

# Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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## Newsletter

P.O. Box 1173,

Bundaberg, 4670

**Volume 3/15**

**March 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**

**March 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>** CIDOS Autumn Charity Show (Set-up Friday noon)

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>** Gladstone Orchid Show (Bill Robertson's Toyota Showrooms)

**May 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>** BOSI Autumn Show (Civic Centre)

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>** Boyne Tannum Floral Fantasy

**Meeting Duty Roster:** April Group-A May Group- B June Group C

**February Meeting Results:** Due to Cyclonic conditions, there was no General Meeting held in February.

**New & Interested Growers Group** met on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of March.

**Next New & Interested Growers** Group meeting on Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>, will be at Alwyn & Bev Heidke's residence.

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

*A recent study found that women, who carry a little extra weight, live longer than the men who mention it.*

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

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

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.

It is with much sadness that we learn of the passing of Sandra Jensen. Sandra was a member of our Club and had been for the last 10years.

Sandra also gave tirelessly as a member to many other Clubs and Organisations within the Community and will be greatly missed.

The Orchid Club wishes to convey it's most sincere Condolences to her family.



**Our Mother's day weekend May 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>** is drawing nearer as time seems to have wings. Set-up is done on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> for the next 3 days of the showing of some of the most beautiful Orchids that our members have grown.

This weekend is when our Annual Autumn Orchid Show is held and members are now required to offer assistance in the many roles that will be necessary to bring one of the biggest Orchid Shows to the success that it is known for.

Again, we invite the members who can assist in the Catering section, with the supplying of cakes and slices. In this section your convenor is Kay Thompson so make it known to her if you are able to help.

If members are not able to attend meeting, make a phone call to your President & he will gladly direct you to your chosen area of interest.

Ask questions at your meetings if you are unsure, there are always answers on any item of Orchid Growing.

## **Recent Field Day trip to Rockhampton:**

As usual, there was the precision planning by President Jeff Bloxom.

The generosity and hospitality shown by the Rockhampton Club was evident throughout the weekend.

The morning teas were of banquet style and the Barbeque Lunch on Sunday was provided by Dunlop Caterers, a special effort by a private caterer cannot be beaten.

The Coach and Driver Peter, provided by Bundaberg Coaches, gave us the comfort of no other. We were taken to many interesting parts of the city where years of 'Orchid growing' was proof of dedication by the members. A little antiquity, at times, proved how easy it is to grow Orchids.

Seeing how Vanda Orchids grow in full sun is rather different to ones beliefs, and the clothes lines that have been utilized for years make the perfect house for Softcane. For those who know John Frisch, will be happy to know he didn't lose any Orchids in the cyclone as he hurriedly hid them in every corner, even the boat, but failed to record where he had taken them from, thus resulting in some sunburn.

With the visual destruction of trees by the Cyclone Marcia, very little marred our weekend's visits to the many Garden / Bush /Orchid houses that were opened for our pleasure.

The Botanic Gardens appeared somewhat attacked by the cyclonic winds and work is painstakingly being carried out to help the long road of recovery.

We wish their City a quick recovery with a smooth and rewarding return to normality.

Next year's Field day will be hosted by Gladstone Orchid Club.

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

The position of Editor of the Clubs Newsletter will become available in October at our AGM. Any member interested in taking on this role can start to become familiar with the necessary format and learn from seeing how a newsletter can be compiled before they take on this role, which can be rewarding with access to endless knowledge of Orchid Growing.

## Special Award presentations for the efforts of Members:



Rob and Glenda Coster have received a **life membership** for **special efforts in both positions of Trips Convenor and Treasurer** and **commitment to the success of the club**

Reynold & Kay Thompson have received life membership for the continued efforts in role of Secretary and Catering Supervisor. Reynolds commitment to the duties of Secretary cannot be measured.



Ian & Carolyn Nielson have received the Patrons Award for a special effort where Ian is our Chief Chemical & poisons Officer & Carolyn is Assistant Treasurer

## Photos of our recent N& IGG Sunday Meeting. March 1<sup>st</sup>.



This was an 'interested' growers group



Alwyn gently explaining the next stage of this orchids' life



I think Tony has doubts about that one John



Things that one doesn't notice on a daily basis in their own Orchid house.

Segregated audience!

There was 6 items brought along to the meeting for discussion, these types of 'problem plants' is what the Sunday Meetings are about.

No matter what condition the plant is in, it will help create questioning of 'The problems of Orchids' so that we can all learn something from any orchid problem in any ones orchid house. No grower is without the odd blemish or bug.

## Items of discussions at Sunday's Meeting



This Phalaenopsis is ready to re-pot.

Note the plant is standing high and is ready to trim out the aged vegetation from under the plant, and re-pot so the crown is just above the level of potting mix.



**There is enough root formation on this plant to call it a plant, there must be a new shoot and new roots forming out over the pot before there is any hope for a plant to reach into the future**

**This small plant is still of 'tube' size. Do not re-pot to a larger size if it is approaching Autumn, leave until Spring when new growth will be evident and capable of handling the transition**



### THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Orchids growing in bark need more nitrogen than either phosphorus or potassium (in proportions of 30-10-10). This is because the bark is decayed by bacteria that use large amount of nitrogen, leaving very little for the plant. Therefore, the most important step to remember when feeding your orchid is to correctly identify the type of fertilizer you should be using.

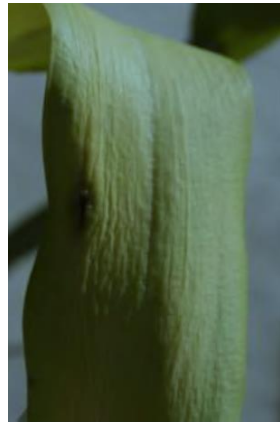
Potassium (K) is mainly responsible for the control of flower, and fruit development. Phosphorous (P) for flower production, and Nitrogen (N) for healthy vegetative growth. The amount of feeding depends on the plant concerned, the time of year and general health of plant. Investigations have shown that feeding should begin with more Nitrogen just when the new shoots are showing, more Phosphorous and Potassium being necessary towards the end of the season.



**Commonly** seen on orchids, and on Phalaenopsis of recent.

**Fusarium Wilt:** Fusarium can infect a plant through orchid roots or by invading the rhizome of recently divided plants. Fusarium blocks the flow of moisture through the plant's vascular system plugging the phloem. The pathogen is spread through improper hygiene, generally as a result of using non-sterile cutting tools, which transfers the fungus from plant to plant. Infected leaves are yellow, thin, shrivelled, wrinkled or wilted and eventually die. Severely infected plants may die in 3-9 weeks, while mildly infected plants gradually decline over a year or so.

The importance of sterilizing cannot be practiced enough in the Orchid work place in any cutting instance. If there is any small problem, there will surely be evidence sooner rather than later, then the damage is done, you will lose Orchids.



## Changing of the Seasons:

It is time to change from the high nitrogen Fertilisers to the Bloom Boosters.

All the growing in now done, so it is time to feed the blooms that already have appeared and those that will bring us our rewards for the nurturing all through one of the hottest summers.

In your latest booklet on 'Orchid Growing in Queensland', on page 32, there is some guides to help you choose which fertiliser is suited to your needs.

Foliar feeding is always a great way to fertilise your Orchids, there is always some run-off that will filter down through the potting mix. All this good for your Orchids and by using a wetting agent, you are assured of getting a greater coverage.

A better understanding of the differences on Fungicide, Pesticide, Herbicide and Miticide will assist greatly. There is always safe and organically available Sprays to help the control of the never ending present critters that will always want to share our Orchids with us.



There will be some fertilisers available at the general meetings on Thursday nights, ask Bev for availability of product and some advice on that product.

*Ask lots of questions!!*

Remember to always support those who support us

Bhavana Shukla | Admin Manager/Travel Consultant

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