

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

P.O. Box 1173,

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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.

Date Claimers

Thursday 19th October 2107. BOSI AGM. Your attendance would be appreciated.

Saturday/Sunday 28/29th October 2107. North Coast Bus trip. Departure from Verdant Street depot at 6am.

Sunday 5th November 2017 New and Interested Growers Group meeting is at Col Dawson and Julie Fry's property 34 Pashley's Road Moore Park. Please bring chair, something for smoko and a hat.

Field Day – 10/11th March 2018 Rockhampton. Mark your calendar for this important weekend in Rockhampton for a visit to their members orchids.

Meeting Duty Roster:

October: C Group

November: D Group January: A Group

Annual Membership Fees should now be paid – these were due at end of September.

September:

Raffle winners: 1st Prize: Elaine Webb

2nd Prize: Col Linderberg

Lucky Door: Col Dawson

Exhibitors Prize: Col Dawson

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 can bring a small amount of merchandise to the monthly meeting, however, if you know there is something you would like to buy at the meeting could you PLEASE phone Bev with your requirements. This will enable Bev to not have to hire a pantechnicon to bring in merchandise.

**Bulk Booklet Orders and/or Enquires: Jean Williamson and Tony McGarry,
Phone# 0448879969 Email: jw.484@bigpond.com**

John and Leith Schouten are stepping down from the committee to do some travel in 2018. We thank them for their service to the club and of course look forward to still seeing them at meetings as they are able.

Hervey Bay Show Results

Club members enjoyed success at the recent Hervey Bay Orchid Show – most notable being: Orchid Display – Bunaberg Orchid Society Inc. First Place.

Reserve Champion: *Paph. Fanaticum* B. & A. Heidke

Best Specimen: *Den. Discolour* J & N Maughan

The following members took first place in their respective sections: J & B Hughes, J & L Schouten, A & R Moore, B & A Heidke, R & B Emmerson, B & D Shield.

Congratulations to all those who had success and thankyou to all those who took plants down and helped set up the winning Display.

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.

CC

FOR SALE

Greenhouse exhaust fan. 240 volt. 18 inch diameter. Has brackets for installing in the roof of a greenhouse. The lid over the top of the exhaust pops up when the fan is extracting hot air out of the green house. Used once. Works well. Bargain at \$150 ONO. Ring Lea 41565178



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Popular Vote Results

Cattleya



Slc. Jungle Beau 'Special'

C. Dawson

Species



Den. Sukhutti

A.& B. Heidke

Judges Choice



Phal. Chi Yueh 'Sweetie'

D. Barnes

Vanda



**Phal. Yu Pin Firework X Taiwan
Stripe**

B. & D. Shield

Novice



Rlc. Karens Sunrise

C. Tholstrup

Any Other



**Dgma. Pinot Princess 'Nite
Naulege'**

R. & G. Coster

Denrobium



Den. Golden Aya

A & B Heidke

FOR THE NOVICE (Continued from September Newsletter)

The amount of calcium and magnesium supplied by several supplements is given in the table below. I am not aware of any calculation for estimating the amount of calcium or magnesium that is released to your plants from top-dressing with timed-release fertilizer.

Some Water Soluble Supplements for Supplying Calcium and Magnesium					
	Addition Rate		Concentration (ppm)		
	(tsp/gal)	(cc/Liter)	Nitrogen	Calcium	Magnesium
Peters Excel Mag Special 5% Ca 2% Mg	1/4	0.3	49	16	6
	1/2	0.7	97	32	13
	1	1.3	194	65	26
Calcium Nitrate	1/4	0.3	50	62	n/a
	1/2	0.7	101	126	n/a
Epsom Salts	1/4	0.3	n/a	n/a	33
	1/2	0.7	n/a	n/a	66
	1	1.3	n/a	n/a	130

The amount of calcium and magnesium present in your water will define how much supplementation is required. (Editor: *your local water quality can be advised by your local irrigators or council, there maybe club members who already have the information you require – the table is shown to show the authors situation.*)

St Augustine Water Quality		
Constituent	Well Water	Pond Water
Alkalinity (ppm)	430	46
Total Dissolved Solids (mmhos/cm)	1.02	0.32
Calcium (ppm)	164	26
Magnesium (ppm)	7	4

In St. Augustine, our shallow-well water is very alkaline, high in desolved solids and calcium but with very little magnesium, I use pond water during the warm season. It is a mixture of well water

and the more pure rainwater so it is low in alkalinity, dissolved solids, calcium and magnesium.

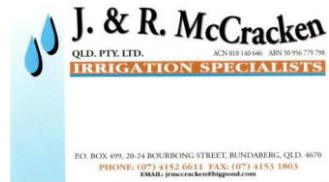
Clearly the water in our area is calcium-rich and magnesium-poor, so using Epsom salts should be an intergral part of our fertilizer regimen. I set a target nitrogen level of 50 ppm, suitable for cattleyas, and use additional timed-release fertilizer on my heavy feeders such as catasetums. In the growing season, when watering using the low-alkalinity pond water, I use about 0.3 cc/liter of Cal-Mag fertiliser plus a little less than 0.2 cc/liter of Epsom salts. During the winter resting season, when watering with the warmer well water, I use 0.2 cc/liter of 21-5-20 fertiliser and almost 0.3 cc/liter of Epsom salts. I fertilise every time I water, and I should be more rigorous about flushing the pots monthly with fresh water.

Fertilizer Regimen to Provide Full Site Suite of Plant Macronutrients (in ppm)					
	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium	Calcium	Magnesium
Target Nutrient Levels	40 - 100	10 - 20	40 -100	40 - 80	20 - 40
Summer - Pond Water 1/4 tsp/gal (0.3 cc/ Liter Cal Mag Fertilizer 1/8 tsp/gal (0.2 cc/ Liter) Epsom salts	52	13	43	41	23
Winter - Well Water 1/8 tsp/gal (0.2 cc/ Liter) 21-5-20 Fertilizer 1/4 tsp/gal (0.3 cc/ Liter) Epsom Salts	40	4	32	164	29

Once you know the calcium and magnesium content of your irrigation water, it is easy to tailor a fertiliser regimen for your specific conditions. Your plants will reward you with increased vigor and loads of flowers.

The author Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid 1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera now live in St. Augustine. They are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the

society's website and monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Publication Committee. (Editor: I wish to thank Sue and Terry for their permission to use this article.)



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