

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

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Newsletter

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

Orchid News for Meetings

Current COVID 19 Restrictions are still permissible enough for our Orchid Society to hold outdoor and indoor Meetings and the next NIGG Meeting will be held on 3 October at Bob and Deborah Shield's place. 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.

Any food available must not be shared 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.

Our next Monthly Meeting is our AGM on 21 October. Tea and Coffee with COVID Safe Biscuits will be provided at these meetings. You may wish to bring your own cup if you wish to avoid using our Paper Cups.

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

Please phone Bev on **0427 667 706** 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. **Please do not ask for more than what you have ordered when collecting your items as this places our wonderful merchandising lady in an awkward position. Also if you call use her mobile number above, not the home phone.**

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.

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New and Interested Growers Group Meeting

Our September NIGG Meeting was at the home of John and Leith Schouten who provided a great venue. Thank you, John and Leith. Bev Heidke gave a very informative talk and demonstration on Paphiopedilums. Also, our Bee Keeping Member Wayne Allen gave a great talk on native bees which was very interesting. Some pictures are below.

Hope to see you all at the next NIGG Meeting on 3 October.

We had a very informative visit to the Bundaberg LifeFlight Rescue Helicopter Base at Bundaberg Airport on Thursday 16 September. 18 members attended and we were given a very good brief on their operations and funding structure. We also handed over a donation cheque of \$2,500.00 which was much appreciated and we were given a soft toy rescue helicopter that will be actioned at our Christmas Party in November.

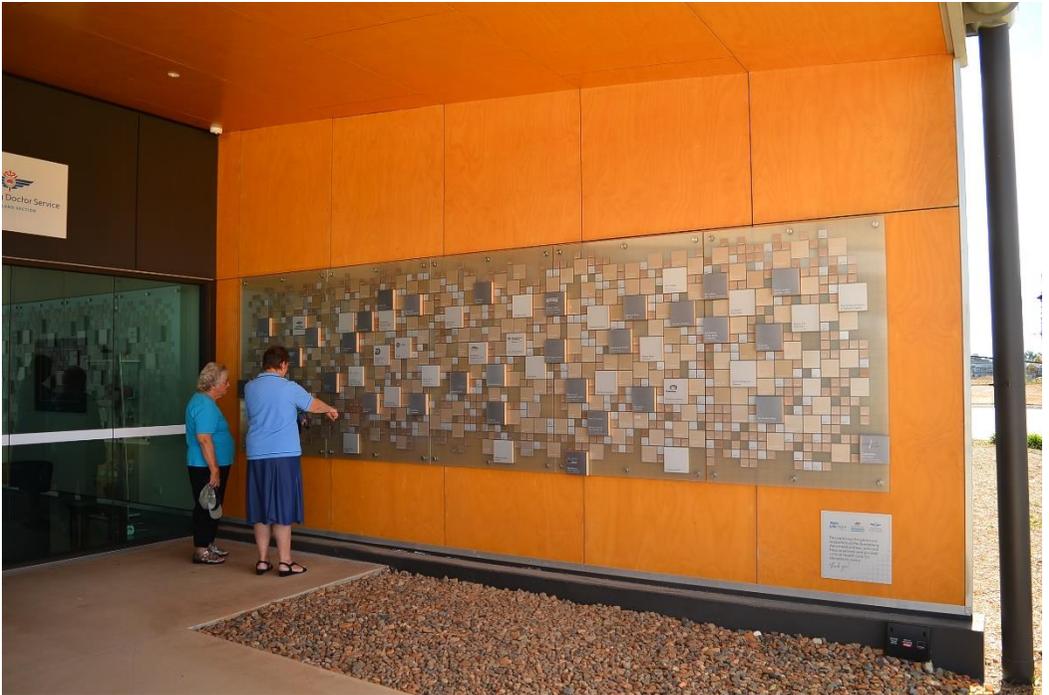
NIGG MEETING 11 September



LifeFlight Rescue Helicopter Base Visit 16 September







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



**Winner - Vanda Category Phal. Romance Valentine
Also, Overall Winner
D& B Shield**



**Winner Cattleya – Shion Free Little Boy
V & D Trudgian**



**Winner Dendrobium – Zygo. Debbie De Mellow
D & B Shield**



**Winner Species – Den. Lindleyi
V & D Trudgian**



**Winner Novice – Aussie Sunset ‘Cosmic Fire’
A & A Straume**

El Presidentae Gave a great talk on Bifoliate Cattleyas

The Handout is reproduced below for those that did not attend the last Monthly Meeting.

BIFOLIATE CATTLEYAS.

Cattleya orchids may be broadly divided into two groups based on leaf structure. Unifoliate, or one leafed, and bifoliate with two (or occasionally three) leaves per rhizome. Unifoliate cattleyas have formed the basis of the commercial cut flower trade and have been the most popular with amateur growers. However, the bifoliate group surpasses the unifoliate group in its number of botanically distinct species.

Except for a half dozen species found in Mexico and Central America, all bifoliate cattleyas are natives of Brazil. They are predominantly found at low altitudes up to 1000 m. so consequently they require similar growing conditions to the unifoliate group.

As with most groups of orchids, classification tends to be complicated. Botanists have attempted to divide the species into groups based on minute variations in the structure of the labellum. For the average grower, this system is incomprehensible, so I will ignore it. I came across a simple classification on one website which provides a grouping of species based on some common features and common cultural requirements.

Group 1.

“Mostly lavender mid-sized” --*forbesii, granulosa, guttata, intermedia, loddigesii, porphyroglossa, schofieldiana.*

Group 2.

“Green, tall and skinny” -- *bicolour, valutina, dormanniana*

Group 3.

“Tall and spotted” – *amethystoglossa, leopoldii, elongata*

Group 4.

“Short stuff” --*aclandia, nobilior, walkeriana. Schilleriana*

This listing is not complete but does cover the more commonly recognised species used in hybrids to which we have access.

Morphology.

One of the distinctions between unifoliate and bifoliate cattleyas is the thickness of the rhizome. Bifoliate species often tend to have thin, almost withered looking rhizomes compared with the healthy broad rhizomes of most unifoliate. Hybridisation between the two groups has modified this feature as you would expect. Growth habit of the “short stuff” grouping is often chaotic. They tend to ramble in all directions, particularly horizontally, which makes growing them in pots a challenge. I have found *Aclandia* crosses to be particularly difficult in this regard.

General Culture.

There are no glaring differences between requirements of unifoliate and bifoliate. Bifoliate do not like wet feet, so a free draining mix or mounting is preferred. If you have space restrictions, keep in mind that the group 3 species may grow to 1-2 m. in flower.

One fact which was stressed in most articles I reviewed related to repotting. **YOU MAY KILL THESE ORCHIDS BY POTTING THEM AT THE WRONG TIME!!** Unlike unifoliate, which are usually potted on from Spring onwards, bifoliate should be left until closer to Summer. It is recommended that new growths be a few cm. high with a nice cluster of new roots at the base. This would particularly apply to Group 2-3. Care needs to be taken to avoid damage to the new root cluster, as the plant tends to regress if they are damaged.

Group 1. Generally, most adaptable and least fussy species. Grow easily under average Cattleya conditions. Medium light ~2500 FC.

Forbesii, granulosa & guttata hybrids may have clearer colours if grown a little shadier. *Loddigesii & harrisoniana* may have deeper colours if grown a little brighter.

Group 2. Generally, prefer less light.

Group 3. This group contains the two showiest species, *Amethystoglossa* & *leopardii*. Will tolerate a lot of light, or near full sun. *Guttata* could be included in this group depending on the clone and environment.

Group 4. Will take bright light, but less than Group 3. Many of the dwarf types will prefer cooler conditions.

Hybridisation.

There has been extensive breeding within this group to produce “spotted” cattleyas. In the larger spotted hybrids, *guttata* is often the predominant influence. *Aclandia* is the species used to promote spotting. Group 4 species, especially *aclandia* & *walkeriana* have been widely used in mini-cat hybridisation. If you have a plant with “Jungle” in its name, it will almost certainly have *aclandia* in its breeding.

Some of the hybrids which we see locally are listed with their predominant species.

Caudebec- *guttata* 50%

Lulu- *guttata*, *aclandia*, *loddigesii*.

Caudebec Candy- Caudebec x Lulu

Jungle Gem- *aclandia* 50%

Jungle Hotspot- Caudebec x Jungle Gem

Deception Spots-*guttata*, *aclandia*, *loddigesii*

Jungle Queen-*guttata* 30%, *amethystoglossa* 30%, *aclandia*, *loddigesii*



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