly.

Don't forget your fungicide.

Look out for pests and diseases and act promptly. Remember that the dendrobium beetle likes most orchids and is always around.

New growers – dendrobium beetle is yellow and black and a bit bigger than a lady bird. There will always be more than one. They will drop when you try to catch them. Put your hand underneath and squash. Evidence of them will be chewed flowers and skeletonised leaves.



Charlie taking us through the competition results with a commentary about the plants.

Judging Results

November 2025 MEETING			
CATTLEYA		ANY OTHER GENERA	
1. Bc. Wonder Star	Gerry S	1. Phal. Allura Crimson Love	Peter Y
2. C. Memoria Robert Strait	Ron S	2. Phal. unknown	Peter Y
3. Rlc. Angel Love	Peter Y	3. Paph. Ubon Jack	John S
POPULAR VOTE		POPULAR VOTE	
C. Memoria Robert Strait	Ron S	Phal. OX Allura Beauty	Peter Y
DENDROBIUM		SPECIES	
1. Den. Jairak Dawn	Gerry S	1. Den. amabile	Loraine H
2. Den. Airy 'Green'	Kathy H	2. Den. sauvissimum	Loraine H
3. Den. Pink Sparkle	Loraine H	3. Den. tortile	Ian W
POPULAR VOTE		POPULAR VOTE	
Den. Jairak Dawn	Gerry S	Den. amabile	Loraine H
VANDA		NOVICE	
1. Ren. King Crimson	Loraine H	1. Aliceara Marfitch	Teddy G
2. Ren. Arizona	Loraine H	2. ----	
3. V. Ladda Gold	Gerry S	3. ----	
POPULAR VOTE		POPULAR VOTE	
Ren. King Crimson	Loraine H	Aliceara Marfitch	Teddy G
ONCIDIUM		FOLIAGE	
1. Onc. 'Lemon Sherbet'	Gerry S	1. Caladium	Loraine H
2. Brassia Rising Star	Peter H	2. Caladium	Loraine H
3. ----		3. Caladium	Mitzi M
POPULAR VOTE		POPULAR VOTE	
Onc. 'Lemon Sherbet'	Gerry S	Caladium	Mitzi M

Renanthera King Crimson was Plant of the Night.

Bc. Morning Glory x B. nodosa = Bc. Wonder Star.

Beallara Marfitch is Aliceara Marfitch = Bratonia Charles M Fitch x Oncidium Fremar.

Oncidium 'Lemon Sherbet' needs more information.

Plant of the Night Ren. King Crimson



This Renanthera is an orchid hybrid that originated in 1994. It is a cross of Ren. monachica and Ren. Philippinensis. It is a primary hybrid because it is a cross between 2 species. An epiphytic orchid that requires bright indirect light, good air movement and high water and humidity.

Notes on how to grow

This orchid needs high light, warm temperatures and almost daily watering. It is similar to vanda orchids. Use a well balanced orchid fertilizer fortnightly during the growing period.

Use a well draining mix with bark etc. It needs protection from cold. It grows quite tall over time.

Talk to Loraine as she is the grower of this beautiful specimen.

Entering Plants in the Foliage Section in our Monthly Competition

Similar requirements also apply if entering an Orchid Show.

The aim of foliage plants in an orchid society is to grow plants that enhance/compliment the orchid display.

A foliage plant is a plant that is NOT grown primarily for its showy flowers. It may have a spathe or an insignificant flower that does not detract from the leaves of the plant.

The following are some of the plants that are suitable.

- Spathiphyllum – peace lily
- Aglaonema
- Maranta – prayer plant (remember that this plant closes its leaves at night)
- Calathea
- Ctenanthe
- Begonia
- Coleus
- Alocasia
- Ferns
- Anthurium
- Aspidistra
- Philodendron
- Caladium

Think lush and Tropical looking.

There are many more that are not listed here. A visit to an orchid show will give you an idea of the variety of plants you could consider growing and showing.

When entering make sure the plant is well grown, clean and any damage or diseased leaves removed.

A cache container is allowed for display. (Plastic pot inside another pot.) Don't choose a container that takes away from the plant that you are entering. On a piece of paper or card write the name of the plant and display this in the pot. On another paper put your name and Membership number. Place this under your entry, otherwise the judges won't be able to award points.



Caladiums are a good example of lush foliage plants for competition, as these beauties demonstrate.

These plants also make good indoor house plants or patio plants.

We wish you a happy and restful Christmas break and hope to see you at the meeting on the 3rd February 2026.

This is the last Newsletter from me. We look forward to our Editor's return and his more polished versions next year.

Photos From The Bench

