

# Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

## Newsletter

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P.O. Box 1173,  
Bundaberg, 4670

Volume 1/15

January 2015

Ed. Graham Price

### 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.**

**Meeting Duty Roster: January: A Group February: B Group March: C Group**

### **Date Claimers**

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 2015. CHRISTMAS BREAKUP DINNER.** Rowers Club Hall, Quay Street. 6.00-6.30pm start. Brilliant continuous Raffle. Each person to bring prize for this raffle. Cost: \$30 per head. MUST be paid by November meeting. .

**Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 2016. First Club meeting for 2016. (No December Meeting).**

**February 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. Interested Growers meeting. At Bob & Deborah Shields place. 4pm Barbeque, Members bring a dessert + chair, hat, eating gear etc.**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> /March 6<sup>th</sup> 2016. Gladstone Annual Field Trip. Club will provide the bus with members paying for meals and accommodation in Gladstone on Saturday night.**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> 2016. New and Interested Growers Group meeting. Location and time to be advised.**

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.

**Club Officers for 2016:**

***Patron:*** John Maughen

***President:*** Robert Shield

***Vice President:*** Alwyn Heidke

***Secretary:*** Ren Thompson

***Treasurer:*** Glenda Coster

***Assist Treasurer:*** Carolyn Nielsen

***Editor:*** Graham Price 0409896307

***Publicity Officer:*** Deborah Shield

***Librarian:*** Bev Heidke

***Web Master:*** Jule Fry

***Cultural Officer:*** Reg Dix

**Conveners:** Kay Thompson, Diane Barnes

***Merchandise Officer:*** Bev Heidke

***Popular Vote Scrutineers:*** Rob Coster, Glenys Symonds

***Photographer:*** Gerry Riemer

***Transport Convenor:*** Rob Coster

***Auditor:*** A. Vauten – B'berg Tax & Accounting

***Committee members: ex officio officers Plus:***

**B. Heidke, R. Coster, J. Schouten, L. Schouten, C. Neilsen, I. Neilsen, D. Barnes,  
B. Barnes, T. McGarry, J. Williamson, T. Price**

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

**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 indicate 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 and large orders will not be delivered to a Thursday Night Meeting....

Please consider Bev's position.

***Bev will closed from 11<sup>th</sup> December until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016***

#### **October Prize Winners:**

**Raffle winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Les Hall

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Jean Williamson

**Lucky Door: Barry Barnes**

**Exhibitors Prize: Ray Widke**

#### **Popular Vote Results:**

Species:	Den. Apyllum	C. Trugian
Cattleya:	C. Wendy Redstone	B & D Barnes
Vanda:	Phal. Ruey Lih Queen	R & D Shield
Dendrobium:	Den. Men. Mary Purnell	A & B Heidke
Any Other:	Gp. Lady Romance Harris	L. Crawford
Novice:	Cym. Canaliculatum	D. Ambrutiene
Judges Choice:	Paph. Bernise	C. Trugian

## POPULAR VOTE

### CATLEYA



*C. Wendy's Redstone*

B & D Barnes

### NOVICE



*Cym. Canaliculatum*

D. Ambrutiene

### SPECIES



*Den. Aphyllum*

C. Trudgian

### DENDROBIUM



*Den. Mem. Marj Purnell*

A & B Heidke

**ANY OTHER**



**Gp. Lady Ramona Harris**

L. Crawford

**VANDA**



**Phal. Ruey Lih Queen**

R & D Shield

**JUDGES CHOICE**



**Paph. Berenice**

C. Trudgian

## **READING THE LEAVES** *(continued)*

**By Ken Slump**

*(Ken Slump writes monthly for Orchids magazine. He is an AOS accredited judge who divides his time between Florida and Colorado.)*

Tweaking the growing environment or feeding a declining plant can be a fairly easy fix, but if root damage is suspected, immediate action must be taken if you intend to save the plant.

Foliage can be instructive about watering practices too. Wilted or limp leaves may be another indicator of root damage due to over-watering or a sour growing medium, a bad sign, immediate repotting may save the plant, but it will be a slow road to recovery. Equally distressing is the discovery of a mushy brown leaf on a monopodial orchid plant. (e.g Phalaenopsis). If a single leaf is affected, you may be able to remove it and treat the plant with a fungicide before the problem spreads. If crown rot has occurred, the plant will have to produce a side shoot or division in order to survive. There are many fungal diseases that can affect orchids but most of them primarily affect stressed plants or are the result of poor cultural practices. Generally, they do not occur if care is taken to water plants early in the day and to avoid letting water stand in the crown of the plant.

At the other end of the spectrum, wrinkled or pleated leaves, particularly on some *Ondiciums* and their hybrids, is an indication that insufficient moisture was available when that leaf was emerging. It is also said that the upper leaves on *Vanda* orchids will fold together more tightly during periods of heat and dryness in order to reduce water loss due to transpiration. More frequent watering will help prevent this as well as avoid the excessive loss of a *Vanda* plant's lower leaves.

The sudden appearance of rather large yellow, brown or black areas on the leaves may indicate sunburn. This is particularly likely if the plant has been recently moved to a much brighter location. Be especially careful of this if you transfer plants outdoors during the warmer months. Blackened areas can be the result of excessively high temperatures too. I once had that symptom appear on an orchid purchase that was left too long in the boot of a car on a warm day

Brown or black leaf tips may come from several causes. In cattleyas, they can indicate a calcium deficiency that can be rather easily remedied with crushed eggshells or Tums sprinkled on the surface of the growing medium. Sometimes darkened leaf tips occur when fertiliser salts build up excessively. Brown tips on thinner leaved indoor orchids may simply be the result of insufficient humidity.

Tiny dark spots on orchid leaves are usually of minor concern. Often, they are the result of bacteria. Many thin leaved orchids seem to have such spots as a matter of course and their harm seems to be mostly cosmetic.

Conversely, dark streaks, patterns and large sunken areas on the leaves may indicate the presence of viruses that affect orchids. Viruses cannot be cured and can only be verified

through laboratory tests, some of which can now be conducted by the hobby grower. Unfortunately, I have heard that the tests are not always accurate.

Most large established orchid collections likely house at least a few virused plants. Some orchids with virus seem to be asymptomatic. Virus may be transferred from plant to plant with infected pruning tools or by sucking insects.

The problem of virus in orchids is serious and certainly justifies an article of its own. I do not pretend to be an expert on the subject. My current practice, which may seem harsh to some, is to dispose of any suspicious plant. Often they are plants that have not been thriving and flowering well anyway, which may be further indication of their likely infection.

Insect pests, too, can be discovered through a careful examination of the leaves. Among the most commonly encountered on orchid foliage are scale, mealybugs, mites and aphids. Orchid growers should learn to recognise each one as well as their symptoms. These pests tend to do their dirty work out of sight and are often discovered only with a careful examination of the undersides of leaves as well as the leaf axils.

Slug and snail damage is more likely to be first noticed on orchid flowers but may appear on foliage too. Watch for slime trails that indicate their presence. How you deal with any particular pest infestation will depend on its severity as well as your personal comfort level with various treatments. Nearly every pest may be combated with a variety of treatment options that range from simple mechanical removal to environmentally friendly sprays and home remedies, as well as the options that are offered by horticultural chemicals.



Remember that stressed plants are more prone to problems. Plants may be stressed by temperature extremes, poor watering practices and insufficient light, to name but a few causes. Also keep in mind that crowded plants are more



susceptible to problems and that good air movement helps keep many types of orchids happy and healthy. A bit of attention to your orchid plants' foliage is bound to provide you with considerably more accurate information than you will receive from the average gypsy reader of tea leaves.



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