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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 07 APRIL

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The weather has been all over the place, cloudy, wet, hot, dry and the orchids don't know what to do. I find my orchids aren't flowering as well as expected. But hopefully, things will get back to normal.

Charlie's talk on 'Envy' prompted lots of discussion about how to protect your plants from moisture loss when repotting and keeping the bugs off when displaying your plants at shows. The slide show that explained the water movement and transpiration process in a plant was well received by the members present. Thank you, Charlie. If you need more information about 'Envy' ask Charlie.

Rod gave an interesting talk on how he buys his bark in bulk and treats it to make it suitable for his orchids. He buys a cubic metre of raw bark from Bassetts at Glasshouse Mountains and treats it for a couple of weeks in special solutions. This way he reduces the cost of the bark. Thank you, Rod. If you would like more information, see Rod.

Our One Day Show yesterday proved to be a very successful. Thank you to all the helpers who contributed to the smooth running of the day. Desiree has worked tirelessly to make sure everything was organised. Thank You. Fast facts, Number of people through the door, 389. Raffle sales, 687. Tabled orchids, 130. The financial results of the show have yet to be finalised, so that will be tabled at the next meeting.

The Sunshine Coast Caloundra Orchid Society show is on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th April. Our society supports our fellow societies so I encourage all members to display their orchids at their show.

KATHY HOWATSON
MOS President

PLANT OF THE NIGHT

Phalaenopsis gigantea

Phalaenopsis gigantea is a remarkable orchid native to the rainforests of Borneo. It grows as an epiphyte on trees in warm, humid, shaded environments, often near rivers where moisture is constant. Discovered in the late 19th century, it became notable for its massive, drooping leaves, which can reach over a metre long.

In the wild, it is now considered rare due to habitat loss and overcollection, and its trade is regulated to protect natural populations. Among orchid enthusiasts, *Phalaenopsis gigantea* is highly prized for its large size, fragrant flowers, and use in hybridisation.

In domestic culture, it requires warm temperatures, high humidity, and good airflow. It is best grown in well-draining bark or mounted to mimic natural conditions. Although slow-growing, it rewards patient growers with impressive cascading blooms.

Rod acquired his plant as a seedling from our local Roberstsons Orchid Nursery over 15 years ago. This is its 1st flowering. In reflecting on its origins in the wet tropics of Borneo, Rod grows this plant in amongst all his other orchids with no additional protection other than a hard roof, and no special additional treatment. It is a credit to his skills as an orchid grower that he has grown and flowered this plant so far outside its ideal cultural range.



Rod's *Phalaenopsis gigantea*

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.

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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...perhaps after another couple of years aye Rod...

PRE-SOAKING BARK

Rod demonstrated the value of pre-soaking raw bark to condition it for use, showing us raw bark, bark soaked in water and bark soaked in conditioning nutrients and minerals.

The pictures make it quite apparent that the extra time and effort make it all worthwhile in the long run.



A FEW 'ALSO RAN' EXTRAS



Vandachostylis Janice Allison



Dendrobium Santi Fancy



Cattlianthe Fantasía Jíbara



Rlc. Burdekin Charm



Phragmipedium pearcei

SUPPER ROSTER

MARCH	Alfie, Del W
APRIL	Joe & Fay, Ian W
MAY	Marlene D, Mitzi
JUNE	Olivia E, XX
JULY	Gerry, Teddy
AUGUST	Del W, XX
SEPTEMBER	XX, XX
OCTOBER	XX, XX
NOVEMBER	XX, XX
DECEMBER	EVERYONE TO BRING A PLATE



Picking the night's winners

JUDGING RESULTS – XXXX 2024 MEETING

CATTLEYA

- 1 Cattlianthe Gérard Nappert ‘Southern Cross’ Kathy H
- 2 Rhyncholaeliocattleya Burdekin Charm ‘Angela’ John S
- 3 Rhyncholaeliocattleya Rungnapha Fancy ‘Warm Welcome’ John S

POPULAR VOTE

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Burdekin Charm John S

DENDROBIUM

- 1 Dendrobium Magenta’s Carroline Loraine H
- 2 Dendrobium **Sakada Red** x Alstonville Inferno Gerry S
- 3 Dendrobium Enobi Purple Gerry S

POPULAR VOTE

Dendrobium Magenta’s Carroline Loraine S

VANDA

- 1 Vanda Dordon Dillon x **Rattana** Loraine H
- 2 Vanda Brighton’s Ruby Jewel Gerry S
- 3 Vanda Boonyarit Spots John S

POPULAR VOTE

Vanda Boonyarit Spots John S

ONCIDIUM

- 1 **Gomesa** Alosuka Loraine H
- 2 **Gomesa Gigi Portilla** Gerry S
- 3 Miltonia Guanabara Loraine H

POPULAR VOTE

Miltonia Guanabara Loraine H

PHALAENOPSIS

- 1 Phalaenopsis NOID Peter Y
- 2 Phalaenopsis NOID Peter Y
- 3 Phalaenopsis NOID Peter Y

POPULAR VOTE

Phalaenopsis NOID Peter Y

ANY OTHER GENERA

- 1 **Clowesetum Amazing Grace** Kathy H
- 2 Catasetum Chocolate Cherry Fudge Gerry S
- 3 Lycaste Kelvin Grove Peter H

POPULAR VOTE

SPECIES

- 1 Phalaenopsis gigantea Rod A
- 2 Aerangis biloba Loraine H
- 3 Vanda lamellata Loraine H

POPULAR VOTE + PLANT OF THE NIGHT

Phalaenopsis gigantea Rod A

NOVICE

- 1 Oncidesa Sweet Sugar ‘Lemon Drop’ Donny
- 2 **Aliceara** Marfitch ‘Howard’s Dream’ Mitzi
- 3 Brassocattleya Star Ruby ‘Xanadu’ Mitzi

POPULAR VOTE

Oncidesa Sweet Sugar Donny

FOLIAGE

- 1 Begonia NOID Mitzi
- 2 Begonia NOID Mitzi
- 3 Alocasia Green Velvet C & J

POPULAR VOTE

Alocasia Green Velvet C & J

PAPHIOPEDILUM AND PHRAGMIPEDIUM

- 1 Phragmipedium Noirmont Peter H
- 2 Paphiopedilum Nathaniel’s Kunzite John S
- 3 Paphiopedilum Kiryu John S

POPULAR VOTE

Phragmipedium Noirmont Peter S

UNREGISTERED HYBRIDS ARE **BOLDED**

NAME CHANGES ARE **ORANGE** (please update your tags)

THE BENCHES



The Cattleyas



The Vandas



The Oncidium Alliance



Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums



The Phalaenopsis



The Dendrobiums



The Novice bench



The Species lineup for the night

CATTLEYA



Cattlianthe Gérard Nappert 'Southern Cross'



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Burdekin Charmv 'Angela'



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Rungnapha Fancy 'Warm Welcome'

DENDROBIUM



D. Sakada Red x Alstonville Inferno



Dendrobium Aridang Blue



Dendrobium Enobi Purple



Dendrobium Magenta's Carroline

VANDA



Vanda Boonyarit Spots



Vanda Brighton's Ruby Jewel



V. Gordon Dillon x **Rattana**



Vanda Kultana **Gems**

ONCIDIUM



Gomesa Alosuka



Miltonia Guanabara

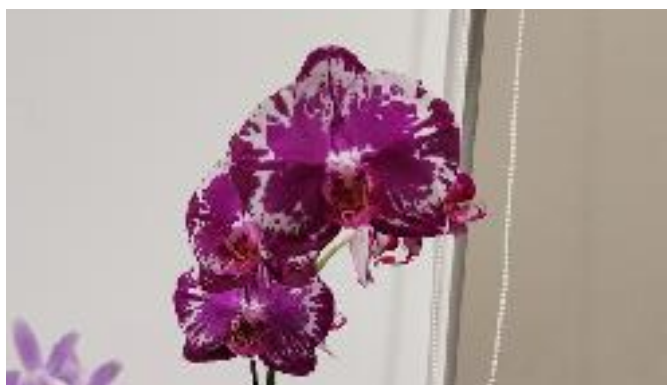


Gomesa Gigi Portilla

PHALAENOPSIS



Phalaenopsis NOID



Phalaenopsis NOID



Phalaenopsis NOID

OTHER GENERA



Clowesetum Amazing Grace



Catasetum Chocolate Cherry Fudge



Lycaste Kelvin Grove



Paphiopedilum Lara Croft



Cattleya Minyama Magic- growing competition

SPECIES



Phalaenopsis gigantea



Aerangis biloba



Vanda lamellata



Dockrillia bowmanii

NOVICE



Oncidesa Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop'



Aliceara Marfitch'Howard's Dream'



Brassocattleya Star Ruby 'Xanadu'



Gomesa venusta

FOLIAGE



Alocasia Green Velvet



Begonia



Begonia



Guaritonia Why Not

PAPHIOPEDILUM & PHRAGMIPEDIUM



Phragmipedium Noirmont



Paph. Nathaniel's Kunzite



Paphiopedilum Kiryu



Welcoming a new member to the fold