

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

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Volume 2/18

February 20158

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

4th March 2018 NIGG Meeting: Christine Tholstrup, 116 Kirby's Road, Rubyanna. 9am Please bring chair, something to share for smoko and a hat.

8th April NIGG Meeting: Rosedale District. Details to be advised page 2,
10/11 March 2018 Rockhampton Field Day/Weekend The Club will supply the bus for the weekend and provide subsidy for the Saturday night's accommodation. The cost per member will be \$80, which will include Saturday lunch and dinner as well as Sunday breakfast and lunch. The bus will leave the bus depot at Verdant Siding at 5:30am on Saturday. This will enable a break to be had at Miriam Vale. The bookings finalised and payment by this meeting please.

Meeting Duty Roster:

February: B Group

March: C Group

April: D Group

May: A Group

PLEASE NOTE: It is now the responsibility of the Duty Group to ensure the hall is left clean and tidy after the meeting – Details are on the notice board in the hall.

Meeting Topic: The topic for this months discussion will be about “Insect Pests – Identification and control”. The discussion will be led by Bob Shield.

BOSI May Show: *GOOD NEWS* - Our President received a phone call from the Regional Council advising us that we can once again use the Civic Centre for our annual show.

NIGG Visit – Rosedale District – 8th April. Vehicles will assemble at 8:45 am at the Northside Cornetts IGA. A sheet will be available for members to indicate if they wish to get a lift or use their vehicle to take others. It would be good if we can limit the number of vehicles that are on the road. We will travel to Lea Crawfords property at Rosedale to visit and then on to Deepwater to Doug and Noela Sorenson’s home. There we will visit and join together for a barbeque. Could use please bring something for sweets, your plates and cutlery, chair and a hat.

January : Prize Winners

Raffle winners: 1st Prize: Ray Whitney 2nd Prize: Merrilyn Wilschefski

Lucky Door: Rick Emmerson **Exhibitors Prize:** Reg Dix

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 requirments. This will enable Bev to not have to hire a pantechnicon to bring in merchandise.

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.

Growing Cattleyas – What can go Wrong.

Part 1. – Cultural Missteps

Cattleyas are hard to resist, having showy and fragrant flowers that come in various shapes, sizes and colours. They require lots of bright light to manufacture the reserves necessary to produce those incredible blooms that last anywhere from one week to two months. They enjoy an open, freely draining potting mix, that allows plenty of air around the roots. They store water and energy in their pseudo bulbs so they are accepting of dry conditions for short periods. Most are moderately cold tolerant, but require winter protection from the coldest temperatures. Like so many orchids, they enjoy summering outdoors under a shade tree or in a screened area exposed to loads of fresh air. All that bright light and the day/night temperature change pay dividends when it comes time for them to bloom.

If they are so easy to grow and bloom, what can go wrong? We tend to blame problems, we may encounter, on orchid pests and diseases, but often the culprit is some cultural misstep that either created the problem or created the environment that allowed a pathogen to thrive. Improper watering can create a variety of problems, as can insufficient air movement, extreme temperatures and other cultural mistakes. Cultural errors may very well cause



Figure 1. The aerial parts of the plant are shriveled, dehydrated because the damaged roots are unable to absorb water. Additional water will not help until the root system recovers.

POPULAR VOTE RESULTS

Cattleya



Luminta x Lulu

I & C Neilson

Species



Aerangis punctate

R & B Emmerson

Vanda



Phal Lius Tapince

R & B Emmerson

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

Any Other



Aliceara Dreamy Aliceara

C. Tholstrup

Denrobium



Unknown

K. Beveridge

Novice



Judges Choice



Rly Swan's Sly

R. Dix



more problems than those from orchid pests or diseases.

Watering. Overwatering is often cited as the primary cause of death of orchids in hobbyist's care. Orchids do not die of overwatering per se, but they may suffer if overwatering results in insufficient air movement around the roots. If your plant begins to look dehydrated, the leaves look leathery rather than turgid, or the pseudo bulbs are wrinkled rather than fat and plump, it is time to knock it out of the pot and examine the roots. Either you are under watering, in which case the roots look dry but viable. Or you are watering too frequently so the mix is staying too wet, eventually decaying compacting around the roots, and smothering them.

Another common watering error is watering too late in the day when the night turns cool or the weather turns grey, causing edema. The plant absorbs more water than can be shed from the leaves, so the leaf cells swell and produce blister-like lesions. During cooler months, it is particularly important to follow the much repeated advice to water



Figure 3. Watering late in the day when the night turns cool or the sky is grey can cause edema; blisters that may be unattractive but are not too harmful.



Figure 2. The cataphyll or leaf sheath around the pseudo bulb often forms a pocket in which water from watering, rain or condensation

early in the day and not water on a grey or rainy day.

Water Pocketing. A leaf-like bract forms around the growing pseudo bulb that surrounds and protects the new growth, called a cataphyll. Sometimes a pocket forms between the pseudo bulb and the cataphyll and water from rain, watering or condensation can accumulate. Omnipresent bacteria can grow in this pocket and rot the new growth. This is a cultural issue rather than a disease problem. Outside growers need to be particularly vigilant. When you notice these pockets, gently peel the cataphylls down so water can drain from them, but be careful because the new tissue underneath is very easily bruised or broken. You can also add a few drops of hydrogen peroxide to kill any bacteria.

Problems with Buds. As long as the sheath remains green or healthy coloured tan, it will continue to protect the newly forming buds from damage. If it turns sickly coloured yellow or black, you should consider gently peeling down the sheath to expose the bulbs to air. Sometimes the day-night temperature change can cause water condensation inside the sheath, and this water can result in bulb rotting. Be aware that some cattleyas bloom from green sheaths,



Figure 4. Peel back the cataphyll so any accumulated water will drain freely, otherwise the pseudo bulb can rot and you may have to remove diseased tissue.



Figure 5. Allowing trapped water to stand in the tender new growths can result in rotten tissue.

blooming shortly after the sheath has formed. Others bloom from dried sheaths, so the primordial buds rest for several months in the sheath before developing into flower buds. Sometimes a sheath will form but buds fail to develop; this is called a blind sheath. This happens most commonly on an immature plant without sufficient reserves to fuel the development of the flowers. (To be Cont.)

This and subsequent articles written by Sue Bottom, photos by Terry Bottom taken from the AOS Magazine.

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The waves

real fun every day