

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

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Any Meetings for Bundaberg Orchid Society will be advised by The Secretary.
Due to the COVID 19 Restrictions there may not be any hall meetings for the remainder of this year 2020.

It is getting close to that time of the year where we must prepare for the re-potting/break-up of our Orchids that have reached the other side of the orchid pot. The roots have formed nicely, the new shoots have developed, and this is where the new flower buds will form .

Remember to have your potting mix ready so that your Orchids bring you pleasure, understanding where there may be disease, this can be identified by any brown markings on the newly cut stem of the Orchid. This new cut which you will spray with Steriprune , or your favourite Cinnamon must be of a pinkish green colour. There is no sense in potting up a plant of disease, be strong/wise and throw out the blemishes before you get disheartened with that trip to the wheelie bin later in the year.

The most important statement in repotting, ‘ be careful that you don’t break off the new shoot’, yes, you have watched it grow and now!!!!

Meetings/Outings: There will be NO Monthly Meetings due to COVID 19 Restrictions unless you are advised by our Secretary, Andrew Straume.

The Club merchandise is available only to BOSI members not the public.

Please phone Bev on 4159 3291 or preferably email on ahaidke@bigpond.com to arrange a suitable time for you to collect any merchandise you require for your Orchid Potting. If you can't get to Bevs and there is something you would like, could you PLEASE phone or email Bev with your requirements.

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.

WHAT IS THE BEST ORCHID FOR GROWING IN THE HOME?

The simple answer: The most widely available and favourite to grow in your home is the Phalaenopsis. Many homes have insufficient light to successfully grow most orchids. However, there are a few orchids that will grow in lower light and will re-flower under home-light conditions. Home-light means light provided by a slightly shaded south, east or west window. Phalaenopsis will grow easily under the same conditions enjoyed by African violets. Another good choice, but usually only for those already initiated into orchid appreciation, is Paphiopedilum or lady's slipper orchid. These, like phalaenopsis, have relatively attractive foliage, and will re-flower in conditions giving weeks of floral display. Both need to be kept evenly moist. Do not allow to fully dry out and fertilize regularly with a weak dilution of any suitable fertilizer.

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

NEW AND INTERESTED GROWERS GROUP MEETING 9 AUGUST 2020

It was a nice sunny day last Sunday when we conducted our first NIGG Meeting since March at Deborah and Bob Shield Residence and it was well attended by about 40 members including four new members. Welcome to our new members John and Carmela Quinn and Shane and Debra McKenzie may you have enjoyable times with The Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc (BOSI).

A number of members brought along flowering orchids that were quite impressive. John Hughes had his orchids at display standard with wire separating the flowers that looked very professional.

Deborah has a nice new Orchid House for her Phalaenopsis and they are looking splendid in their new abode. Bobs shade house of Cattleyas is looking a bit bare now that Deborah has relocated her Phalies. Although, Deborah appears to be filling the void with some Anthuriums (did I see a frown on Bobs face?).

Bob discussed the possibility of holding Monthly Meetings again and it would appear that the COVID Restrictions are not as prohibitive as we thought. This will be a discussion point for the next Committee Meeting. It was decided that the NIGG Meetings should continue and a number of growers put their hand up to host these events, more to follow on this subject.

John Hughes pointed out that if you wanted to purchase wire for your orchids it was half the price of Bunnings at **Norco** over north bundy.



Some of the Members that attended the NIGG Meeting



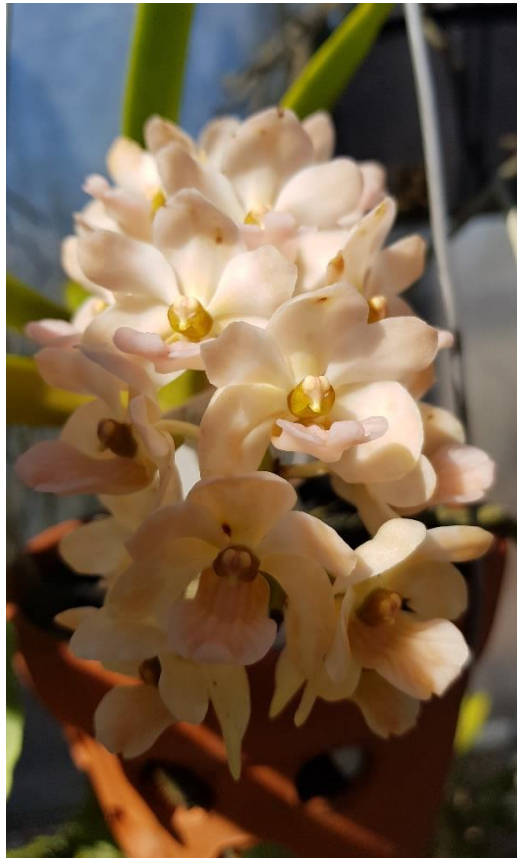
Flowers that were on display at the NIGG Meeting



Phalaenopsis

This collection of Phalaenopsis originally came from the stock of Lea Crawford.

Through the last 5 years they have enjoyed a not so damp environment with lots of western warmth and 50% shade. They have flowered well and overcome the usual mite infestation which is a difficult little pest to recognise until he has made his impression through the scarring of the leaves. A miticide remedied the situation.



Vanda



This collection is the prodgeny of Rick & Bronwyn Emmerson's collection. All three have flowered well this year and have resisted any temptation by the possible pest. They have benefited by the daily misting with the trusty hose during the very hot days of last summer. With their regular liquid fertilizing they have become rather rewarding specimens.

SLUGS AND SNAILS:

The lowest of pests, many sizes, no matter what you call them snails or slugs or anything else, they are just the worst kind of problem that you can have in the orchid collection. I have had them gathered on mass, eating the strongest of rat bait and survived.

They are not visible in daylight hours unless you go searching for them in between and under all forms of hidey holes. They can chew their way through the foliage and buds on any type of orchid. Simple precautions will present a very inhospitable environment for the snail/slug. Eliminate possible shelters, e.g. empty pots, timber, old potting mix, damp leafy corners, and use non-absorbent bench tops i.e. wire mesh.

There is a lot of solutions out there on the market for snails and slugs, but they do not all work. Trial and error is the best way to begin with and find what does work for your particular critter. One form of Pellet that I purchased last year developed into a ball of pink mould as soon as it was dampened rendering it totally useless. Rooky Mistake. So, one goes on to find the answer. Trial.

Once you have found evidence of their presence, search through the potting mix of that particular pot as they may be the miniature form of snail, so tiny and so distrustful and not always visible. Go for reputable name products and the good ones are not cheap, invest in your orchids. A good rule of thumb is to sprinkle 4-6 pellets on the top of the newly potted orchids each year and that becomes a good habit where you have constant monitoring of these relentless pests.

These pests can be introduced into your orchid collection through buying your plants from 'anywhere'. That will leave infestation open to their next move, being, your Orchid house.

The war on slugs and snails continues.

Robert Ephraims

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