

Email:

Club & Editor:

bundabergorchidsociety@gmail.com

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

Newsletter

P.O. Box 1173,

Bundaberg, 4670

Volume 10/15

October 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

Nov 8th 2015: At North Bundaberg Progress Hall, Queen Street.

Orchid Show/Display. Any member wishing to sell orchids at this show will be committed to the donation of a flowering orchid for the “Raffle of the Day”. Set up at 3pm Saturday. Judging at 5pm. Sunday will open at 8am. Close at 1pm. Tea and coffee will be available.

Nov 27th 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 21st 2016. First Club meeting for 2016. (No December Meeting).

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

March 13th 2016. New and Interested Growers Group meeting. Location and time to be advised.

Meeting Duty Roster: November: C Group January: A Group February: B Group

September Meeting Results:

Raffle winners: 1st Prize: J. Cosgrove

2nd Prize: I & C Neilsen

Lucky Door: D. Ambrutiene

Exhibitors Prize: R&G Coster

Bulk Booklet Orders and/or Enquires: 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 11th December until 21st January 2016

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.

Membership Renewal:

Your yearly Membership fee is now due. Single \$6 and Double \$10.

So that your Phone Number and Address can be included in our Calendar for 2016, please ensure your Membership is currently financial and your Phone Number is recorded as correct. It was noted, the occasional misprint was detected by some Members in last year's Calendar.

We cordially welcome the following **NEW MEMBERS:**

Michael Penny, Robert Ephraims, David Colborn. Welcome, and we look forward to getting to know you and hope to help you in your Orchid growing.

New and Interested Growers Group Meeting:

Sunday November 1st will be held at Col and Jule Dawson's Orchid House.
Check your Calendar for direction & Phone number etc.

Bring a plate for M'Tea; it is a great morning and venue. **9 am is Smoko !!**

Popular Vote results:

Species:	<i>Den. Primulinum</i>	A & B Heidke
Cattleya:	<i>Rlc. CRFB's Future</i>	M & G Ammore
Vanda:	<i>Van. Roll on Red</i>	J. Williamson
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Gala Lace</i>	R & G Coster
Any Other	<i>Brstdm. Golden Gamine</i>	R Thompson
Novice	<i>Phal. Kitty Face</i>	T M ^c Garry
Judges Choice	<i>Rlc. CRB's Future</i>	M & G Ammore

Meeting Night and Problem Plants:

It is of the most importance for Members to bring along a *Problem Plant* to our Thursday Night Meetings. There is some of the best advice available out there that can alleviate any concerns that you have. Knowledge is gained through the answers you receive. We need all the possible blunders you have in your Orchid House so we can help you be a better grower. There are no secret when it comes to ordinary basic growing of an Orchid, or else, we wouldn't find the occasional Orchid strapped to a tree in someone's back yard with more blooms on it than on yours, in a nurtured environment. Bring them on...

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September winning orchids:



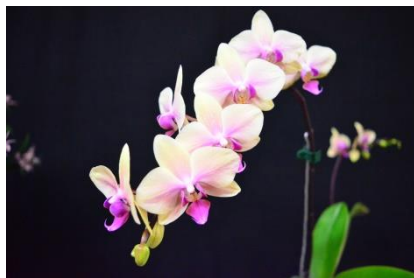
Den. Primulinum
A & B Heidke



Den. Gala Lace
R & G Coster



Rlc. CRB's Future
M & G Amore



Phal. Kitty Face
T M^cGarry



Van. Roll on Red
J Williamson



READING THE LEAVES

By Ken Slump

One of the MOST IMPORTANT habits that an orchid grower can develop is the practice of regular and careful observation of his or her plants. Each part of the orchid -from the root to the pseudo bulb, leaf, bud and flower -displays information about the plant's general health and condition. But there is probably no part of the plant that can tell you more at a glance than the foliage.

Leaves are the primary repositories of chlorophyll, the green pigment that is the driving force of plant growth. Excepting a few examples that are naturally leafless, without healthy foliage, you cannot have a thriving orchid that will reward with flowers.

Most of us appreciate that the orchid family is large and diverse. Just about every imaginable version of a simple monocot leaf is expressed somewhere in the clan. Many epiphytic orchids have somewhat thickened leaves that store water and nutrients to help see the plants through dry spells. Shade-loving orchids tend to have broader leaves. Some orchids that thrive in high light have thin, narrow foliage. Terete-leaved orchids have foliage that is rounded in cross section. While most orchids have solid green foliage, there are those with mottled or patterned foliage. There are even orchids with variegated leaves.

Obviously, to recognise abnormalities in orchid foliage, you should have an appreciation for the range of healthy normal leaves. Generally, orchid leaves are medium to light green. Orchids grown in maximum light for their type sometimes exhibit some yellow pigment. Some orchids show a red pigment in high light situations too, but this can be the result of cooler temperatures as well. I am told that some vanda leaves exhibit a purple tint in cooler weather and that many *Brassavola nodosa* crosses have "blushing leaves" in spring, a condition that may be remedied (if it bothers you) with a watering containing 2 tablespoons of Epson salts (magnesium sulphate) per gallon (3.8L) of water.

Very dark green leaves may indicate that the plant is receiving insufficient light. Conversely, yellow leaves can tell you that a plant is receiving too much light. It is normal for evergreen orchids (those plants with living leaves at all times) to lose their older foliage. Growers should not panic if an older leaf yellows and dies as long as new healthy growth replaces it. On the other hand, some orchids are deciduous and go through a stage when all of the leaves drop and the plant rests. Usually, this is a signal that watering should be curtailed for a time and that temperatures ought to be lowered a bit as well.

If the leaves or new growths on a particular orchid are smaller than previous one you should look to cultural problems. Ask yourself if you have drastically changed the environment for the plant since its previous growing cycle. Possibly there is a build-up of fertiliser salts in the growing medium if water has not been thoroughly flushed through the pot regularly. Perhaps you have neglected your fertiliser schedule, but it is

more likely to be that repotting is overdue. There could be root damage due to the breakdown of the growing medium or from overwatering.

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 *Cattleya*, 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. (to be continued)

Please support those who support us



P.O. BOX 499, 20-24 BOURBONG STREET, BUNDABERG, QLD. 4670
PHONE: (07) 4152 6611 FAX: (07) 4153 1803
EMAIL: jrmccracken@bigpond.com