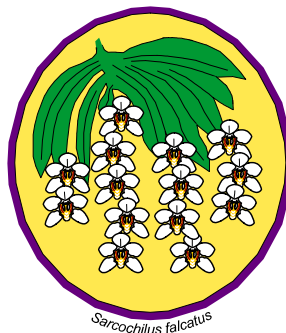


Tan Bark

January 2011

Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc
PO Box 7710, Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld, 4352
ABN: 32 603 296 231



Our thoughts and prayers go out to anyone who was affected by the floods. To everyone in our Toowoomba and regional areas and all over Queensland and Victoria who has suffered. It has been an incredible couple of weeks for all of us.

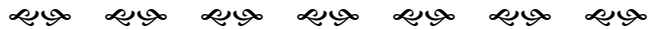
Next General Meeting Friday 28th January, 2011

Meetings:	Fourth Friday of each month except September and December. Meeting commences at 7.30 pm
Venue:	St Pauls Hall (cnr James & Phillip Streets)
Membership Fee:	\$15 paid annually at February AGM.

Website: www.toowoombaorchidsociety.org.au

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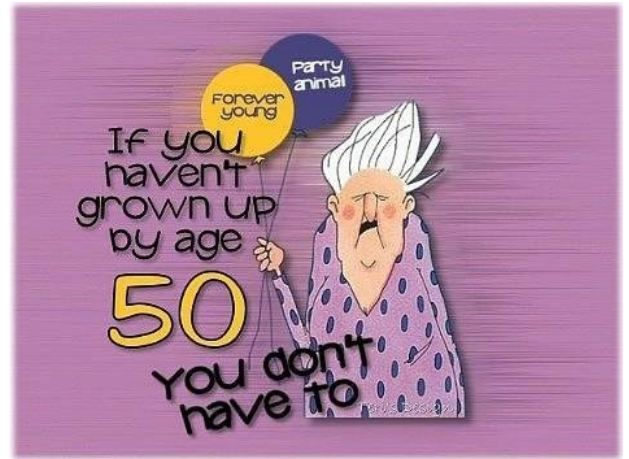
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HAPPY DINERS: The January lunch at the Spotted Cow was very good. We are changing the day to the first Thursday in the month now so the Happy Dinners will be at the Westbrook Tavern on 3rd February at 11.30am, hope to see you all there.

March happy diners will be a breakfast at the South Toowoomba Bowls Club on Hume St commencing at 8am. It is an 'All you can eat' style breakfast for only \$10 and the reports from the last time we went there, it was a very large selection of very nice food.

TOSKA (Toowoomba Orchid Society Knowledge Afternoon): The next TOSKA will be Saturday 12th February at Charlie & Erica Dedekind's residence, 5 Kirralee Crt, Westbrook. They are supplying a sausage sizzle for everyone and all you have to bring is your cutlery, drinks, chairs. This is weather permitting only.



Our best wishes go to Heather Guppy who has been laid up with a broken ankle.

To anyone else who has been under the weather since we saw you last, we hope you are back on your feet very soon.



The January Floods have destroyed a lot of things including Rick and Ange Emmerson's prize orchids. Not to mention almost all of their belongings. These are the heartbreaking images they had to face. Lucky to be alive, Ange and her sister, Becky had to climb on the roof to get out of the raging water that engulfed their house, and their orchid houses as well.



Their backyard



This is where the orchid house was



Their driveway



Bruce Vayro has had some major damage to his house and orchid houses. No pictures are available yet, as at the time of printing we still couldn't get in to Bruce's property to give him any help to clean up.

Len and Sheryl Waite from Talbot Lodge send their regards to everyone.

Our 2010 Christmas Party

What a lovely night it was, filled with lots of fun, friends and food of course. Alan Alvis presented Gordon with an Emeritus Judges Award, congratulations Gordon, and June for her patience.

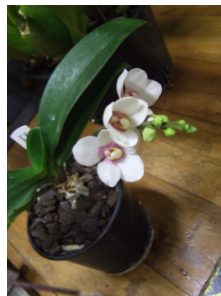
Thank you to Dr Peter Swannell for his thoughts on 'All things old'.



Here are the winning plants for the night. Just a few of the lovely blooms we had on display.



Tol. Hot Lips
D&C Woolf



Sarconopsis Noelene
Russell
D&C Woolf



Phrag caudatum
W Williams



Bromeliad
B&G Polzin

Vandaceous Orchids

The Genus Vanda is one of the most popular groups of Orchids grown. Extensive hybridizing has been done within the genus and with other genera to produce orchids of exceptional beauty. There are three distinct groups of Vandas which are easily distinguished by the shape of their leaves.

Vanda Robert's Delight Strap-leaf Vanda has rather flat, broad leaves growing close together, alternating on the right

and left sides to give a beautifully symmetrical plant. The flower stems also alternate sides, coming from the axils of the leaves on the upper part of the plant. Terete-leaf has cylindrical leaves, shaped like and about the thickness of a pencil on mature plants. These leaves grow to four to six inches long and are sharp or blunt tipped, with their bases encircling the stem. The flower stems appear on the side of the stem opposite the leaf.

They are sun loving Orchids. Semi-terete Vanda is a hybrid between the Strap-leaf and Terete-leaf Vandas and the leaves

are somewhat in between. These orchids require bright light, and upon hardening can be grown in full sun, so are ideal for landscaping in frost free areas. They will reward you with multi-spikes of beautifully coloured blooms several times a year.

Light

Adult strap-leaf Vandaceous orchids require 60/65% shade and will grow and flower regularly; the best containers to grow them in are wooden baskets or clay pots. The semi-terete types require a little more light so they need to have a 50% shade, also the northern wall should also be made of 50% shade cloth. This also lets in further light. It does appear that Vandas do a lot better under black shade cloth than any other colour.

Air Movement and Humidity

The air should be buoyant and moist. You may well ask how to obtain and retain good air movement as well as providing high humidity. Orchids appreciate having moisture around them but not on them. It has been found hanging (Old Man's Beard) around the baskets and clay pots and letting it drape down with and below the root system of the plant, is very beneficial. The old man's beard catches the water and fertilizer, keeping moisture close to the plant but not directly on the plant itself.

In a fairly large and open shade-house, bromeliads, placed under the benches and hanging plants are also very handy to assist in

maintaining moisture in the atmosphere, hence maintaining the humidity within the shade-house.

Vandaceous orchids require plenty of fresh air. Carbon Dioxide and Oxygen enter and are released through the stomata in the leaves,

and as this exchange or transpiration only occurs in Vandaceous orchids at night, good air movement both day and night is essential.

Carbon dioxide is used by the plant in the process of photosynthesis, in which water and nutrients form sugars, the plant foods. The

process of photosynthesis is carried out only in the presence of light.

Temperature

The majority of Vandaceous orchids thrive when the temperature fluctuates between 10C night time minimum in the winter, and 35C day time maximum in the summer. Vanda orchids however can tolerate much greater extremes. Vanda orchids are very intolerant of long hot periods. This is when it is very important to keep the humidity up to your plants, perhaps by watering the "Old Man's Beard" which has been draped around the root system, and by watering the floor, by doing this you will lower the temperature in the shade-house as well as creating extra humidity.

Water

Vandaceous plants depend heavily on good quality water. As they have a monopodial growth habit, the plants cannot retain water for any great length of time. It is advisable at all times to water these plants as early in the morning as possible, so that by noon the foliage of the plants will be dry. Water left on the plant in the middle of the day will cause sun burn. This can be a serious problem if it occurs in the crown of the plant. Orchids do not appreciate being wet and cold, so water your plants in the winter time only on bright and clear mornings. Adult plants are watered once a week in the winter time and every day during the summer. Young seedlings in community pots or 50mm tubes are grown under Alsynite and are watered every day when the weather is warm to hot, and once a week in the depth of winter. Always put your plants to bed dry.

Fertilizer

Vandaceous orchids are very hungry plants. During the growing period, in general this would be from September to the end of March. The adult plants are fed once a week as follows: for two weeks use a well balanced fertilizer and the following week use a low nitrogen fertilizer. For young seedlings use a well balanced fertilizer for three weeks and the following week use a low nitrogen

fertilizer. During the dormant period, when the weather starts getting cooler and the daylight hours shorten, reduce the food to your plants. Adult plants are fed only once a fortnight with a low nitrogen fertilizer in order to keep the root system plump. The young seedlings feed only once a fortnight, rotating a balanced fertilizer with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

Fertilizer which are recommended to use are:-

Peter's Orchid Special **18 N - 7.8 P - 14.9 K**

Peter's Blossom Special **10 N - 13.1 P - 16.6 K**

Using this fertilizing program promotes strong healthy new growths which are not prone to disease.

Potting Media

When potting Vandas from flask or community pots, use 60% bark, 30% washed charcoal and 10% polystyrene. When the plants have outgrown their 50mm tubes, they are either potted into 115mm plastic pots which have excellent drainage or if the plants are growing well, put them directly into baskets or clay pots which have plenty of holes. In 115mm pots use 60% bark, 30% coarse washed charcoal and 10% larger chunks of polystyrene. In baskets or clay extra coarse bark is used, charcoal and polystyrene is used to support the plants until the roots have gripped the container, then it is a good idea to tip out any surplus media as it is no longer required. This assists Vandaceous orchids by providing plenty of good air circulation around the roots. When you tip out the surplus potting mix, it is a good time to put Old Man's Beard loosely around the top of the basket or clay pot and exposed root system.

Pests and Diseases

Observation is the key word. Observe your plants when watering and fertilizing. Keep a sharp eye out for

any abnormalities in appearance for performance in your plants. Isolate these plants when located, identify the problem and then deal with it immediately.

Fungus and bacterial diseases are usually noticed as a collapse of the plant tissue, frequently with water soaked appearance. Depending on the disease, it may attack the leaves, the stem or the root system. These diseases require high humidity to survive. Some appear with high humidity and low temperatures, while other types are not activated until the temperatures are relatively high.

Discourage these diseases by watering you orchids as early as possible in the morning so when the temperature reaches its peak, your plants will be dry and will remain so as the temperature falls at night. Fungal and bacterial problems can be kept to a minimum with good house keeping, no debris left under the benches, good air circulation around your plants, and regular spraying with a preventative fungicide to protect your plants against infection.

Great success had been obtained with Kocide, which is a copper based powder. A dosage of 1.5 grams per litre, and mist only on dry foliage, then let the plants dry off for a minimum of two days. There should be no run off onto the root system. Kocide used twice a year should be ideal.

Some General Hints

The best fertilizing program in the world will not compensate for poor growing conditions. When Vandaceous orchids are poorly grown or carelessly handled, they will fall victim to insects or disease, however with reasonable attention given to their basic needs, their troubles will be few.

By Ros Xerri



**TOOWOOMBA ORCHID SOCIETY INC.
Christmas Party & General Meeting Minutes 26th November, 2010.**

Minutes of the General Meeting at St Paul’s Church, Phillip St, Toowoomba.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed visitors and everyone present at 6.30 pm.

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Peter Swannell

WELCOME : New members and invited guests

APOLOGIES: Recorded in the attendance book plus G Crampton, D Caswell.

JUDGES FOR THE NIGHT: J Woolf, D Woolf

MINUTES: The minutes for October 2010 meeting as printed in Tanbark were moved by D Woolf and seconded by H Guppy. All those in favour – carried

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE:

Accounts:

Orchids Australia subscription, Melco Statement, Membership fees for A & S Burn, Win TV Statement St Pauls Hall, Chq from Stonestreeets

Letters & Emails: Southport & District Orchid Soc Invitation to May show, AOC AGM Minutes and Information form, Change of email from Caloundra Orchid Soc, Email from David Gatfield confirming Alan Alvis as the State Registrar

Newsletters & Bulletins: Redcliffe District Orchid Soc, Bribie Island, Townsville OS, Southport Orchid Soc, West Moreton Orchid Soc, OS NSW, EDOS, Miriam Ann Orchids, Nambour OS

OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE: No outwards correspondence C Woolf moved the inwards accepted and outward endorsed, seconded by W Williams. All those in favour – carried. Letters received needing further discussion were none.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Alan Alvis presented G Bloodworth with a special Judges Award .
2. Bruce Vayro moved that all further general business be carried over until the next meeting, seconded D Woolf, carried.

Librarians Minute: None.

JUDGING RESULTS:

Judges Choice Species: W Williams
Judges Choice Exotic: D&C Woolf
Judges Choice Seedling: D&C Woolf
Judges Choice Bromeliad: B&G Polzin

Meeting Closed at 9.43pm

February AGM

In this newsletter you will find the nomination forms for the AGM in February.

There are 2 options:

1. Nominate yourself for a position and have it seconded by another financial club member.
2. Nominate someone else for a position and have it seconded by another financial club member.

These nominations have to be given to the Secretary 14 days prior to the February meeting.

Below are also nominations for the Service Award and Life Member Award, if you think someone deserves these awards please nominate them.

We are in need of President and Secretary nominations. Rick Emmerson is certainly not in a position to take on his position again and I (Carolyn) took the position of Secretary to fill in for the year.

Keep in mind that all positions are open for nomination.

QOS inc. Service Award 2010

I _____ being a current financial Member of the Toowoomba Orchid

Society inc. hereby Nominate _____

as the recipient of the QOS inc. Service Award for 2010.

The reasons for my Nomination are _____

.....

Toowoomba Orchid Society inc. Life Membership

I _____ being a current financial Member of the Toowoomba

Orchid Society inc. hereby Nominate _____

as the recipient of a Life Membership of the Society.

The reasons for my Nomination are _____

Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. Annual General Meeting 2011

I hereby nominate _____
for the position of _____
in the Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.

Proposed by _____ Signature _____

Seconded by _____ Signature _____

Accepted by _____ Signature _____

This form, duly signed, must be in the hands of the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM

.....

I hereby nominate _____
for the position of _____
in the Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.

Proposed by _____ Signature _____

Seconded by _____ Signature _____

Accepted by _____ Signature _____

This form, duly signed, must be in the hands of the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM

.....

I hereby nominate _____
for the position of _____
in the Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.

Proposed by _____ Signature _____

Seconded by _____ Signature _____

Accepted by _____ Signature _____

This form, duly signed, must be in the hands of the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM

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