

TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



November 2017

Christmas Party!

17 November 2017

Sitting @ 6.30pm

*Blue Mountain Hotel
264 New England Hwy
Harlaxton*

Meetings:

Fourth Friday of each month at 7.30pm, except September and 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 Peter Neylon

Graham Little

TOOWOOMBA ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

Meeting Minutes dated 27th October 2017

The President opened the meeting at 7.40pm

Welcomed members

HOUSEKEEPING; - Toilets, Evacuation Procedure – familiarise yourself with it etc. Legal requirements. Also please ensure you've signed the attendance book for fire safety reasons.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tony Beck has travelled a long distance to talk to us about Bulbo's.

JUDGES FOR TONIGHT M Martin, C Crees, P Neylon

NEW MEMBERS -several present- welcomed by the president.

VISITORS: Welcomed by the president.

APOLOGIES: - Apologies to be logged in attendance book. Please pass round the attendance book to ensure its signed by everyone.

MINUTES: Moved - I Anderson and seconded by V Reid that the minutes of the August meeting as printed in Tanbark are correct?

All those in favour – carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Secretary gave us a brief report on the correspondence for the month

Correspondence – Last month's Management Committee minutes available.

Various orchid club newsletters, email inquiry regarding membership.

Outwards- welcome letters to new members.

Inwards correspondence be accepted and outward endorsed, Moved C Harriman, seconded V Reid – carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: - Treasurer gave us an insight into our finances.

Accounts- from last month listed.

Credit balance in working account of \$15,592.96

M Ferguson moved that the financial report be accepted and all accounts tabled be passed for payment.

Seconded by V Reid.

All those in favour – carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Summer Show- slight financial loss but plant sales went well and an excellent display of orchids. Well done everyone.

2. Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on 10th December, 16th December & another on 4th March

3. Bus Trip 4th November postponed to March 2nd (Friday) 2018 – cost will be \$20-numbers to be advised by January meeting.

- 4. Christmas Party** – Blue Mountains Hotel – 17th November – sit down at 6.30pm
– Cost to members \$10 – non members \$20 limited numbers.
- 5.** We will be speaking to the **Bunnings Garden Club** on 31st October.
- 6. Spring Show/ Summer Show** – Balance Sheets were displayed for members.
- 7. New Growers Group** – at D Woolf's place 3rd December (Sunday) – all welcome
– novice growers are asked to bring their worst plant along to exchange for a new one.

General business was suspended to enable Tony to present his talk.

Tony Beck on Bulbos- many different colours and sizes, fertilize every week, like moist conditions, open mix. Very interesting talk and well received.

President & members thanked Tony.

Supper Break

Cent Auction- went well- three new members won orchids to add to their collections.

Kev's Corner- Kev picked out a species orchid from those tabled- Pyp. Papilio - (D. Woolf). This plant doesn't like the cold or to be divided.

Winners on the bench tonight- Peter Neylon gave a rundown of plants tabled.

Spring and summer show trophies were presented to those members present.

Thanks everyone for coming. Drive safely & see you at the Christmas Party at the Blue Mountains Hotel on 17th November. Meeting closed 9.40pm.



Sausage Sizzle Helpers Needed!

***10th December at old Bunnings and
16th December at the new Bunnings***

October 2017 Meeting Results

Class	Plant Name	Owner
Novice Hybrid	<u>Den.</u> griffithianum x Farmeri-Thyrsiflorum	Peter Kajewski
Novice Species	<u>Chil.</u> grammata	Peter Kajewski
Novice Seedling	Nil benched	
Judges Choice Novice	<u>Den.</u> griffithianum x Farmeri-Thyrsiflorum	Peter Kajewski
Open Hybrid	<u>Onc.</u> Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	Russell & Inge Anderson
Open Species	<u>Den.</u> chrysotoxum	Trevor Deans
Open Seedling	Nil benched	
Judges Choice Open	<u>Onc.</u> Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	Russell & Inge Anderson
Master Hybrid	<u>Onc.</u> Cameo Moonlight	David & Carolyn Woolf
Master Species	<u>Phal.</u> bastiani	Murray & Kath Ferguson
Master Seedling	<u>Phrag.</u> Waunakee Sunset x Rosalie Dixler	David & Carolyn Woolf
Judges Choice Master	<u>Phal.</u> bastiani	Murray & Kath Ferguson
Judges Choice Overall	<u>Den.</u> griffithianum x Farmeri-Thyrsiflorum	Peter Kajewski
Popular Vote	<u>B.</u> flagellaris	Charlie & Erika Dedekind

A word from the President.

Last month I commented that the plants and I were glad to return home from the spring show. Then to front up again less than a month later for another show would be crazy – no new plants could be out yet. Or would they?

I'm always amazed and excited by the wonderful rollup of members and plants at each show and the summer show was no exception. Last year we had a poor showing of *Sarcochilus* but this year we had heaps. Certainly gave the judges a workout finding Champion Sarc. But they did and all the other champions associated with a show. Well done everyone.

We had Tony Beck along to speak to us on *Bulbophyllums* this month and as always it was a good presentation with lots of interest judging by all the questions both to Tony and afterwards. While Tony lives and grows in a different climate, we certainly got an idea of what is possible given a little care.

The genus *Bulbophyllum* is the largest group in the orchid kingdom with over 3,500 different species.

With so many different species you'd imagine that they would be a hybridists dream but by comparison to other genera they are relatively untouched. Something I'm looking forward to.

The club was approached to give a talk to the Bunnings Garden Club on the 31st of October and a good night was had by all. David gave a very entertaining talk to the garden club with many interesting questions being posed. Thanks David.

With the weather warming and some rain recently, the plants (and the lawn) seem to have really jumped away. I hope your repotting is further advanced than mine.

I have been asked about the next New Growers Group meeting and am happy to report that the next one will be at David and Carolyn's home on Sunday the 3rd of December at 2.00pm. This will be a great opportunity for new growers to bring along their worst plant and exchange it for a new one.

I'm told Andrew Neylon will also give us an insight into moving small plants out of compots so don't miss it.

Good growing.

John

Happy Diners: For further information, see Kev Baker or phone 4632 4952

7 December 2017	Withcott Hotel, Warrego Hwy, Withcott	11.45am

WHAT SIZE POT SHOULD I USE? by Brian Milligan

It probably depends to some extent on the genus you plan to repot but in general one should use a pot large enough to accommodate one or two year's extra growth but no more. I fully agree with Alfred Smollet, who in 1927 wrote in *The Orchid Review* "I am a great believer in small pots. A common error with beginners is using pots unreasonably large. All beginners in Orchid growing are optimists, and the large pot is the outward and visible sign of this optimism". One of the main problems in using overly large pots is that the potting mix tends to remain wet for too long after watering, especially in winter.

The choice of pot size is largely a matter of common sense. When the orchid is knocked from its pot, cursory examination will show that, in most cases, the majority of its roots run around the circumference of the pot in preference to filling the pot completely. And if you examine their condition you will generally find that those growing around the perimeter are in a much healthier state than those in the centre of the mix. Dome® pots are designed with a dome in their bottom to eliminate the area most prone to root decay. An alternative is to place a small, inverted pot in the base of a larger one before repotting. Cymbidium roots of a healthy plant generally fill the entire pot and remain in good condition for a couple of years. But thereafter, as the bark begins to decay, the roots in the centre of the pot are usually the first to deteriorate.

It's also important when repotting to ensure that the drainage holes in the pot are unblocked. Plastic pots made using old dies (moulds) sometimes have the drainage holes partly or fully blocked with plastic. It's important to open the drainage holes fully, using a lino knife or similar sharp implement. Sometimes I enlarge the holes at the same time to provide extra drainage. Some growers use an electric drill or hot soldering iron to make extra drainage holes in their cymbidium pots and swear that it results in faster growth.

Pots are produced in a variety of shapes and heights, some with far more drainage holes than others. Best of all, in my opinion, are Port Pots®, which have an extensive network of drainage holes in their bottom. In general, shallow pots seem to suit Australian native dendrobiums best. Net pots, designed to provide excellent drainage, certainly do that but they dry out quickly and therefore need to be watered twice as often as pots with fewer drainage holes. Oncidium seedlings do well for me in them but the roots tend to grow in and out through the mesh holes. This leads to problems at repotting time - either one cuts off the offending roots or one simply puts the whole pot into a larger one and tops up with new mix; each procedure has its disadvantages.

The above discussion refers to plastic pots, by far the most common in general use. But the older pots made of baked clay (terra cotta) are useful in certain cases. Because they are porous, water evaporates from their exterior, producing a cooling effect, which can be beneficial in hot weather. However, this is a disadvantage in winter, when it's better to keep the roots warm. Some growers prefer clay pots or saucers for temperamental orchids, such as *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* and *Sarcochilus ceciliae*, which need a reliable supply of water but hate 'wet feet'. But in general I believe that black plastic pots are better, especially in winter when they help to warm the roots whenever the sun shines on them. Article reprinted with the kind permission of OSCOV.

Folks,
 Just got word from Jim Brown that he has collected quite a lot of aged hardwood & Ironbark in all differing sizes.
 If you're planning on mounting some orchids this is probably for you.
 Call Jim on 0488 293 369 to arrange pickup.

The club now has a supply of Rutek Growth Formula.
 The product is said to encourage root growth.
 The price to members only will be \$7 for 1 Litre
 Please order from Heather on 4635 6868.

Note: Cash only for Heather and Neville please.

Phone : 46356868

Squat Pots		Standard Pots	
Size	Price Each	Size	Price Each
80mm	30c	100mm (tall)	25c
100mm	20c	100mm	20c
125mm	35c	120mm (old stock)	15c
140mm	50c	125mm	25c
175mm	50c	140mm	30c
200mm	60c	180mm	50c
270mm	\$1.50	200mm	60c
100mm Orchid Pot	40c	250mm	\$1.20
125mm Orchid Pot	55c	Saucers 200mm	70c
150mm Orchid Pot	75c	Saucer 300mm	\$1.55
175mm Orchid Pot	\$1.20	Plant Clips Small	11c
200mm Orchid Pot	\$2.20	Plant Clips Medium	12c
140mm Labels	\$3.50 per 50	Plant Clips Large	30c
100mm Labels	\$3.20 per 50	Bark (Orchiata)	\$26
Pot hangers (360mm)	30c each	Perlite Coarse	\$30
Pot hangers (500mm)	\$2.00	Perlite Super Coarse	\$32
Bamboo Stakes 45cm	80c per 10	Perlite Jumbo	\$41
Bamboo Stakes 60cm	\$1.20 per 10	Plantacote Fertiliser Top K	\$6/kg

New Growers Group 3rd December 2.00pm

At David and Carolyn Woolfs'

607 Greenwattle Street, Toowoomba

Please bring a chair and a plate to share.



Spring Show Presentations



John Terry thanking Tony Beck for the very informative talk on Bulbophyllums



Val Reid receives the Champion Novice trophy



Cec & Di Crees, Grand Champions



Reserve Champion, John Terry



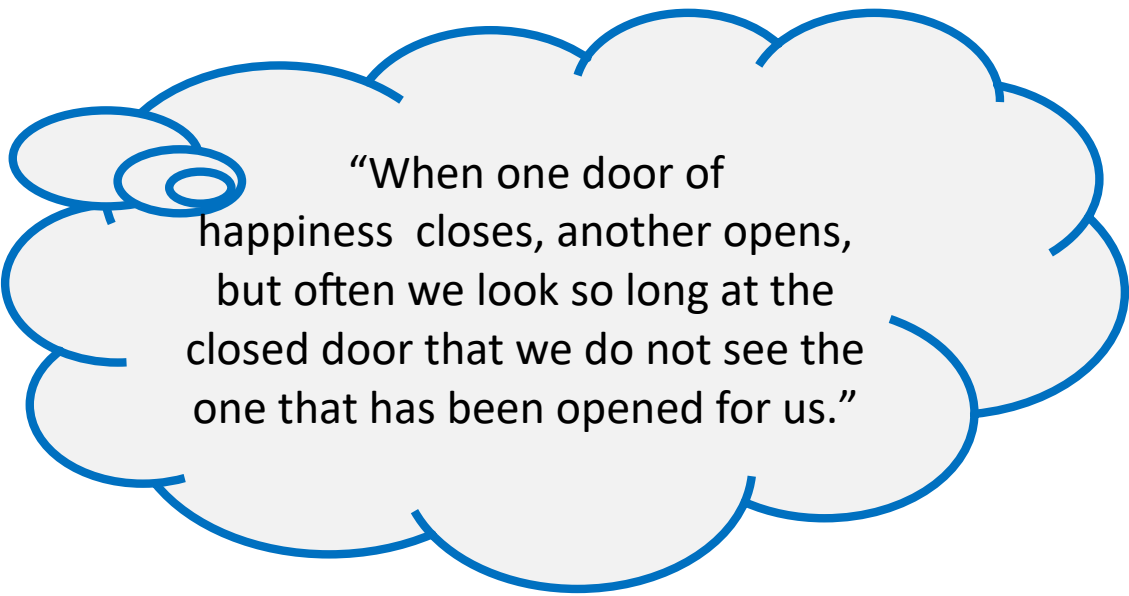
Supper at the meeting

Please bring along a small plate of nibbles for our general meetings.

Your offering is greatly appreciated.



Thought for the month!



“When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us.”

Pumping & Irrigation Products

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Downs Water
WAREHOUSE

Remember -
Next Meeting
25th November 2017