

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

Meeting 16th March. Rick Emmerson will continue the discussion on Vandas.

NIGG meeting April 2nd J & B Hughes 22 Dix Street. Please bring hat, chair and something for smoko. The discussion will be on Cattleyas.

Meeting Duty Roster:

March: A Group

April: B Group

May: C Group

June: D Group

Month: Februray

Raffle winners: 1st Prize: Glenda Sargent

2nd Prize: Christine Tholstrup

Lucky Door: Neil Sargent

Exhibitors Prize: A & B Heidke

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

0448879969

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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.

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.

Thank you to Pat and Raymon Francey for allowing the New and Interested Growers Group to visit their property on Sunday 5th March. There were 30 plus members attending and in spite of the extremely oppressive weather conditions it was a pleasant morning looking at what Pat and Raymon has done with limited room and using an old Bali Hut as the shade house.



Field Weekend. The weekend of the 11th and 12th March saw Rockhampton, Gladstone, Boyne/Tannum and Agnes Water Clubs visit the Bundaberg Region together with some visitors from the Maryborough and Hervey Bay Orchid Clubs. The visit commenced with morning tea at the Northside Progress hall and then tours to various Shade House orchid collections. Thank you to Alwyn and Bev Heidke, John and Leith Schouten, Eddie Cross, John and Bethel Hughes, Bob and Deborah Shield, Eva and Colin

Linderberg, Jean Williamson and Tony McGarry, Julie Fry and Col Dawson, and Rick and Bronwyn Emmerson for permitting the visitors tour their collections. Thanks also to all those who helped in organising and setting up the smoko's and lunches. The weekend was very successful with 90 visitors and 30 of our own club members joining in the visit.

BOSI ANNUAL MAY SHOW. Our finances for the Annual show relies on the sale of Raffle tickets. This year Bunnings have donated 2 wheelbarrows which together with other goods will form the major prizes for our show raffle. However to be successful, the club requires ticket sellers. Bob Shield has booked locations for this to take place but members are requested to volunteer to man these spots. A roster book is available at the Thursday's meeting to put your name down to help. With everyone's help this can be done with a minimum of effort.



TOP CUTTING VANDA ORCHIDS

Vanda orchids are a monopodial growing plant, which put simply means that they continue to grow vertically up a single stem continually getting longer. This is somewhat different to many other orchids that produce rhizomes growing across a pot or host thus moving in a horizontal direction. Most rhizome growing orchids have two eyes or growth points on each rhizome, thus allowing them to continue to develop new growths from either point should the need arise. A Vanda orchid is, however, very different to this.

As a Vanda plant grows the new leaf becomes visible at the top of the plant and as it matures the stem matures and thus the plant becomes taller. This produces a healthy plant with the leaves spreading to both sides of the stem and producing a fan like appearance with the leaves remaining on the plant. (Picture 1) A Vanda plant should therefore have leaves from the new developing top of the plant all the way to the base of the plant just above the potting media or host material. This however is not always the case.....



Picture 1

So what happens when something goes wrong and the plant drops the lower leaves. The simple answer is that you end up with a plant which looks and is often described as a 'Palm Tree'. (Picture 2) These plants look somewhat ugly and give the appearance of poor culture, and thus something needs to be done.



Picture 2

So what causes this 'Palm Tree' effect? Well the most common cause is cold weather, which if the plant is exposed to the cold it will naturally drop the lower leaves. This does not mean that the plant is sick but simply it has been placed under stress by the conditions.

Other causes can be more of a problem and may be fungal or bacterial in nature, this would require a solution to the root cause before any remedial work is undertaken and if you are unsure you should seek assistance from experienced growers. It is my experience however that most fungal or bacterial problems effect the new top growth rather than causing the bottom leaves to drop. Once the damage is done however it is irreversible and the effect is the 'Palm Tree' look.

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POPULAR VOTE WINNERS

Cattleya



C.Lumita

I & C Neilson

Species



Stan Wardii

R & G Coster

Vanda



V. Pimchai Delight

R & B Emmerson

BUNDY MULCH & CHIP

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Tree Lopping & Stump Removal

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- Free Quotes
- Pruning & Mulching
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24 Hour Storm Service

Jamieson Webb
0422184240
Terry Webb 412946608

Servicing Bundaberg & Surrounds

Any Other



Alcera. Hawaiian

E & C Linderberg

Novice



C. Why Not

C. Tholstrup



Dendrobium



D. Enobi Stripe

I & C Neilson

Judges Choice



Stan Wardii

R & G Coster

(Continued from page 3)

Top cutting Vanda Orchids is one way of correcting the problem. As Vanda Orchids grow taller they often produce additional roots from various points up the stem,



Picture 3

(Picture 3) in nature the new roots would attach to the host tree or rock forming a new anchor point for the plant thus allowing it to continue to thrive in its upright natural way. Luckily for the orchid enthusiast this gives us the opportunity to remove the bottom of the plant thus effectively shortening the stem and bringing the lowest leaves back to the pot or host. (Picture 1) Provided the plant has grown new roots up the stem this is easily done by cutting through the stem completely. It is preferable to leave a minimum of four new

but well established roots attached to the top of the plant. The cut should be on an angle so that water does not form droplets on the cut where fungus or similar problems may occur and is best completed when the roots are actively growing with green tips. Once done I like to seal the cut with either some Steri-Prune or a paste of fungicide and allow it to sit to dry for a day or so before repotting into the new media or attaching to the new host. In this way the plant normally shows no signs of stress and continues to grow along as if nothing had happened.

The older base of the plant can either be discarded or kept to see if it will produce any side growths thus forming a new plant. Should a new shoot occur it can continue to be grown until the new plants produce its own roots and it can then be removed from the original stem using cutters or a sharp instrument and potted on. (Picture 4)



Picture 4

Some plants however will not have produced any new roots up the stem which creates a problem as to cut the top off the stem without roots is asking for trouble, in this case root growth can be encouraged by cutting approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the stem and applying some rooting hormone. I like to place a thin plastic tag soaked in the hormone into the cut and leave it there, this

seems to work well for me. (Picture 5) Within a few months, if all goes well, some new roots will appear and once sufficient growth has occurred the normal procedure above can be undertaken. Just a tip here, ensure that the top of the plant is well supported before cutting half way through the stem or your plant may well break prematurely.



Picture 5

By following these simple techniques you can have beautiful plants with full leaf growth just as nature intended and be the envy of your orchid growing buddies.

Happy growing.

Thank You to **Rick Emmerson** for this article.



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Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens



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