

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

P.O. Box 1173,

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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;

July 11th 2015 Combined Annual Workshop at Burrum District Community Centre, Howard. 9:15 am Morning Tea. Bus supplied for transport, leaving from Bundaberg Coach's Depot, Verdant Siding Rd, 7:30 sharp. Cost of seat is \$10- each, and also a list for passengers to record their attendance at Thursday's meeting with Members providing their own lunch.

August 2015 Visiting Orchid Club Bus scheduled with date to be confirmed.

Meeting Duty Roster: July: B group August: C Group September: A Group

November:

Raffle winners: 1st Prize: Jim Rose 2nd Prize: Clair Balfour

Lucky Door: Chris Trudgian

Exhibitors Prize: R Moore

Judges Choice: D & N Sorrensen

Bulk Booklets orders and/or Enquiries: jbhughes4@bigpond.com

Ph. 41533 6971

Should you be requiring large amounts of merchandise for your Orchid House and Orchids this year, please indicate to Bev, our Merchandising Officer on Ph. 4159 3291, of your needs.

As the time draws nearer to consider the breaking up or repotting or potting-on of your Orchids, you must soon give a fair bit of thought to what kind of potting mix you are going to use.

Not all Orchids tolerate any potting mix. The fine textured root system on some Orchids will require a different weight of mix. You need to start asking lots of questions about repotting so that all that you have learned throughout the year can be complimented with getting it right at potting time.

There are several Orchids such as Oncidium, Slipper orchids and any orchids with fine roots that may prefer to stay damp, these will then require a finer mix.

The middle of the road mix will be most suited for Vandas, Cattleyas & Phalaenopsis. These may need a coarse mix, such as 4 parts bark, 1 part charcoal and 1 part Jumbo perlite, where larger roots needing more aeration and drainage or mature plants.

Pots/Containers to which you pot your Orchids into, are just as important as the mix that goes in them.

Sizeing is very important, as a small Orchid should stay in its tube for some considerable time, making the first repotting of tiny plants into a larger pot is one of the *NO-NOS* of potting of Orchids, understanding the signs of when to and when not to plant a small Orchid into a larger pot is a subject that should be understood in depth.

As we approach Spring, we must consider the need to change the fertilising pattern that has provided nutrient through the cold of Winter.

Each of these items of merchandise can be discussed with Bev should you have any doubts about your understanding of your Orchids needs. There is always a varied supply of regular needs on display at each Meeting of a Thursday.



Boyne Tannum Orchid Show

The recent Floral Fantasy of Boyne Tannum Orchid Club was a rather colourful and successful event.

As this was my first glimpse of what goes on *behind the scene* at another Orchid Club's Show, It is interesting to see just how much organising and preparation goes on for even a small Club's Orchid Show. Several Clubs participate in these Open Shows which always attracts some brisk competition, but all in the love of Orchid Growing.

Our Club's members travelled a long way and went to a lot of trouble in the setting-up of our display in competition with other clubs for the Show.

With so many healthy plants for sale, lots of Orchids found their way into another competitor's collection, which is the reason why our members should travel afar and experience the efforts of others and gather just one more for their own collection even if they are not a competitor..Ed



New & Interested Growers Group meeting will be held at Ian & Carolyn's residence at South Kolan, on Sunday 5th July. Check Calendar for address/direction. Starting 9:00 am, bring along a problem plant or anything Orchid to discuss. Ian will give us a Talk on Chemicals/Fertilisers etc. Bring your note pads so that you can record some of his all-important basic advice.

These Talks are so much needed, but not often enough, are notes taken. From this time of the Orchid year into potting season, in about 6 weeks time, any information that you can gather, you can use. We fail to remember it all, so jot things down.

Winning Orchids tabled May's Orchid Meeting:



C: Bonanza Queen x **Rlc.** Donna Kimura
D & N Sorrensen



Brat: Kayai's Choice
R Stillman



Den: Red Dragon
D & N Sorrensen



Rlc: Golden Reign
R & A Moore



Rlc: California Girl
G Reimer



Previous Orchid Blooms



Notes on Orchid Potting:

To decide how, when, where and why to re-pot an orchid is to some a million dollar question. It takes courage to attempt this task when you know so little about Orchids.



Dead scared, or perhaps armed with the biggest knife, you have a go, your way. Then the plant lived to tell the tale and even went on to flower, so, that tells us it's so easy to grow orchids and therefore it is just as easy to cut/break one up and repot.

When a plant has grown across the top of the pot to the other side it is usually time to repot. This usually takes about 2 years. By now the potting mix has become exhausted and needs replacing, strangely enough should you have a problem with an Orchid during this 2 year cycle, never be afraid to repot the Orchid into new potting mix and most times the Orchid will respond immediately, so this tells us the mix needs to be freshened up periodically and on time.

When the plant has a new shoot reaching out over of the edge of the pot there may be some new growth with new roots appearing, the plant is in growing mode, therefore we should take notice of the actions of this growth and more times than not your Orchid is asking to be repotted or broken-up. This comes with learning & observing. Most importantly, is to ask questions, no one knows that you need help in understanding this stage of growth or signs that your specific Orchid is showing.

Each and every Orchid is different, where you grow the Orchid is different. No two Orchid houses are the same. That is why Orchid growing is such an interesting field.

We prepare to do most of our repotting from August onwards (early spring). This seasonal move suits most Orchids, you may not get all of your Orchids attended to in this time, but, the Orchid is so forgiving, it will wait but when you do decide to repot, you must give a lot of thought to the type of potting mix that is most suitable for each type of Orchid that you have to repot.

Small fine roots need small/fine potting mix. Larger longer thicker freedom lovers need something of a large coarse mix, sometimes as they clamber and dangle they escape the mix and therefore don't need any mix at all. We have the creeping ones that love to hug and hold onto other kinds of vegetation, namely bark, another living tree or even just swim in lots of water in extreme wet conditions.

Whatever your Orchids needs are, they can be met with a bit of knowledge and observation of how the plant is presented as you buy it. Always observe what potting mix your Orchid is in. Do some research into why it is in that type of mix?



It is always good advice to repot your new acquisition into your own potting mix as soon as you can, as it is about to live in your Orchid house under totally different living conditions.

Our trip to Howard on July 11th is an ideal opportunity to hear some great speakers and only too willing to share knowledge with you.

Members are able to put in an entry of a Container Garden of small proportion and add some interest to what is an always a must to attend.

There will be visiting Orchid Nurseries with lots of Orchids for sale of all ages as well as Orchid supplies.



Childers Orchid Club will be the host club this year. A raffle will be run. Morning tea will be hot on arrival. Members to bring a plate to share.

Members are advised of the need of perhaps, cushions, warm knee rugs and warm jackets as this is normally a rather cold weather day. Members will need to bring their own Lunch or visit the best little Pie Shop in town.

Winter water and nutrient is so very important.

During this cold time of the year always ensure the application of Seasol is kept to a good habit, (make that a weak application each fortnight)

Only during winter you will apply the Bloom Booster, which is the high P K. Nitrogen should only be applied in the growing months after re-potting as the Orchids need the food to grow.

Notes that are readily available indicate some growers apply Molasses and Magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts) and calcium nitrate monthly in winter, once again weakly fortnightly. Orchids need some water to survive but only to dampen the root system weekly. Learn to observe the moisture content of your potting mix.

Orchids are having a rest from active growth now but still need some line of nourishment.

The best line of attention you can give your Orchids is warmth.

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The waves
real fun every day

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AUSWIDE BANK



Red rooster

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