

Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc.

Newsletter

Email:
Club & Editor:
andrew.straume12@gmail.com

P.O. Box 1173,
Bundaberg, 4670

Web Site:
www.Bundabergorchidsociety.com.au

Volume 4/23

April 2023

Editor: Andrew Straume

Office Bearers.

President	Alwyn Heidke	Phone 0412 300 466
Secretary	Andrew Straume	Phone 0457 857 578
Treasurer	Carolyn Nielson	Phone 0428 577 132

Orchid News for Meetings

The next **NIGG Meeting** will be held on 4 June 2023 at Dale and Diana Searle's place. Their address will be sent by separate email. Members can bring plants for sale and a plate along to supplement the biscuits that are supplied for morning tea, if you feel like contributing to the day with some of your awesome home cooking. **There will be a BBQ at this meeting.** Remember also to bring a chair and a hat and of course your sense of humour. Our next **Monthly Meeting** is 18 May 2023. There is no obligation to bring a plate, for this and the rest of these meetings in 2023, however if you feel the need to bring a plate you may do so. Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits will be provided.

Our 50th Anniversary Function will be a Luncheon at Rowers on the River on Saturday 22 July. The cost is \$30 and the lunch commences from 11:30am. It has been confirmed that our end of year **Christmas Party** will be a dinner at Rowers on the River on Friday evening 24 November 2023.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING 20 APRIL 2023

Our **Monthly Meeting** for March had was well attended by 40 members. We also re-signed some previous members who have re-joined us being Len and Shirley Heidrich. Welcome back. The President asked the meeting if we were happy to sponsor the Hervey Bay/Orchidfest activity/show in September. It was agreed to provide sponsorship of \$120.

NEW AND INTERESTED GROWER GROUP MEETING 2 APRIL 2023

Our NIGG Meeting for April had 49 people in attendance – a good roll-up considering the weather. Thankfully Tholstrup's have a large machinery shed, where we were all able to sit comfortably out of the rain.

Alwyn gave a very informative talk about creepy crawlies and other nasties that invade our orchid shade house, and how to eradicate them. Bev has a photocopied article about various chemicals that she is prepared to reproduce for member upon request.

Christine has some issues with yellowing plants in her shade houses, and green shade cloth which has turned blue. Alwyn offered some insight into possible solutions by feeding plants with essential nutrients before undertaking the more expensive option of replacing the shade cloth. There was some general discussion about merits of black shade cloth versus other colours, and Carolyn Smith drew attention to a Google search relating to the shade factor of various colour shade cloths and their respective effectiveness in reflecting/absorbing visible and invisible light. A total of 22 plants were entered for the Plant of the Year competition. Numbers were obviously down because of the weather, but it was a little disappointing that some people who attended did not even bring their plants on the day. The winning plant was H6, owned by Karen Honey, although Len Johnstone deserves the credit - and the prize - for lovingly nurturing the plant since the beginning as Karen is between homes at the moment.

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

Please phone Bev on **0427 667 706** or Email ahaidke@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 magnificent merchandising lady in an awkward position. Also if you call, use her mobile number above, not the home phone. **If you require Unusal/Special Pots please buy them at the show from Orchidaceous as Bev does not stock these pots.**

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: John Hughes

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

NEW AND INTERESTED GROWERS GROUP MEETING

2 APRIL 2023



The Assembled Masses



**Grower of the Year Competition Orchids (not quite the 48
that were handed out)**



Chrissie's Orchid House (with the now blueish shade Cloth)



Of course Christine has some very nice orchids

**MONTHLY MEETING
ORCHID COMPETITION
WINNERS 20 APRIL 2023**



Cattleya Winner
Rlc. Deception Reign
'Monaco'.

P & R Francey



Cattleya **Popular Vote
Winner**

Rlc. Virginia Sourys

L & J Schouten



Dendrobium Winner & **Popular
Vote & Judges Choice**

Den. Glouster Sands

'Yellow'

P & R Francey



Any Other Winner and **Popular Vote
Winner**

Spa Loretta

L Crawford



Vanda Winner **and Popular
Vote Winner**

Dude Magic x Photisan

K & R Thompson



Species Winner & **Popular
Vote**

V. lamellata Var *remediosae*

K & R Thompson



Novice Winner

BC Donna Kimura

D & D Searle



Novice **Popular Vote** Winner

Ctt. Tristan Bouquet

D&D Searle

Orchid Show 2023

Notes for BOSI Exhibitors

Time to get plants ready for the show.

Can clean leaves with water **DO NOT** use any oil. Make sure plants have no pests or diseases.

Make sure plants are stable in pots and will not fall over. If so, put into larger pots and make stable. Tie plants up that are messy and make sure flowers are presented at their best.

Place your **CLUB POT Number** on the back of the Pot on a small sticker or tape, so it can be returned to the correct owner. Club Pot Number found in our calendar against your name.

If needing to hang larger plants on racks, such as Vandas or Dens, please provide your own hangers.

Please send any possible flowering plants that may come out or may last and I will do tags for them. Better to enter names than not. I encourage new growers to put plant names in to help make our show great. If you have any questions about entering names, please ring Bev and she will hopefully help.

All Plant names need to be emailed to Bev Heidke NO LATER than Monday 8th May to aheidke@bigpond.com or Phone 0427 667 706 or text. She will reply when received and edit names as per Orchidwiz and return. Please put the Genus before the name so I know if the plant is a Cattleya or Den. For example, Rlc. Blc. Den. C. Onc. What is written on your plant tag!

Plant labels may be picked up from Bev's home on Wednesday afternoon or she will have them at the show first thing on the Thursday Morning of the show.

All plants to be disease and pest free and will be removed if not.

ALL SHOW PLANTS ENTERED BY LOCAL MEMBERS TO BE ON THE TABLES BY 2.00PM TO ALLOW STEWARDS TIME TO ARRANGE PLANTS IN SECTIONS AND LEAVE ROOM FOR AWAY CLUBS.

MEMBERS SELLING PLANTS.

Members selling plants must have some plants entered in the show, more the better the show will be.

Sales Barcodes to be attached to bottom of Sales Tag.

Please do not wet, crease or smudge with dirty hands or they will not work.

You cannot photo copy sales bar codes or tags and use your correct colour that will be allocated. Ask for more if needed.

NO SALE OF PLANTS BEFORE 12 NOON THURSDAY.

SETTING UP THURSDAY MORNING.

Helpers are needed from 8am to Midday to set up tables, dividers, covers, sales plant area, decorations, front entry, photo chair, champion table.

If hungry bring your own or shop over the road at CRUZ the Bakehouse who has been a generous sponsor this year.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday there will be food vendors outside the Civic centre to get food, and tables to eat at will be set up inside in the eating area.

Bethel Hughes requests lots and lots of flowers and greenery for her posies. Please contact Bethel on 0418 782 937 any questions.

Volunteers that are first up on the roster need to arrive at the Civic Centre no later than 7.45am each day to help set up front area and plant sales and information table.

An Introduction to pH Problems

(Treat the cause, not the effect)

By Barry Walker

Firstly, what is pH?

From Princeton Dictionary; pH (from potential of hydrogen) is the logarithm of the reciprocal of hydrogen-ion concentration in gram atoms per litre; provides a measure on a scale from 0 to 14 of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. (where 7 is neutral and greater than 7 is more basic and less than 7 is more acidic.

The pH factor is one of the most important influences on sound plant culture. It is possible to look at the factor in a simple way to gain useful information about the fundamentals so that growers may understand and control the pH of their orchid collection. It is a better strategy to eliminate the cause of pH problems rather than treat the effect of sour potting mix.

Having the knowledge to correctly identify pH problems are often misdiagnosed as over watering. Plants have an optimum pH range in which they grow best and orchids are no exception. In fact, orchids may suffer severe root damage which in some cases which may lead to the death of the orchid. The most sinister aspect of pH problems is that the problem sneaks up on growers over time. The problem may only be apparent when the plant is re-potted. In some cases, the occasional black tips indicate trouble; the lack of vigour in plant growth and the formation of many back bulbs are sure signs of a problem. Damaged roots turn black on the tips and develop an amber appearance before they finally die.

The sad part about pH problems is that a grower might well be dedicated to the proper culture of the plants and, since the issue of pH is out of sight, it is often out of mind. This was my experience when I first encountered the problem. I received a huge wake-up call when presented with a disturbing number of damaged and sick plants and faced with the prospect of either giving up orchid growing or fixing the problem. I chose the latter.

Looking back with hindsight at my original attempt to grow orchids I often think how stupid and naïve I was in thinking all that I needed to do was buy an orchid, plant it in orchid bark, fertilise it with fertiliser, water when needed, place in a good environment and enjoy the flowers. It is easy really, I soon learnt that unforeseen pH problem severely affected my plants and that I had to address the problem. One saving grace is that if pH is recognised by a grower as a potential problem, it can be easily monitored, measured, managed, and eliminated as a culture problem.

Often a plant is so severely damaged the grower would be better off to bin it, then correct the problem. Buy a new plant and start again. Recovering damaged plants is all too often a futile exercise because recovered plants seem to lose their vigour. When the potting medium becomes very acid, say pH4, it is about the level that damage seems to occur and can be corrected as far as pH is concerned. I have not enjoyed much success in recovering this kind of potting medium. The bark at such a low pH4, seem to adopt some form of toxic property and in this event a better strategy would be to re-pot the plant in new bark.

Starved Plants

Fertilisers are designed to supply orchids with correct nutrient in a particular pH range pH 6 - 6.5. The pH has a radical effect on nutrient uptake. If pH accidentally drifts from these values, nutritional problems will develop, presenting themselves as toxic or deficient levels of nutrition. Nutrition problems can be masked when the pH is in the wrong range and the plant shows perhaps all the symptoms of iron deficiency even though iron is supplied at adequate levels. The only way to correct this problem is to fix the pH. Plants can starve when the pH is wrong, even though they are supplied with the correct amount of fertiliser.

Strategy to Manage pH

It must be understood that aged pine bark in nugget form has a pH of 4.5 needing liming agents to correct it to pH 6 – 6.5. I use from 3 to 5 grams a litre of 50% dolomite lime and 50% agricultural lime to correct it, making sure these liming products contain both small and large particles. Most suppliers provide an analysis of different mesh sizes to which the particles have been screened. Apply the mixture to a slightly wet bark and mix thoroughly, the object to make the liming material stick to the bark surface. Finely ground particles will give an immediate change in pH and the larger particles will be held in reserve and give longer term control over pH. Let the mix stand for three weeks before using it so that the pH stabilises.

Soaking bark in water with liming agents will give only limited, superficial control. The larger liming particles will be washed from the bark to accumulate at the bottom of the container. They are lost. The smaller particles are diluted and lost as the water drains from the container.

An alternative to nuggets is composted pine bark, an excellent product with a pH of around 6-6.5 and ideal for orchids, it needs no treatment.

Orchids are long lived and it is not uncommon for plants to grow in the same medium for three or four years (or even longer) Adding lime to bark when orchids are potted should be considered as short-term control. Lime is used and leached from the medium over time, and remedial control could start when the lime material is exhausted. In my situation I have no need to add additional liming material because I control pH by a different means – to be mentioned later.

Another handy strategy is to use additives with your potting mix material with neutral or alkaline properties to neutralise the natural pH of bark and increase the pH. Such material includes perlite, charcoal, stone, rice hulls, coco peat and polystyrene. Make sure the potting mix drains well and allows good air exchange in the pot. Poorly designed mixes encourage anaerobic decay in the pot which sours the mix.

Acquire a pH test kit as supplied by Manutec, test the potting mix when potting your orchids and regularly test a representative sample of your orchids, say three monthly. These kits come with instructions and give an accurate enough result for orchid growing. The pH meters leave much to be desired. They need constant calibration, are delicate and expensive. These instruments are handy if you are doing laboratory type testing.

Fertiliser plays a major role in pH control. Most elements in fertilisers are made from basic salts, each of them producing their own pH reaction when taken up by plants. These salts are blended in the correct proportion to achieve the correct balance between nutrients. Nitrogen is the exception; it comes in three forms and many manufacturers blend nitrogen salts any way they wish. I guess economics may have something to do with it. The three forms of nitrogen are nitrate, ammonium, and urea. When plants take up nitrate an alkaline reaction takes place in the pot. If they take up ammonium an acid reaction takes place, likewise urea is converted by microbial action to ammonium causing an acidic reaction also. It follows that the ratio of nitrate to effective ammonium will play an important role in determining the combined pH reaction in the pot.

A generally accepted theory states that a fertiliser should have four times as much nitrate as ammonium, a ratio which in ideal conditions will produce a balanced pH reaction. Another issue that needs to be considered is a process known as nitrification, which simply means the conversion by microbes of ammonium to nitrates in the pot. These microbes prefer warm conditions. In cold conditions the plant can be over supplied with ammonium, causing an adverse acid reaction. It is wise to reduce or stop using ammonium in winter. If nitrogen is required in winter, use a nitrate form. Personally, I avoid urea-based fertilisers. I find them hard to control. It must be noted that small plants cause small pH changes and larger fast-growing plants will change the pH to a much greater level.

Measuring the pH of applied fertiliser is misleading because pH will only change as the plant takes up the fertiliser. Keep in mind that it must be applied at the correct pH. Examine the fertiliser label and determine whether it will produce an acidic or alkaline response. Acidic fertilisers may be supplemented by extra nitrates. The addition of a separate calcium nitrate feed at half to one gram a litre will go a long way towards correcting the problem.

From a nutritional point of view providing extra calcium will also help to balance your fertiliser. Calcium nitrate is not blended into concentrated commercial fertiliser because it is incompatible with sulphates and phosphates, and will precipitate out. Calcium nitrate may be mixed into diluted fertiliser at the strength we would normally use. I mix all my basic salts including calcium nitrate, in diluted form in hot water. The resultant fertiliser produces a stable pot Ph at 6 -6.5 all year round. Problems might develop during winter when pH may drop and you do not want to apply fertiliser. Other strategies are available to the grower, such as top dressing with dolomite lime. Limil slurries may also be used but be care full and seek expert help before using these products. It is easy to overshoot your desired pH. Water quality can present a problem. When I use town water supply, I do not correct Ph, I simply add a little more ammonium salt to my fertiliser to neutralise the alkalinity.

This paper started out looking at pH and moved to plant nutrition. The two are closely linked and it is impossible to separate them. Plant nutrition is dealt with very simply with the object of explaining basic principles and the effect on pH. Fertiliser and their use is a complex subject and needs more security. My work is directed at anyone who has run out of ideas and is at wits end finding out what is wrong with their orchid culture. It might steer readers into investigating pH as a possible problem. If your culture produces satisfactory results, don't change. It is unwise to fix something that is not broken.

Bundaberg Orchid Soc. Inc.



Golden Jubilee Show

CIVIC CENTRE BUNDABERG

12TH - 14TH MAY 2023

BENCHED SHOW

Benching Thurs 11th May 12.00 - 3.00pm

JUDGING: 3.30PM

Show opens: Fri 12th May 8am-4pm

Sat 13th May 8am-4pm

Sun 14th May 8am-12pm

PRESENTATIONS: 12.30PM SUNDAY

ADMISSION \$2.00 CHILDREN FREE

VENDORS: Alice's Orchids, Hughes Orchids, Woolf Orchid Culture, Pacific Beach Orchids, MnS Orchids, Foliage Plus, Mi Plant Pots, Orchidaceous Supplies, BOSI Plant Sales

NOTE: Minimum number of exhibits is 3 per class. Insufficient exhibits in a species or hybrid class may transfer to class 38 or class 39 respectively.

ORCHID CLASSES

1. **Cattleya** - Exhibition type hybrid - white or semi-alba (111mm or larger)
2. **Cattleya** - Exhibition type hybrid - mauve, purple, lavender, or pink (111 or >)
3. **Cattleya** - Exhibition type - any other colour or combination of colours (111mm or >)
4. **Cattleya** - Exhibition type hybrid. (Blooms up to & incl. 70mm)
5. **Cattleya** - Exhibition type hybrid. (Blooms 71mm to 110mm)
6. **Cattleya** - Cluster exhibition type hybrid - see definition 2
7. **Cattleya** - Cluster hybrid non-exhibition type - see definition 2
8. **Cattleya** - Non-exhibition type hybrid (Blooms > 70mm) - see definition 3
9. **Cattleya** - Non-exhibition type hybrid (Blooms up to 70mm) - see definition 3
10. **Cattleya** - *Broughtonia* hybrid.
11. **Cattleya** - Alliance Species
12. **Dendrobium** - *Phalaenanthe* hybrid - predominately mauve
13. **Dendrobium** - *Phalaenanthe* hybrid - bicolour
14. **Dendrobium** - *Phalaenanthe* hybrid - any other colour-
15. **Dendrobium** - *Phalaenanthe* hybrid - stripes and peloric, not included in Classes 12-14.
16. **Dendrobium** – Intermediate hybrid – towards *Phalaenanthe*
17. **Dendrobium** - Intermediate hybrid = see Definition 5.
18. **Dendrobium** - *Spatulata* hybrid Large (61mm & over) - see definition 4
19. **Dendrobium** - *Spatulata* hybrid Small (up to 60mm) - see definition 4
20. **Dendrobium** - Any other hybrid
21. *Dendrobium* - Species
22. **Paphiopedilum** - *Maudiae* type hybrid
23. **Paphiopedilum** - Any other hybrid
24. *Paphiopedilum* - Species
25. **Oncidium** hybrid
26. **Oncidium** - Intergeneric hybrids - Exhibition type, filled in shape - Def. 6
27. **Oncidium** - Intergeneric hybrids - Starry shaped or Novelty type - Def. 7
28. *Oncidium* - Alliance Species
29. **Vanda** –exhibition shape-60mm or larger.
30. **Vanda**-exhibition shape - under 60mm
31. Vandaceous hybrid with *Aerides*, *Rhyncostylis*, etc (close to exhibition shape)
32. Vandaceous hybrid, non-exhibition shape. (include *Aranda*, *Mokara*, *JVB*, etc)
33. Vandaceous - *Phalaenopsis* hybrids
34. **Vandaceous** - Alliance Species
35. **Bulbophyllum** - Any hybrid
36. *Bulbophyllum* - Species
37. **Australian native orchid** - see definition 8
38. Australian native hybrid - see definition 9
39. **Species** - Any other genera

40. **Miscellaneous** - Any other hybrid – Not included in classes 1 – 38
41. **Novice**- Any *Cattleya* - Exhibits restricted to B.O.S.I. novices
42. **Novice** - Any *Dendrobium* - Exhibits restricted to B.O.S.I. novices
43. **Novice** - Any Other Genera - Exhibits restricted to B.O.S.I. novices

SPECIAL CLASSES

44. Champion Orchid
45. Reserve Champion Orchid
46. Specimen Plant
47. Champion Species – STOCQ Trophy
48. Plant displaying special characteristics - QOS Medallion - See definition 10.
49. Ray Heidrich Memorial Trophy – See definition 15.

PRIZES

Classes 1-43 1st-\$20. 2nd- \$10 3rd- \$5

Champion Orchid \$250

Reserve Champion \$150

Champion Specimen \$50

Champion Species \$50

Class 48 - 49 \$25

DEFINITIONS:

1. In the *Cattleya* section classes 1-11 inclusive, the term *Cattleya* includes all intra and inter generic hybrids between one or more of the *Cattleya* alliance genera.
2. A cluster *Cattleya* shall have a minimum of five (5) flowers.
3. May be single or multi flowered, brightly coloured, little emphasis on shape.
4. Spatulata hybrid *Dendrobium* shall exhibit a minimum 180 degrees twist in the petals. Measurements are taken from the top of the petal to the outer end of the bottom sepal on the diagonal.
5. Intermediate *Dendrobium*-Hybrid between Spatulata group and another group. Clearly showing influence of spatulata group with less than 180 degrees twist in petals
6. *Oncidium* intergeneric hybrids - exhibition type hybrids
7. *Oncidium* intergeneric hybrids – Starry or novelty type hybrids shall have open or Starry shaped flower.
8. Australian native orchid - includes all species indigenous to the Australian mainland, Tasmania and islands under the political control of an Australian State or Territory
9. Australian native hybrid - hybrid with only Australian native species in their ancestry.
10. The orchid awarded the QOS medallion shall exhibit some special quality or outstanding characteristics which may not necessarily be sought or of significance with reference to the judging standards and **has not gained 1st place in its class.**
11. Australian native orchids shall be eligible for class 37 only.
12. Australian native hybrids shall be eligible for class 38 only
13. Species shall be eligible only for the appropriate species class.
14. Best Vandaceous orchid exhibited by a Bundaberg Grower

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries are free and open to all orchid society members.
2. The show marshal, in cooperation with the show committee, shall have the right to refuse any entry.
3. No plant may be removed from the show prior to the official termination of the show without permission of the show committee.
4. The show committee will interpret all rules and be responsible for the arbitration of any disputes.
5. All plants must be clearly labelled.
6. Exhibitors are required to clearly mark all pots with their initials or show number.
7. A flower or flowers missing from an inflorescence will disqualify only that inflorescence, except when the missing flower or flowers are tabled on the pot. Flowers missing from a progressively flowering inflorescence is normal and acceptable.
8. A pollinated, dead or dying flower on a plant shall not disqualify that plant or inflorescence, but shall detract from the merit of the exhibit.
9. A minimum of 50% of buds on an inflorescence must be fully open before it is eligible to be judged.
10. The champion orchid is to be selected from those first prize winners, which the judging panel believe should be considered for champion. Reserve champion is to be selected from the remainder of those initially selected by the panel together with the runner-up to the champion in its class (If considered suitable).
- 11 Staking and tying to display the inflorescence to its best advantage will be permitted, but if in the opinion of the judges this is considered to be excessive this shall detract from the quality of the plant. The ties may be removed to allow assessment of the strength of the inflorescence.
12. The Bundaberg Orchid Society Inc. will ensure that all care is taken to safeguard all exhibits, but will not accept any responsibility for theft, loss, destruction or damage to plants.
13. The show will be judged by a panel of accredited judges under the control of a Registrar appointed by the STOCQ. The judge's decision is final.
14. Any questions on the schedule, conditions and rules of entry, definitions etc. will be answered by the show marshal after consultation with the show committee. All decisions so given are final.
15. Where there are less than three entries in any given class those entries may be allocated to another class for judging viz. species to class 35 and hybrids to class 36.
16. Any plant exhibited is eligible for an AOC award. (Owner's permission required)
17. Plants eligible for judging must have been owned by the exhibitor for at least 6 months

BELOW ARE THE LOGOS OF OUR MAGNIFICENT SPONSORS



Call: 07 4151 2111

Email: info@barolintravelbundaberg.com.au

Sugarland Chiropractic Centre
Dr. Deborah L. Ball
Chiropractor USA

Shop 2B / 1 Heidke Street
Bundaberg QLD 4670

Ph 4153 2233
www.sugarlandchiropractic.com.au





Did You Know You Can Now Order Online?



NATURE
JUST GOT
BETTER



Caravans • Spares • Repairs



Jeep



ISUZU
UTE





shower**buddy**®

The Worlds best Shower Chair System – Eliminates the need for Bathroom Mods

BUNDY MULCH & CHIP

Over 30 Years Experience

Tree Lopping & Stump Removal

- Qualified Arborist
- Mulch Sales
- Full Insurance
- Family Business
- Free Quotes
- Pruning & Mulching
- Contract Chipping

24 Hour Storm Service

Jamieson Webb
0422184240
Terry Webb 412946603

Servicing Bundaberg & Surrounds






www.rossgray.com.au

the cars

HOLDEN
MITSUBISHI
MAZDA
USED CARS
SERVICE & PARTS



BUNDABERG
Wholesale Palms & Plants
SELLING DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC



26 KLEINS ROAD - TURN AT WOONGARRA SCHOOL - BACK 500M





**KALKI
MOON**

22 Commercial Street
Bundaberg Qld 4670
kalkimoon.com



Help when
it matters



Part of Energy Queensland



Bundaberg



BUNDABERG
COACHES

