

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

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Orchid Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the third THURSDAY of each month at the Avenell Heights Hall, Thabeban Street.

An Orchid display is held with numerous topics up for discussion. Supper is provided. Advice and history of chosen Orchids are spoken of.

The New and Interested Growers Group (NIGG) is a social Sunday meeting held at different locations of Orchid Growers. This meeting is of great importance where growers can observe the efforts of other growers and get ideas to experiment with and in turn express their individual success from those ideas. All members (large or small gardens , longstanding or new) are invited to nominate your garden for one of these 10 NIGG meetings during the year.

Meeting Duty Roster:

November: D Group

January: A Group

February: B Group

March: D Group

The duty group is responsible for setting up the hall for the night's meeting, organising the smoko and the washing up, and leaving the hall ready for the next hirer. The cleaning up and restoring of the hall can be shared by everyone. Supper is provided by all members.

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.

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.

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

Date Claimers

All growers are invited to nominate their garden for an NIGG meeting. There are still three or four places to fill. Please see Alwyn Heidke if you would like the club to visit. Dates are being chosen as this newsletter goes to print, so by nominating your garden now, it will enable the Committee to complete the schedule, ready for the January newsletter

January Thursday 16th first meeting of the New Year

April 4th Annual Field Day 2020. Bundaberg Orchid Club will host this weekend over two days. Further information as it becomes available.

October Winners:

Raffle winners: Alwyn Heidke

Lucky Door: Andrew Straume

Exhibitors Prize: Val & Dennis Trudgian

WELCOME:

We welcome Andrew Straume to the position of Club Secretary.

As a grower of Orchids and competently attuned to Secretarial duties, Andrew is well suited to the position. Welcome to the Team..

Rescuing over watered plants

Overwatered plants can be rescued if the problem is discovered in time. If the mix is badly deteriorated, repot into something coarser. Plants with destroyed roots will recover better if misted and given high humidity rather than watered, regenerating new roots. If there are no viable roots left, there's real difficulty in saving the plant.

Cut the rotted parts off and dust with a fungicide or cinnamon powder. A clear, covered, plastic sweater box with moist sphagnum moss in the bottom is an excellent place to put any damaged plant for a few weeks, until roots appear. Keep the lid slightly vented, mist occasionally to maintain humidity and keep out of bright sun.

Underwatered, desiccated plants with destroyed roots can sometimes be revived with similar high-humidity treatment in a clear plastic box for several weeks.

Water temperature and timing, cold water (below 10°C), can damage roots, kill root hairs, and also cause cell collapse on leaves if splashed on top, particularly in warm-loving plants such as phalaenopsis. Cold roots don't take up water and nutrients well.

Use room-temperature water. Water as early in the day as possible, to give the leaves time to dry and the root ball to return to ambient temperatures before the cold damp night can bring fungal and bacterial disease.

Water quality in general, most tap water is fine to use to water orchids. Don't be overly concerned about water quality unless plants seem to be languishing for no other apparent reasons. Orchids grow better when they receive water with small amounts of dissolved salts in it, such as those found in good-quality tap water, rather than distilled water. Water quality, however, does differ from place to place.

An excellent solution is rainwater, which normally contains very low levels of mineral salts. Many growers swear by the good results, especially for orchids particularly sensitive to salts, such as masdevallias and phragmipediums. However, using rainwater can lead to deficiencies of calcium, magnesium, and iron, even if supplemented with fertilizers, for most fertilizers don't contain these since manufacturers assume the water supply will provide sufficient amounts. One way around this is to water with tap water every fourth watering or to mix some tap water with the rainwater.

...Continued on page 6

Popular Vote

Cattleya

Species



Matthew's Heart Beat

C. Tholstrup



Paph. Esquirolei

A & B Heidke

Vanda

Any Other



P. Chia Shing "Hot Kiss"

E. Linderberg



Brassia Rex "Sakata"

C Tholstrup

Denrobium



**Den. Gloucester Sands
'Midnight'**

L & J Schouten

Novice



cym. Coniculatum 'Midnight'

J & I Beveridge

Judges Choice



Onc. Sharry Baby

'Sweet Fragrance'

Gerry Reimer

Water pH

Generally, the pH of water for orchid growing can range from 4.0 to 7.5, with optimum between 5.5 and 6.5, although growers have used water with pH as high as 9.0, which is very alkaline, without too much problem. A pH of 7.0 is neutral; anything below 7.0 is acidic, anything above it is alkaline. Optimum pH increases the availability of beneficial fertilizer elements and reduces adsorption of harmful elements. Extremes of pH (below 4.0, above 7.5) can inactivate many nutrients. One reason why orchids tend to withstand extremes of pH better than many houseplants is because orchids have evolved in nutrient-poor environments. Thus, even when fertilizer becomes unavailable at extreme pH, orchids survive. Rainwater pH is generally fine for orchids. Rainwater is usually acidic, with a pH around 5.6. If pH needs to be lowered, use citric acid (grapefruit juice works safely). Adjusting pH too much can add ions that may burn plants. Hard water, however, is difficult to adjust, since pH buffers are commonly added by municipalities.

Feeding Orchids

Attention to nutrition is essential to the cultivation of good orchids. Materials incorporated in the growing medium may contain some of the elements necessary for plant growth, but they contribute little until the medium starts to break down. At this point it is usually discarded and the orchid repotted. Certain nutrients are sometimes incorporated in the medium when it is made up, but not those that dissolve on the first watering. The strength of the solution could then damage roots and be quickly washed right out. The modern practice is to put the nutrients in soluble form and much diluted in the water supply. Ideally this should be done every watering. Little and often is the key to successful nutrition. A small amount of a slow release fertilizer is a good backup feeding method.

Robert Ephraims

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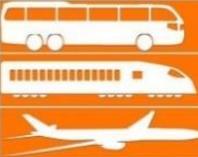




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