

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

Childers Show 2nd & 3rd September 2016. Names of entries to Barry Barnes by Sunday 28th August. Setup is on Thursday 1st September.

Next NIGG meeting Sunday 4th September 2016 at Jean Williams residence – 48 Whites Road at 9am. The morning will look at the “roots” of orchids to determine their health and what to look for in their successful growth and also the pro’s and con’s of mixing chemicals. Please bring the usual – a chair, hat, smoko and any questions you may have.

October NIGG meeting is at Bob and Deborah Shield’s place.

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

New Members: Christine Cousins. Welcome Christine, may you enjoy your time with this club and continue your orchid growth. Please feel free to ask questions of any members – if they don’t know I am sure they will endeavour to find someone who does.

Bulk Booklet Orders and/or Enquires: jbhughes4@bigpond.com Ph. 4153 6971

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.

July:

Raffle winners: 1st Prize: G. Coster

2nd Prize: Y. Brabet

Lucky Door: C. Tholstrup

Exhibitors Prize: D & N Sorensen

On Sunday 7th August a very informative NIGG meeting was held at Heidke's. Several orchids were divided for the purpose of repotting. The lucky recipients of these divisions then repotted them. 68 members turned out for the morning, they also enjoyed a wonderful smoko, on time, at 9am (potato farmers smoko time).

MARYBOROUGH SHOW. The dates for this show are the 15th and 16th October. Set up on the 14th. Names into Barry Barnes by 11th October.

MONTHLY TOPIC: Vandaceous Orchids - Rick Emerson

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

Please phone Bev on 41593291 to arrange a suitable time for you to collect any merchandise you require for your Orchid Potting. Bev also brings a limited supply to the monthly club meetings.



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Orchid Houses

It was May 2014 when I accepted a new position with my employer and agreed to move to the Bundaberg area. Having been growing orchids for many years and having become totally obsessed with them this meant that they also had to move.

Part of my rationale behind the acceptance of the move was that my favourite orchids, the Vanda family, should grow better in the warmer climate of Bundaberg compared to the chilly winters around Toowoomba. Little did I realise what a chain of events this would lead me into. Firstly we needed to find a new home for ourselves, one with enough land to allow the space required for some orchid houses as well. The property had to be clear enough to allow sunshine to penetrate for the orchids and preferably face a northerly direction. After a great deal of searching we settled on our current home at Moore Park Beach and after some tree removal the orchid houses were to become a reality.

The trick, I decided, was to seek some local climate and cultural knowledge before construction commenced for any new orchid house/s so I could obtain the best options possible within my price range. This commenced prior to moving to the area with seeking opinions from a number of local growers with knowledge of the area. This would be the most important step in building a new orchid house; if you are going to an area that is unfamiliar to you and I strongly recommend speaking to the locals first for information.

Over many years of growing orchids a few things have come to my attention. I believe that the most important aspects to be able to grow orchids well rely on water quality, air movement and humidity. These three items are more important than what mix to use, how much light or how often to fertilise and spray with chemicals. If the air movement is right very few problems occur with fungi or bacteria, if the water is right the plants will produce sufficient food for themselves, and if humidity is right they will not dry out too much or over heat to any great degree.

Armed with the above I sought out a supplier who could give both good quality and who would be able to erect the houses for me, as I knew I would not have the time or resources needed to do it myself. I eventually settled on Fernland Agencies, as they had both suitable products and were also very helpful. I decided on two separate nurseries for my needs both 6 x 11metres.

The next step was the tree removal and land works to arrange rain water tanks to be placed so that the entry point was lower than the gutters of the orchid houses, this meant semi-burying them into the sand to 1/3 their depth with a crusher dust base under them for support. Next was the preparation of the pads for the nurseries to run east/west so the long side of the nursery faced approximately north, and then the installation. Thanks to Rick Emmerson – to be continued.

Popular Vote Results July 2016

Cattleya



Rlc. Irene Creedon

R & G Cosner

Species



Angrc. Sesquipedale

E.& C. Lindeberg

Novice



Brs. Artur Elle

C. Tholstrup

Dendrobium



Den.Nopporn Green Star

R & D Shield

Judges Choice



Lip. viridiflora

R & D Shield

Vanda



Rhy gigantean

D & N Sorrensen

Any Other



Onc. Chaculatum

C & J Dawson

Cultural Notes - SEPTEMBER

September	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILISER	PEST CONTROL	OTHER
CATTLEYA ALLIANCE	Water every four to five days (Larger pots over 140mm) Pots 110mm to 140mm every three days. All pots up to 100mm every two days.	Fertilise every two weeks quarter strength with high PK. From 22 September start using high nitrogen fertiliser at quarter strength every week.	Use a fungicide every three weeks. Look for evidence of scale	Water only of a morning on clear sunny days.
Dendrobium. Hard-canes	Water may now commence on a weekly basis. canes	Fertilise only from 22 September or when there are signs that your plants are showing signs of new growth use half strength high nitrogen fertiliser.	As above. Keep an eye out for the dreaded Dendrobium beetle.	Regularly inspect plants for signs of new growth. May be evident late August.
Dendrobium Soft-canes	Water only once a week but increase watering as the plant starts to develop new growths.	Fertilise with high nitrogen only when you see evidence of new growths coming away from the base of the plant and when growths are about 50 mm high. There also should be signs of new root development	As above	Flowers should be opening up and in display.
Phalaenopsis	Twice per week early morning	Fortnightly quarter to half strength using high PK fertiliser. Change to a high nitrogen fertiliser from 22 September.	As above but also Watch for evidence of crown rot.	Flower spikes are developing. Increase humidity by spraying under benches.
Paphiopedilm	Water directly into pots, not over the plant weekly on larger pots every 3 days smaller pots. Flush pots.	Use a Paphiopedilum specific fertiliser available from Orchidaceous Supplies http://www.orchidaceousupplies.com.au/	As with Phal.	Mix should be kept moist but not wet.
Vanda	Water weekly. Misting of the exposed root system will help. Increase watering as the temperatures warms up	Vanda's are strong feeders and an increase in the regularity of fertilising especially as the root tips become green and are showing signs of growth. Use a high nitrogen fertiliser from 22 September. There is a Vanda specific fertiliser available from Orchidaceous Supplies see link above.	As with Cattleya	Keep plants warm of a night with a cover will assist in the prevention of leaf drop.

General. September is the month when temperatures are starting to climb And there is little threat of a severe cold snap. The spring equinox is on or about the 22nd day of the month and as can be seen this is the time to change your fertilising program to a high nitrogen regime. The days start to get progressively longer and bring on the growth hormones within the plants that have been dormant over the winter months. Although this year most plants have not entered into a true dormancy. The potting season should now be under way this month particularly unifoliate Cattleyas. Remember that Bifoliate Cattleyas (two leaves per bulb) may be re-potted at any time **PROVIDING** the roots are coming away from the new growth. Dendrobiums (hard cane) should not be re-potted until later in the year preferably early November when the new roots start to show.

Watering of plants should increase as the temperature rises, but keep an eye on the weather as a cold front may still come through. The Bureau of Meteorology is your best friend <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/forecasts/map7day.shtml> click on Bundaberg on the map.





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