

# TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



## May 2016



### **Stethopachys Formosa** (Dendrobium beetle)

Effective eradication methods:

Squish; bowl of hot water; swimming lessons in pyrethrum; microwave in a glass of water.

Please feel free to let us know your favourite technique for disposal of these little pests.

### **Meetings:**

**Fourth Friday** of each month at 7.30pm, except September & December.

### **Venue:**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Hall  
Cnr. James and Phillip St, Toowoomba

### **Annual Subscription:**

Due February—Family \$25.00 / Single \$25.00

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John Woolf

Con Harriman

## Date Claimers & Information for Members

### Happy Diners:

For further information, see Kev Baker or phone 4632 4952

2nd June 2016	Rudd's Pub, 45 Tooth Street, Nobby	11.30am
7th July 2016	Federal Hotel, James Street, Toowoomba	11.30am
4th August 2016	Farmers Arms Hotel, New England Hwy, Cabarlah	11.30am

### Upcoming Shows in other Districts:

**Redcliffe and District Orchid Soc.** 12/13/14/15 May. **Address:** Redcliffe Municipal Library, Cnr Oxley Ave and Irene St, Redcliffe.

**Maryborough District Orchid Soc.** 19/20 May. **Address:** Maryborough Showground.

**Redland Orchid Society.** 30 April.

**Address:** Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield St, Cleveland.

**Nambour Orchid Society.** 11/12 June.

**Address:** Lake Kawana Community Centre, Bokarina. **BUS TRIP!**

**Southport and Districts Orchid Society.** 11/12 June. **Address:** Albert Waterways Community Centre, Hooker Blvd and Sunshine Blvd, Broadbeach Waters,

**North Moreton QOC.** 25/26 June. **Address:** Auditorium, Mt Coot-Tha Botanic Gardens.

**The Paphiopedalum Society.** 5 July (Tuesday). **Address:** Trades and Labour Council Bldg, Cnr Grey and Peel Sts, Brisbane.

**John Oxley Orchid Society.** 16/17 July. **Address:** Auditorium, Mt Coot-Tha Botanic Gardens.

For more shows, follow the link below

<http://www.toowoombaorchidsociety.org.au/index.php/upcoming-shows>

### New Growers: 4th June at 2pm

Next new growers group to be held at

**Heather and Neville Guppy.**

**Address :** 43 Noll Street Toowoomba. Please bring a chair and plate to share.



April Speaker, Steven Cox being thanked by David Woolf

# Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. Shows 2016

- ♦ **Winter Show:** Friday and Saturday 15th/16th July, 8.30am—4.00pm. Two days.
- ♦ **Spring Show:** Friday 16th September to Tuesday 20th September. 8.00am—4.00pm. Five day show.
- ♦ **Summer Show:** Saturday 22nd October, 8.30am—4.00pm. One day show.

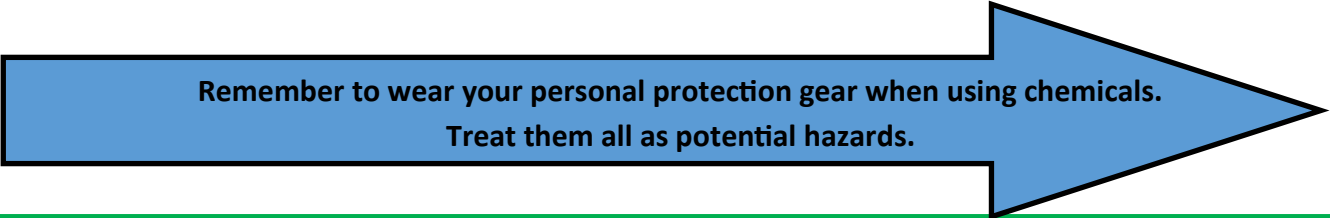
Note: All shows will be held at St Pauls Lutheran Church Hall, Cnr James and Phillips Sts Toowoomba.

## Maintaining Root Systems on Orchids

### **The Art of Maintaining Root Systems** by John Woolf (reproduced with John's permission)

Some orchids produce massive root systems easily, such as Cymbidium and Zygopetalum, others such as Paphs and Miltoniopsis don't. Producing a good root system starts with the germination of the seedlings, or the beginning of the meristem process, in flask. You can produce good plants in flask without any root system simply by omitting the hormones and chemicals that initiate root development. This is normally done where the combination of growing and rooting hormones retard top growth as in the tissue culture of Eucalyptus species, then two separate growth media are used, one to promote top growth and one to produce roots. After the plants have produced the required amount of roots, they are then deflasked and grown in a propagation area. This system can also be used for orchids as it is easier to work with them in flask at the early stages of development if they have little or no roots. They are then transferred to a medium containing the hormones needed for root development before being deflasked.

Plants coming out of flask without a good active root system are much harder to establish and losses could be high, hence the deflasking problems many growers suffer. Some growers say the roots produced in flask do not continue to grow once deflasked into a growing medium like bark or sphagnum, however, I do not find this to be true. Roots produced in flask do continue to grow if treated properly. As well, the plant then produces more roots as they harden off. Treating plantlets with hormones/chemicals such as "**Best Grow**" and "**Nu Farm Growth Formula**" when deflasking, assist in the retention of existing roots and the quick production of new roots. These chemicals **Must Not Be Used at a Stronger Rate or More Often than Recommended**. You will only succeed in producing stunted useless plants with huge root systems. Care should also be taken when using these products on larger flowering plants as the side effects can cause loss of flowers, etc. (see Australian Orchid Review, December 1995, page 21).



**Remember to wear your personal protection gear when using chemicals.  
Treat them all as potential hazards.**

Selection of the growing medium for the plant's life from seedling to adult and beyond is crucial. Without a good active root system to hold the plant firm in its pot and to gather food and water, it will not perform to its optimum.

### **The Basics — Purchase of plants**

**Flasks:** Look for a balance between top growth and roots. Don't look for plants that have reached the top of the flask as these could have run out of nutrients and may be harder to establish. Also, the moisture congregates on the inside of the lid and leaves against the lid will be growing "under water" and normally die off after deflasking, leaving dead tissue for you to cut off risking infection through an open cut. Select plants about two thirds of the height of the flask.

**Small Plants:** Seedlings or mericlones - look for well-established, well-grown plants that are firm in their pots. This normally means a good root system. When you get the plant home, gently slide it out of the pot and check the growing medium and the roots for health and pests. Repot into your own medium or slide back into the original pot.

**Larger Plants:** Look for live root tips and a good open potting medium. As soon as the weather permits (your normal potting time), repot into your preferred potting medium. After potting, a treatment of either of the products mentioned earlier (ONLY ONCE) will ensure the minimum of stress to the plant(s).

**Your Own Collection - Small Plants:** The same as above, don't be frightened to slide plants out of pots to check the medium and roots. If you can't get the plant back into the pot, simply pot into a larger pot it evidently needs. This can be done nearly all year. Regular potting of small plants, even every six months, is beneficial. The plants seem to respond and enjoy the fresh growing medium.

**Larger Plants:** Repot every two years. Every twelve months remove the top inch of medium and sprinkle a little Blood and Bone, then top off with new potting medium. Select your growing medium with care (see growing medium next paragraph) and if you suspect a problem is occurring, take the plant out of its pot and check. Some orchids such as Paphiopedilum, Miltoniopsis, Disa and all terrestrials should be potted every year.

### **The Basics - Growing Medium**

This is where your own cultural practices dictate the type and size of the product you use to pot your orchid into. The amount and quality of water, the type of house (shadecloth, fibreglass roof with shadecloth sides, or totally enclosed glass/fibreglass), the amount of air movement and fertilizer are all factors that place demands on your potting medium. Other factors such as very cold frosts also dictate the type of potting medium. Don't put your plants into a mix that will hold a lot of moisture if you get severe frosts. That moisture will freeze killing the plants' root system.

After some 30 years of growing orchids and trialing many potting media and additives, I still return to good composted bark. There is nothing better for a mixed genera collection. In specialist situations and with good quality water, you can use other mediums successfully.



## **New Growers Group**



# TOOWOOMBA ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

## General Meeting Minutes, 22 April 2016.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed all present at 7.30pm.

General housekeeping including toilet location and evacuation procedures were mentioned.

**Apologies.** All in attendance book plus Jan Leeming, Charlie & Erika Dedekind, Paul Noone, Neville Guppy and Peter Kajewski.

**Judges for Tonight:** Val Jellyman, Geoff Deacon and Warren Williams..

**Visitors:** Nil

**Guest Speaker:** Steven Cox to give a presentation on the Tokyo Orchid Show.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 2016 meeting, as printed in April 2016 Tan Bark, are true and correct. Moved by Brian Williams and seconded by Eunice Mahoney. Carried.

**Correspondence:** Inward accepted and outward endorsed. Bernie moved that the correspondence be accepted: seconded by Russell Anderson.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Murray Ferguson gave a summary of the bank accounts showing a credit balance in the working account of \$8,919.48. Murray moved that the financial report be accepted and accounts be passed for payment (Cracker Print \$495.00, Aus. Show Ribbons \$289.71 and TRC Info Centre \$350.00). Seconded by Trevor Deans - Carried.

### ***Management Committee Report:***

- ◆ The guest speaker for May will be Coralie Graham who is a senior lecturer at USQ in the Bachelor of Nursing to speak on stroke and stroke rehabilitation.
- ◆ Orchid Den now has a link on our web page.
- ◆ The charity for this year is Black Dog (helping with depression) with a \$500.00 donation. Mal Martin will make contact with them.

### ***Show Committee Report:***

- ◆ Mal Martin and Show Committee went through the show schedule and believe it is simpler.
- ◆ Pinking shears have been purchased.
- ◆ There will be a plant crèche at the Autumn Show .

### **General Business:**

Kev Baker gave a report on the New Growers meeting at Trevor and Marlene Deans which was well attended by 15 members.

- ⇒ He spoke about abbreviations on plant labels and their meanings and also about fertilisers. The attendees received printouts about the days topics.
- ⇒ **Wilsonton Shopping Centre.** There will be a sales display and raffle from Thursday 7 July to Saturday 9 July.

- ⇒ **Wilsonton Shopping Centre.** Thursday 8th September to Saturday 10th September for Spring Show raffle and plant sales.
- ⇒ **Bunnings.** Saturday 10th September from 8.30am to 4.00pm for a sausage sizzle.
- ⇒ **Tell Us Your Ideas and Thoughts Box.** The meeting was told about this box which will be there for members to use.
- ⇒ **Guest Speaker July.** Jody Cutajar is the July guest speaker and as he is travelling from interstate we are sending out invitations to Lockyer Valley, Ipswich, South Burnett Orchid Societies as well as NOSTI and Chinchilla Garden Club. A workshop for TOS members only will be held at David and Carolyn Woolf's home.

**The bus trip** to Kawana in June will leave from Woolf Orchid Culture at 6am.

#### **Guest Speaker    Steven Cox**

The membership was treated to a wonderful presentation on the Tokyo Orchid Show by Steven. His commentary was well received and he was thanked with a heartfelt round of applause.

The meeting then broke for supper before reassembling for the judging results and raffle draws.

**Meeting closed at 9.05pm**

**Reminder** Management Committee meeting on Monday at 8 Chamberlain Street.

# SELL BUY SWAP



**In conjunction with the New Growers Group on June 4th commencing at 2.00pm at Heather and Neville Guppy's home at 43 Noll St, Toowoomba.**

**Remember** – If you have plants spare and would like to sell them, you can bring them along to meetings and sell them. No commission is charged .

The **buy, sell & swap** will be held on 4th June in conjunction with the New Growers meeting.

Please let Heather know approximately how many plants etc. you will be bringing so that we can organise enough table space.

### Day trip to Nambour Orchid Society

#### Diamond Festival of Orchids

at Lake Kawana Community Centre.

- \* Leave Woolf Orchid Culture on 11th June at 6.00am
- \* Early lunch at Kawana at about 11-11.30am
- \* Doug and Kath Wanka's about 1.00pm
- \* Return to Toowoomba will be earlier than the advertised 6pm.



## April Meeting Results

Class	Plant Name	Owner
Australian Native Hybrid:		
Hybrid Orchid:		
Seedling Orchid:	<u>Gom.</u> Dot Burn	David and Carolyn Woolf
Novice Orchid:	<u>Lsz.</u> Lava Burst	Alyce Pope
Plant Of Interest:	<u>Pna.</u> cristata	John and Jeannie Woolf
Golden Oldie Orchid:	Z. Artur Elle 'Luke'	David and Carolyn Woolf
Foliage:	Fern	Heather and Neville Guppy
Cultural Orchid:	<u>Drac.</u> Swamp Fox	Mal Martin
Judges Choice - Hybrid - 1st:		
Judges Choice - Hybrid - 2nd:	C. Dal's Tradition 'Prestige'	David and Carolyn Woolf
Judges Choice - Hybrid - 3rd:	Z. Artur Elle 'Luke'	David and Carolyn Woolf
Judges Choice - Species - 1st:	<u>Phal.</u> tetraspis var. spot	Steve and Sonia Pope
Judges Choice - Species - 1st:	<u>Drac.</u> Swamp Fox	Mal Martin
Judges Choice - Species - 3rd:	Milt. Spectabilis var. moreliana	John and Coleen Terry
Popular Vote - Hybrid:	To be named	David and Carolyn Woolf
Popular Vote - Species:	<u>C.</u> brevipedunculata	David and Carolyn Woolf
Popular Vote - Foliage:	<u>Begonia</u> Rex	Bernie & Ann Breuel

Please note that all plant names are checked on Orchidwiz for current Genus and correct name. Ed.

Any changes highlighted. Please contact me if you require confirmation of names.



**Gom. Dot Burn**



**Z. Artur Elle 'Luke'**



**Drac. Swamp Fox**



**Phal. tetraspis var. spot**



**Rlc. Dal's Tradition 'Prestige'**

**Pots, fertiliser, bark and accessories are available from Heather Guppy at 43 Noll Street, Kearneys Spring.**

**Phone 4635 6868.**

**Contact Heather for prices.**

**Happy Diners at the  
Bull and Barley in  
Cambooya.**



**Garden Definitions:**

Knee - A device for finding rocks in your garden.

Green Fingers - Something everyone else has plenty of.

Perennial - This year, possibly; next year, unlikely.

Seed catalogue - A work of fiction with fantasy photos.

Spade - Highly efficient back-pain generator.

**Thought for the month!**

*Today is a good  
day and I can do  
this.*

*Don't forget to please  
bring something for the  
May meeting supper.*

*Thanks!*

*Pumping & Irrigation Products*

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**Downs Water**  
WAREHOUSE



A Cat. Not to be confused  
with a Cattleya.

**Don't Forget -  
Next Meeting 27th  
May 2016**