

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

P.O. Box 1173,

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Volume 4/17

April 2017

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President

Robert Shield

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Secretary

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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

There is no New and Interested Growers meeting in May due to the Autumn Show. The next meeting is the barbeque at C & E Linderberg's, 19 Hargreaves Street. on the 15th June.

Autumn Show 12th, 13th, and 14th May - Civic Centre.

Meeting Duty Roster:

April: B Group

May: C Group

June: D group

July: A Group

Month: March

Raffle winners: 1st Prize: Chris Trudgian

2nd Prize: Reg Dix

Lucky Door: John Hughes

Exhibitors Prize: Eva Linderberg

Bulk Booklet Orders and/or Enquires: Jean Williamson and Tony McGarry,

Phone# 0448879969

Email: jw.484@bigpond.com

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

AUTUMN SHOW 2017

Theme: Favourite Movie

Venue: Civic Centre

Bourbong Street, Bundaberg

Friday: May 12th - 8 am to 4pm

Saturday: May 13th – 8am to 4pm

Sunday: May 14th - 8am to 1pm

Prize Presentation Sunday 14th – 12.30pm

Display Assembly & Nursery Sales Setup:

Thursday, May 11th from 12 noon.

Judging: Thursday, 6.30pm

Plant Sales: Thursday, 1pm to 5pm

Fri., Sat, 8am to 4pm

Sunday, 8am to 1pm

SHOW ADMISSION \$2.00



SHOW INFORMATION

Plant Names. Please submit the names of plants you expect/hope to be available for the show by **Sunday, 7th May** to your Group representative. Remember it is better to submit names of possibles even if they do not eventuate. It is difficult to print individual labels at a later date.

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Group A. Reg Dix regdix509@bigpond.com 41517372

Group B Bob Shield rshield2@bigpond.com 41550783

Group C Leith Schouten jandschouten@yahoo.com 41556056

Group D Bev Heidke aheidke@bigpond.com 41593291

Show Set-up. We will commence setting up at the Civic Centre at 8.00am on Thursday 11th May. If available, your help would be greatly appreciated. Unless indicated differently your group leader, please have your display plants at the hall by 9.30am.

Catering. As usual, provision of light food eg. slices etc. will be required for each day.

Rosters. A roster for door entry and raffle selling will be available at the meeting on Thursday. If you are not attending the meeting and wish to help, please phone Deborah Shield (4155 0783).

Flowers. Flowers will be required for the Flower Arrangement team.

Dinner. A casual dinner will be held at Brother's Club on Friday night 12th May at 6.30pm. A list for attendance will be at the Thursday meeting or phone Deborah Shield (4155 0783).

Please remember, "Many hands make light work" and ensures a great show.

POPULAR VOTE RESULTS

Cattleya



Pot. Burana Beauty

R & G Coster

Species



C. bowringiana

J & L Schouten

Vanda



Aseda Brighton Leopard

E. Linderberg

Dendrobium



Den. Chao Prays Sweet x Topaz Dream

E. Linderberg

Novice



Bc. Binosa Kirk

T. McCray



Call: 07 4151 2111

Email: info@barolintravelbundaberg.com.au

Judges Choice



Aseda Brighton Leopard

E. Linderberg

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Terry Webb 412946808

Servicing Bundaberg & Surrounds

POTTING and DIVIDING ORCHIDS

Many *orchidophiles* have their particular techniques for potting and dividing orchids. Likewise, every orchid has slightly different cultural requirements and every home offers a different environment. Experiment with tricks of the trade you pick up along the way. This handout provides basic guidance. First of all, know what type of orchid you have. When you purchase an orchid, look for a label or ask what kind it is. You can also look it up in a guidebook to growing orchids as houseplants. Knowing which orchid it is will help you learn how to keep it healthy and how to encourage it to flower again.

What type of orchid do I have?

There are two types of orchids: sympodial orchids and monopodial orchids. Sympodial orchids (such as cattleyas and oncidiums) grow on rhizomes and spread along the surface of the pot. Monopodial orchids (like vandas and *Phalaenopsis*) grow upright from one growing point, producing roots and sometimes offshoots (*keikis*) on either their stems or flower spikes. As a general rule, monopodial orchids will not need dividing. Sympodial orchids can be divided for propagation during repotting.

Why repot or divide orchids?

You need to repot your orchid for the following reasons: It has outgrown its container; the growing medium is starting to break down; overwatering or overfertilizing has damaged the root system. Fir bark potting mixtures are most commonly used for orchids. When the mixture starts to deteriorate, usually within a year or two, it becomes darker and spongier and may develop a musty or rotted odor. It can also damage the delicate roots of the orchid and needs to be replaced. Accumulation of fertilizer salts in the potting mix can also damage root systems. Eventually, all plants need to be taken out of their existing potting medium and given a healthy new home.

When should you repot your orchids?

The best time to repot most orchids is after flowering, when all the flowers have faded. Many orchids produce new growth at this stage and will benefit from repotting. Many common orchids, such as *Phalaenopsis* orchids, flower in the winter and produce new growth in the spring and summer. Repot and divide these orchids after flowering in the spring. As a general rule, you should repot your orchid plants every one to three years, depending on the orchid and how often you fertilize and water it. When you purchase your orchid, inspect the potting medium. If it is a fir bark blend, then it usually will be good for a year or two. Some orchids are sold in sphagnum moss. While this is an excellent medium for some of the more moisture-loving orchids, it can be challenging for the beginner. Sphagnum moss tends to dry out around the edges and stays very moist in the center, so be careful not to overwater the plant. Repotting the orchid into an easier medium may be helpful.

(Demonstrations will be at the show and hands on experience can be had at the 13th August New and Interested Growers Meeting at Alwyn and Bev Heidke's residence.)

When should you avoid repotting orchids?

It's best not to repot your orchids when they are in bud or flowering. The plant is working too hard, placing its energy into the bloom. The stress of repotting may cause the buds to drop or may shorten the life of the blossoms.

Cleanliness counts.

Because orchids are susceptible to plant viruses, it is important to work with clean tools and clean hands. Wash your hands often when handling different orchids or wear latex gloves. Divide and repot your orchids on layers of newspaper so that you can easily clean the debris from one plant before working on another. Disinfect tools with a saturated solution of Trisodium Phosphate and benches etc with either a 10 percent bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water). Soak for a minimum of 15 minutes. Disposable utility razor blades work well for trimming roots and dividing orchids. Pots can be disinfected with a 10 percent bleach solution.

Steps for repotting and dividing orchids

1. Water your orchid well, letting water drain through the pot. It is easier to remove an orchid from its pot and to work with the potting medium when it is moist.
2. If the roots are stuck to the sides of the pot detach the roots by running a sterilized knife along the interior surface of the container.
3. Remove as much of the old potting medium as possible. Old potting material will continue to deteriorate and create damp pockets in your potting mixture that will only encourage root rot.
4. Examine the roots of the orchid and remove damaged and dead roots. For most orchids, healthy roots will vary from a hairy chestnut-brown to a succulent greenish-white. The easiest way to tell if a root is healthy is to gently squeeze it. It should be nice and firm. Papery, dehydrated roots should be removed along with any rotting black mushy roots. Cut roots with sterilized scissors, pruners, or a razor blade. Groom the orchid by removing dead or diseased leaves.
5. If it is a sympodial orchid that requires dividing, look for logical places to split the orchid into pieces. A new division should have at least three pseudobulbs (stems). With some sympodial orchids you can simply pull them apart with your hands. Others will need to be divided by cutting through with a sterilized knife or pruners. If the orchid is large enough, some of the older pseudobulbs that are dried or deteriorating can be removed. Be aware that old pseudobulbs still store water and photosynthesize even after the leaves have fallen off, so don't get rid of them too quickly.
6. Repot your orchid in a sterilized container. Orchids, like many houseplants, prefer to be potbound. It is best to size the container by finding one in which the root system of the plant will comfortably fit. Larger containers take longer to dry out, and potting mixtures tend not to be well aerated. If you are repotting an orchid and need a larger pot, increase it by one pot size. If you are dividing an orchid, place it in a pot that will accommodate two years' worth of growth. Terra-cotta pots, which are porous and allow the medium to breathe, are particularly well suited to orchids that like to dry out

between watering. Plastic pots retain moisture and are best for orchids that like to stay moist.

7. Good drainage and aeration is imperative to successfully grow any kind of orchid. Choose a potting mix that is suitable to the growing requirements of your orchid. Mixtures often contain fir bark available in small-, medium-, and large-size pieces. Some other common ingredients are charcoal, perlite, tree fern fiber, and sphagnum moss.

8. Position monopodial orchids in the center of the pot with the base of the plant at surface level. At this time you can plant some of the aerial roots, but you do not have to plant all of them—they are a natural part of the plant's growth. Position sympodial orchids with the oldest pseudobulb against the edge of the pot and the new growth facing the center. This will give it the largest amount of space in which to grow. The rhizome should either be level with or just below the surface of the potting mix.

9. Hold the orchid with one hand and scoop the new potting mix into the pot with the other. Occasionally tamp it down with your fingers or with a pencil. Tap the pot on the side to help the mix settle. Press firmly on the surface of the medium to secure the plant in place. You can add supports such as bamboo stakes as needed until the plant is established in the new pot. Once you have finished repotting, water the orchid thoroughly. This will also help the mix to settle. 10. Place your orchids back in their home. If you have taken off a lot of roots, you may want to place the repotted orchids in a slightly shady area while they recuperate. Some shriveling of the pseudobulbs and leaves may occur after repotting until the roots re-establish themselves.

(Reprinted from Sept 2009 BOSI Newsletter)

