

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

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Volume 2/21

February 2021

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We are currently holding our meetings both Monthly and New and Interested Growers. The Secretary will advise if the situation changes.

Orchid News for Meetings

Current COVID 19 Restrictions are permissible enough for our Orchid Society to hold outdoor Club Meetings and the next NIGG Meeting will be held on the 2nd Sunday in April (11 April) in the garden of Jean Williamson and Tony McGarry. Their address will be sent by separate email.

Members are asked to observe all restrictions put in place by Queensland Health where there is the Presentation and Consumption of Food.

These rules only allow members to bring their own Morning Tea to this meeting. Any food available must not be shared or presented for distribution by any one during a meeting. Therefore, preventing the transition of any Virus germs.

There are no restrictions for you to bring an Orchid plant/s along to talk about, seek advice or merely have the opportunity to share your success. Everyone loves an Orchid.

There will not be a NIGG Meeting in March due to holding the Field Weekend.

We have recommenced our Monthly Meetings and both the January and February meetings were well attended. The Next Monthly Meeting is on 18 March. No food or beverages will be provided or taken to these meetings.

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

Please phone Bev on 4159 3291 or Email aheidke@bigpond.com to arrange a suitable time for you to collect any merchandise you require for your Orchid Potting. If you want to collect Items from Bev at the monthly meetings please let her know a few days prior of what you need.

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.

Potting Supplies Availability:

Bev has some supplies of bark and it is still problematic getting supplies of bark due to the requirement to have the bark heat treated with no current facility in Australia and the heat treatments are being done in NZ. We expect a facility to be operating soon in Australia and this will make obtaining supplies of bark less problematic.

You must phone Bev or Email her to make a time to collect your Orders which will be at staggered times in line with COVID 19 Rules.

Available supplies are Labels, Steriliser, Pencils, Fertilizer, Pots, Bark, Charcoal, Perlite, and some Mixes (in small quantities for New Growers).

She also has a few bags of Clay Pebbles but no Quinkin at this time.

Any supplies ordered will be held for 4 weeks only, then sold off as spare merchandise.

Phone Bev: (07) 4159 3291

Bulk Booklet Orders and/or Enquires: John Hughes

Phone# 0418 782 937 Email: jbhughes4@bigpond.com

Popular Vote

Due to the fact that we are holding our monthly meetings we have cancelled the Virtual Popular Vote as we are holding our normal popular vote at our Monthly Meetings. This month's results are below.

A proposal was put forward at our last monthly meeting to trial a change of format for monthly meetings commencing in April. The new format is to not have the popular vote but have our Judges award 1st, 2nd and 3rd cash prizes of \$15, \$10 and \$5. We will keep the same categories with the exception of the Novice Section having two prizes one for Cattleyas and one for all other novice entries. It is hoped that this will generate many more entries and give our Novices a bit of a boost. There will be a few other minor tweaks to these meeting so make sure you come along to see what changes are made so that you can have an informed opinion.

NIGG Meeting 7 February

The NIGG Meeting held at Col and Eva Linderberg on Sunday 7 February was well attended and Eva gave a very interesting talk on Oncidiums. In fact, it was so good she was asked to present it again at the February Monthly Meeting. Bob Shield bought in an Oncidium that had the ends of the leaves dying and asked the assembled what is causing this. John Hughes stated that it looks like a lack of Calcium and recommended that Bob give all his orchids a dose of Calcium every two weeks for the next six weeks and then once monthly using 1 gram per litre of water.

He also stated that he uses a product called CALMAG (Calcium and Magnesium) once a month at the recommended dosage is 1mm per litre of water. I decided to take the advice and sourced a 25kg bag of Calcium Nitrate from NORCO for \$20.50 and a 20-litre drum of CALMAG from Northside Produce for \$145.00. John Hughes later advised that Northern Agri Services also in the Industrial Estate off Mt Perry Road supply 20 litre drums of CALMAG for \$143.00. After discussions with a few members there was some thought that the combination of Calcium and Magnesium was problematic as it quickly turns to a jelly. John Hughes has subsequently advised that the liquid CALMAG is good for two years. A point to note is that a 25kg bag of Calcium Nitrate at 1 gram per litre will last a very long time and one might be best advised to share a bag with a few other growers.



The results of this month's Popular Vote are below.



Cattleya: Lumita x Lulu – I & C Nielson



Species: Miltonia Spectabilis – D Barnes



Any Other: Oncidium Sweet Sugar – R & D Shield



Vanda: Lianber Happy Song – D & R Shield



Dendrobium: Enobi Purple Splash – R & G Coster



Novice: Cattleya Island Charm 'Carmela'
C & M Smith



Judges Choice: Dendrochilum Cobbianum – C Trudgian



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