

# Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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## Newsletter

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Volume 09/19

September 2019

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.**

### Dates to Note:

**27<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Sept. Hervey Bay Spring Show. Names to Bob Shield by 22<sup>nd</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Glasshouse Orchid Spectacular Spring show. Beerwah**

17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 . BOSI Annual General Meeting.  
**Please consider attending and being part of the Positions available. Help is always appreciated**

**Annual subs due August 31st. \$10 couple, \$6 single(within4670 area) outside \$15 and \$10 respectively.**

**Unfinancial member's names cannot be included on the New Calendar for 2020**

Meeting Duty Roster

September: D Group

October: A Group

November: B Group

December Break

January: D Group

**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. If you can't get to Bev's and there is something you would like, could you PLEASE phone Bev with your requirements. Bev will bring your order to the meeting. Bev will no longer be bringing stock to the meeting - only what is requested.

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](mailto:jw.484@bigpond.com)**

**August Winners:**

**Raffle:** Eva Linderberg

**Lucky Door:** Lea Crawford

**Exhibitors Prize:** J& L Schouten

**MEETINGS:** Members are reminded of the New and Interested Growers Group Meeting which is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month. This is a meeting that should not be missed, it is social, it is informative and most of all members get to visit another member's Garden/Orchid house collection and observe how Orchids are growing in a totally different location/environment. Many ideas are available where members can freely ask questions and consider ideas that may suit their individual needs of trialling. Bring along some treats to share for Morning Tea, your favourite Deck Chair and Big Hat so then you can walk freely around the gardens. After Tea there is always a chat on the Host Gardeners' interests and then on a topic on Orchids.

The NIGG Meeting for October is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> will be held at Bob & Deborah Shield's property.

Check for their address in your Orchid Club Calendar or phone number on your Newsletter

## WATERING YOUR ORCHIDS:



Interesting subject really, how, when where and why. I had asked a young grower recently of ‘how do you water your orchids’.

I just water them was the answer. Next question, did you wet the potting mix or the leaves or the flowers. Never ever thought about that was the answer. I then asked a senior member ‘How do you water your orchids’; I mist them, because that is how the Vanda man said he does his watering!!

*We all see the picture differently when we cannot see what others say.* By being methodical, the watering habit is easy. Ensuring that the potting medium, irrespective of what you use, is damp when you first pot that orchid. From then on, that moisture level should be maintained to ensure a constant supply of moisture to the plant, enabling the nutrient that you have supplied to your plant, then can be absorbed at an even ratio.

Watering systematically will ensure the moisture level remains even. It doesn't matter if it is Watering day or Fertiliser day, be methodical.

As you water, you can water the leaves of the orchid plant as this is the moment that they can take in some goodness as well. Most effective time of the day is early morning, different growers have different ideas, try to establish your own ideas but what ever works for your environment, use the idea. Every orchid House is in different need. Yes, water the whole plant. If you are saving the flowers for a purpose, do not wet them, this may leave them marked, but it isn't detrimental to the wellbeing of the plant to have wet flowers.

Misting has a purpose in the orchid house, Vanda orchid have lots of dangling aerals, these take in moisture by nature each morning from either fog, mist, rain or by dew. They are solely reliant of this natural occurrence often about 2 am or later, there is no watering can in the jungle for them.

Then there is the garden hose method of watering with pressure not suitable to the plant world. Always be careful watering as the pressure of water can dislodge the potting mix and leave the plant unstable and the roots exposed and drying. Water gently.

Orchids with fine or small roots need more moisture than the orchid with thicker textured roots, so ‘Watering your Orchids’ and how you ‘Water your Orchids’ is important.





## NEW & INTERESTED GROWERS GROUP MEETING. Sunday Social Visit held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

Sunday social meeting was attended by 30 members in perfect weather.

It was so rewarding to see the results of the effort of Christine who as a younger grower who is moving through the 'just having a go' at how when where and why of growing orchids.

Interesting to hear Christine's response when told to 'toss that one out'; no, I want to watch to see if it does something. Experimental, learning and knowledge all in a day's work on the growing of Orchids.

President Bob led the morning talks on the interesting subject of tying / supporting orchids in preparation for Showing. As mentioned, it is quite a technique achievable through practice and having a go to achieve your own style of tying of the various orchids all needing a different technique.

A demonstration of suitable and unsuitable staking equipment for the supporting of the flowering orchid was informative.

John Hughes gave an in depth talk on the tying of orchids from the bud formation to judging, what is lawful and what the end results can look like, with lots of practice and patience.

These tying techniques are imperative for travelling. Any movement can be detrimental to the perfection of the inflorescences. John also made the comment of holding practice sessions at meetings, this has great merit where members involvement is concerned and a subject that is considered in our New Year's schedule.



Orchid Photos are not available this month, but our Photographer is in recovery mode and will make his presence felt as soon as possible.

Results for the CATTLEYA: John & Leith Schouten with Lc. Beth Eden

SPECIES: Winner was Eva Linderberg with Rhy. glauca x sibling

Any Other : Christine Tholstrup Onc. Hawaiian Sunset

Novice : Sue Brown C. Glauca



Judges Choice: R & D Shield C. Snow blind

## Through the eyes of a beginner:

As orchid growers, we expect the best, from the start of our newfound interest. But we first must ascertain 'What Kind of Orchid I have got'.

Many new/young/ first timers go out buy up heaps and go home, water them madly, buy up big on fertilisers, literally by the shelf full, then sit back and wait for the 'didn't happen'.

Firstly, find out what kind of an orchid have I got. What family does it belong too; there may be others in the family. This is very important.

It is easy to go to a meeting, listen to all the good advice and want to join in and do just that, without any knowledge of what you are doing to your orchid.

Is it a Cattleya?

Is it a Den, Dendrobium?

Is it a Vanda?

What family (genera) does your Orchid belong to? What is its genus?

The usual reply is 'I don't know', it is just an Orchid.

The needs of the above 3 Orchids have different needs of light, water, fertiliser, potting mix (Medium), air, and what you have to offer them in your backyard/ orchid house; in the form of 'atmospheric' conditions.

Start with sorting your Orchids into their individual families (genera) and address their specific needs.

Another important step to take is the knowledge of Orchid Jargon; you will understand what the 'Big Guys' are talking about if you get on board with Terminology.

Don't take on more than what 'Your Orchids' mean and need. We can sometimes get smothered with 'all that stuff' that they talk about and we walk away with utter confusion. Understand your own orchid needs first and then expand.

These are the most important steps to take; ask questions!!

All the 'bigger' growers were once 'new' growers.

They have done some hard yards to get to where they are today; they now give basic knowledge freely to you at Meetings. Should you have the fear of speaking, write down your questions and let someone else do the speaking, take your notebooks.

That is what the Meetings are for..

Try to attend the Sunday Social Meetings so you may see

what the  
beginners  
did.



other  
once



## Some Orchid Terms

**Aerial roots**—any roots produced above and beyond the potting medium.

**Backbulb**—an old pseudobulb behind the part of a sympodial orchid that is actively growing, though there may be a slight sign of an eye and therefore some form of hope of growth

**Bifoliate**—having two leaves, usually opposite each other

**Cane**—an elongated pseudobulb usually found on Dendrobiums

**Epiphyte**, epiphytic— a plant which grows naturally on another plant, though it doesn't get nourishment from the plant, Orchids naturally grow this way in cultivation.

**Eye**—the bud of a sympodial orchid that will eventually develop into a new lead

**Foliar spray**—lots of rather minor nutrients and trace elements which are beneficial to the growth of plants are sometimes best absorbed through the stomata of the orchid leaves, when mixed with water and applied by way of spray feeding

**Genus**—a natural grouping (with common characteristics) of closely related species

**Inflorescence**—the flowering portion of a plant

**Keiki**—meaning 'baby' produced asexually by an orchid plant, usually when referring to Dendrobiums or Vandaceous orchids

**Lead**—an immature vegetative growth of a sympodial orchid that will develop into a flower producing part of an orchid

**Lip**—a modified petal of an orchid flower specialized to assist in the pollination of flowers and is different to the other petals

**Lithophyte**—is an orchid that grows on rocks (rather exposed)

**Pseudobulb**—a thickened part of the stem of many orchids which is a food and water storage area

**Raceme**—an unbranched inflorescence of stalked flowers

**Rhizome**—a root bearing stem of sympodial orchids that progressively send up leafy shoots

**Sheath**—a modified leaf that encloses an emerging inflorescence or leaf

**Species**—a kind of plant that is distinct from other plants

**Spike**—an unbranched inflorescence of unstalked flowers

**Stolon**—a branch that grows horizontally above the medium and produces roots and shoots at the nodes

**Stomata**—the breathing pores on the surface of a plant's leaves

**Sympodial**—an orchid which grows laterally and produces leafy growths along the rhizomes

**Terrestrial**—growing in the ground and supported by soil

**Unifoliate**—having one leaf

## OUR SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

**Members are reminded to support those Sponsors who are there to support us**



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