

# Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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## Newsletter

P.O. Box 1173,

Bundaberg, 4670

**Volume 7/15**

**July 2015**

**Ed. Jean Williamson**

### **Office Bearers.**

President	Robert Shield	Phone 41550783
Secretary	Rene Thompson	Phone 41521619
Treasurer	Glenda Coster	Phone 41527980

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the third THURSDAY of each month at the Avenell Heights Hall, Thabeban Street.

**Visitors and past members are especially welcome to attend.**

### **Date Claimers:**

CIDOS Spring Show 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> September. Set up Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
Maryborough Orchid Show 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> September. Set up Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September

**Meeting Duty Roster: August: Group C September: Group A October: Group B**

### **June Meeting Winners:**

**Raffle winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: J Hughes      2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Ray Whitney

**Lucky Door:** Ian Neilson      **Exhibitors Prize:** R & J Coster

**Bulk Booklet Orders and/or Enquires:** [jbhughes4@bigpond.com](mailto:jbhughes4@bigpond.com) Ph. 4153 6971

### **New Members:**

This month we have Molly Roberts from Bargara.

Molly, we welcome you and hope to see you at our meetings where there is always knowledge available so as to help you to enjoy your Orchid growing.

**The Club merchandise is available only to BOSI members not the public.**

Please phone Bev on 41593291 so as to arrange a suitable time for you to collect any merchandise you require for your Orchid Potting.

As all Merchandise has to be firstly ordered by Bev, please consider indicating to Bev your guestimated requirements, so as to help with the volumne required.

It is of importance that you contact Bev at your earliest convenience; most of all, any large orders that is out of the ordinary cannot be met unless through early ordering. Please consider Bev's position.

While the Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc. endeavours to ensure reliability and accuracy in this Newsletter's editorial content, responsibility for advice and views expressed is not assumed by the Society or the Management Committee.

### **Ipswich Bus Trip**

In August, on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be having a visit from an Orchid Club in Ipswich.

Members are invited to be a part of the planned activities for Saturday late lunch/afternoon tea when the Bus arrives at Bob & Deborah Shield's residence, please bring a plate of your favourite homemade goodies. This time of arrival is yet to be advised.

Saturday night Dinner will be held at the RSL Club in Quay Street at 6 pm. Each Member to cover cost of \$25- for their own meals and Members are to meet upstairs of the Club for dining.

Members can bring Orchids to sell on Saturday &also on Sunday at Alwyn & Bev Heidke's where Morning tea will be served before our visitors head back to Ipswich.

## The needs of Orchids

This month we have Ian Neilsen with his easy to follow advice on fertiliser and the not really necessary chemicals to use in the Orchid house.

Ian's most important advice is your Wall Planner, keeping track of *what you do* and *what you use* and *when you do it*.

Being methodical is the first of the golden rules in the Orchid house.

Keep track of fertilisers and fertilising will not only save time but will help to maintain the most effective way for your own special needs in your Orchid growing.

Choose whether you want to use Folia feeds or Pelletising feed.

Folia spray will be effective best in very early morning spraying, whereas pellets will be administered at the beginning of the season and through this method will be gently applied to the plant as the watering is done.

Learn to monitor your plant's needs, so by reading your 'Orchid Growing Booklet' that we all have one of, you will be able to solve many of your needs of fertilising and with what and when to change your fertilisers.

As new and interesting fertilisers become available don't be afraid to embrace the change and experiment with new fertilisers on a few of your plants in a special corner if you are in doubt, you will never gain confidence if you don't have a go.

A part of Ian's talk touched on integrated pest management.

The most simple of ways is to hang the sticky tapes ( obtainable at Rural Traders ) in your Orchid house and if there are any present 'Bugs' they will soon be attracted to these sticky tapes and then you will be able to monitor the movement of 'Bugs' frequenting your Orchids, thus allowing you to treat the problem early.

Any of the ever present Aphid, Mites, Mealy bug and Scale must be constantly checked and treated immediately. These little critters can strike at any time so be observant at all times.

There are safe and ever ready sprays available, as Yates Products in Natrasoap, Success, and Scale Gun and Confidor not needing any complicated mixing and all safe to use. By keeping your Orchids in a healthy state, you won't have to spend money on unnecessary Poisons.

Check out the effectiveness of Alginox, Eco-oil, and Mancozeb.

Check out the effectiveness of Bloom Boosters, Calcium and Neutrog Pellets and Eco- carb.

There are all the answers you need if you only ask questions at our Meetings.

## Winning Orchids at June Meeting



**Rlc.** Mary Scalia x California Girl  
I & C Neilson



**Phal:** Reuy Lih Queen  
R Emerson



**Brsdm:** Guided Urchin  
E Linderberg



**Cym:** Show Girl  
W & G Sergeant



**Phap:** Prime Child  
C Trudgan



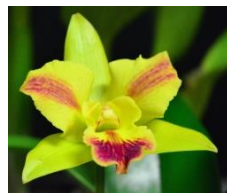
**Den:** Kiku Orange  
A & B Heidke



**Phap:** spicerianum  
A & B Heidke



## Orchids tabled at June Meeting



## Knowing your Potting Mix for Orchids:

The terminology of *potting material* isn't a fancy way of saying soil/dirt.

There is gravel, plant fibre, bark and perlite and scoria used in potting materials. There won't be any soil/dirt found in potting mix for Orchids.

Orchids need a material that drains quickly and yet can retain moisture and that will slowly rot away over a period of about 2 years.

You can mix your own Potting mix or there are quantities readily available to use. Each grower will use a different mix depending on the specific need in the environment of the individuals' Orchid house.

Understanding the most commonly used products will help you decide of what you may like to trial. Bark, Perlite Charcoal, Sphagnum, Coconut husk, Diatomite and Styrofoam are often used, not altogether but blends of to suit your needs.

A blend of 3x Bark with 1xCharcoal plus 1xJumbo Perlite is a basic blend.

Understand the different grades of Barks and Charcoals. There is a different need for the finer roots of some Orchids and there is a need for the larger No 4 Bark for the larger roots/ariels of the Vanda Orchid.

When you buy another Orchid study the Potting mix in which it was grown in, then ask questions as to why it may have been used. The size of the roots governs the size of the potting mix.

Cymbidium Orchid mix is totally different again.

As a beginner, slowly add to your collection and study the difference of the individual Orchids' needs.

**The New & Interested Growers Group Meeting** will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of August at Alwyn & Bev Heidke's Property.

Our Meeting covers a potting demonstration of how to repot /divide/ breakup Orchids.

This meeting is of the most importance to all of our New Members and those who have not had the opportunity to see this demonstration.

Try to come along and witness 5 tables with seasoned Orchid growers showing you the finer points and *'just how easy'* it is to divide your own.

There will be an opportunity to stock-up on your Merchandise and just what is available to do the job with ease.

Members can bring a plate for morning tea and don't forget to bring your chair, hat and one Orchid that you may have a question about in its division. This Meeting will start at 9 o'clock.

**The Wide bay Orchid Societies Work shop** held at Howard on Saturday 11 July was certainly a very informative one.

We were lucky enough to hear from Speakers that had such a great passion for the subject on which they spoke.

Bill Letcher gave a very informative talk on the growing and crossing of Vanda Orchids, we realised how much there is to learn about the Orchids we grow.

A topic on Native Orchids mainly on our Strange Geophytic Orchids, here in South East Queensland, was very informative and allowed us to see photos of the many beautiful tiny Native Orchids, which, many of us will never get to see or even know that this little plant grows here in our region.

We were then *tormented with the desire* to buy and try to grow Phalaenopsis Orchids. The many crossings to obtain the desired outcome were rather in depth and interesting.

The afternoons agenda was completed with John Frisch who gave, as usual, the most in depth of talks on Sprays, Chemicals, Grading's, compatibility of poisons, needs and wants of how a grower can address the presences of Diseases in the Orchid house.

After listening to John's talk, one needs to better understand the problem we have as individuals in our Orchids, then do the research on the problem in hand, instead of thinking about the vast supply of what is available overall.

Many a member has tried to absorb all of this information that is freely given, only to walk away with no idea of finding the solution because of *too much information*. It is better to take smaller steps with each disease, at a time.



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