

TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



October 2017

Summer Show!

21 October

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St Paul's Lutheran

Church Hall

Cnr James & Phillip Sts

Toowoomba

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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

15 Amazing Facts About Orchids

Did you know that certain species of Orchid can survive up to 100 years? And that Orchids have the largest variety of flowers with the number of officially documented species standing at an amazing 25,000 plus? With so much variety, it should be no surprise that there are some amazing facts about Orchids that are not widely known.

Except for areas with extreme hot or cold weather, Orchids practically grow everywhere in the world and scientist are discovering more new species as days go by.

Here are 15 amazing facts about this special flower, which you will definitely find very fascinating...

The size of orchids depends on the species. They can be very tiny or extremely large, weighing over a hundred kilograms. Grammatophyllum are medium-sized to very large orchids, including the giant orchid (Grammatophyllum speciosum), believed to be the largest orchid species in existence. Its pseudobulbs can grow to a length of 2.5 m. Plztystele jungermannioides, which is believed to be the smallest orchid in the world grows a measly 2mm. Orchid plants can develop into gigantic clusters weighing from several hundred kilograms to one tonne. The roots form spectacular bundles.

- Each orchid flower is bilateral symmetric, which means that it can be divided in two equal parts.
- Size, shape and texture of leaves depend on the habitat. Orchids that live in dry climates have thick leaves covered with wax, while species that live in warm and humid areas have thin, elongated leaves. Certain species of orchids do not have leaves at all.
- Orchids do not have usual roots. They have rhizome, tuber or aerial roots.
- Orchids can live on the ground (terrestrial forms), attached to woody plants (epiphytic types) or under the ground.
- Certain species of orchids are parasitic. They are not able to produce food (sugar) using the sunlight and carbon dioxide (like other plants). Instead, they obtain food from fungi that live inside their roots.

Bond between orchids and certain species of insects is tight and highly specialized. Petals have similar shape and colour like female insects to attract males and ensure pollination. Ophrys apifera, better known as the **Bee Orchid, lures male bees with its enticing smell and bee like appearance**. When a male bee approaches the flower to mate, it becomes covered in pollen and is sent off to pollinate the next orchid it visits.

- Due to high specialization of pollination, extinction of insect means extinction of orchid (there is no one else who can pollinate it in the wild).
- Flowers of orchids can survive from a few hours to 6 months, depending on the species.
- Orchids produce several millions of miniature seeds. Only a few seeds will develop into a mature plant.
- The genus Orchis comes from an Ancient Greek word meaning "testicle"; because of the shape of the bulbous roots. The term "orchid",

- Orchid seeds do not have an endosperm which provides nutrients required for the germination. Due to this fact all orchids (including non-parasitic forms) live in symbiosis with fungi during germination. Germination can last from a couple of weeks to 15 years.
People use orchids for numerous purposes. Substances isolated from orchids are used in industry of perfumes, spices and in traditional Asian medicine.
- Vanilla is one of the best known and widely used flavours. It is extracted from the pod of *Vanilla planifolia*, which is a species of orchid.
Orchids are very old plants. According to the fossil evidences, orchids have existed on the planet around 100 million years.

I have several items to let you know:-

- Your **Plant sales** proceeds now available from Murray. Please phone first on 0439953629.
- **A plant is missing** – Labelled Onc. Sunlight – Number 298 on the card label. If you have taken it by mistake please let me know so it can be re-united with its rightful owner.
- A company selling **charcoal** wants to be present at our Summer show and will bring any orders placed. Small size is 5 – 12mm, Large is 12-25mm and Biochar is 2 – 5mm. Bag sizes & prices;- 50 litre bags are \$25, 20 litre bags are \$13 & 8 litre bags are \$5 – let John Terry know if you wish to order some.

Bus trip – 4th November to Tweed OS show & several orchid nurseries time permitting. Names needed asap.

Summer Show Trophies - back to Rhonda & Rudy asap.

Christmas Party - 17th November at Blue Mountains Hotel. Numbers are limited so names in as soon as possible.

Guest speaker next meeting – Tony Beck on Bulbo's.

A small Cent Sale with select prizes at next meeting so bring \$\$\$\$\$. Part of Christmas Party Fundraising.

Summer show 21st October – plant lists in by midnight Monday 16th
Setup hall 3.00pm Friday 20th – Plants in 4.30 – 6.00pm
Judging 7.30pm – helpers needed.

A word from the President.

I know we're not getting any younger but I must say both the plants and I were very glad to get home from the spring show. It's a long haul but immensely satisfying to put on such an event which the public and members alike really appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who brought along plants. What a display. I had comments from regular visitors that it may have been our best yet and if not our finest for many years. One thing we have in Toowoomba is diversity of genera and we have growers who grow them well. Congratulations to all exhibitors.

Thanks to all the members who gave freely of their time and to others who had less free time to give but gave anyway. It's good to see everyone helping out.

I won't go through all the specific groups of workers as I hope I thanked everyone at the show but I have been asked by quite a number of members to thank the group who worked hard in the Kitchen to keep us and the public supplied with quality food. To Bernie and his team, some of whom weren't even members – thank you. I must also thank all members who baked the lovely cakes, biscuits and slices that provided us with a diverse range of home baked goodies.

Our sales table was very sparse on the last couple of days so perhaps we should all look to growing a few extras for next year or the club may need to boost numbers somehow. Perhaps the show and management committees should address this problem.

We have a busy time coming up with our next show on the 21 st of October, (before our next meeting), just one day this time but it still takes time and effort to organise. We have a bus trip planned for the 4 th of November to the Tweed District O.S. show and a visit to a couple of orchid nurseries if time permits. Price will be number dependant but will be kept to a minimum as proceeds of our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle (10th December) will help out. Once again, it all takes time to organise so names in to me as soon as possible please.

Then later in November – the 17th actually will be our Christmas Party to be held this year at the Blue Mountains Hotel so that should be fun as well. Names to Carolyn or Sonia please at the October meeting.

Next meeting we have Tony Beck as a guest speaker. He will be speaking on Bulbophyllums. So don't miss that.

See you at the summer show. Good growing.

John

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

2 November 2017	Wilsonton Hotel, 40 Richmond Drive	11.45am
7 December 2017	Withcott Hotel, Warrego Hwy, Withcott	11.45am

Upcoming shows in other districts 2017

When	What	Where
7, 8 October	Hervey Bay Orchid Show	PCYC, O'Rourke Street, Pialba
21, 22 October	Queensland Orchid Society Show	Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
27, 28 October	Nambour Orchid Species Show & Trade Fair	Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Avenue, Nambour
28, 29 October	North Moreton Orchid Council Show	Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha

**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	25c	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
150mm Port Pot	75c	250mm	\$1.20
175mm Port Pot	\$1.20	Saucers 200mm	70c
140mm Labels	\$3.50 per 50	Coco Husk (Orchidmate)	\$15
100mm Labels	\$5.00 per 100	Bark (Orchiata)	\$28
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

Spring Show 2017

C. intermedia 'Valley View'



Phrag. Waunakee Sunset x Rosalie Dixler



C. intermedia Órlata'



Clo. Brown's Delight



A couple of Cymbidiums that do so well in Toowoomba



Inge keeping the vendors and members fed



A delighted visitor enjoying our show



Some of the gorgeous cut flower display



Con enjoying the atmosphere at the show



Den. Groster x kingianum



David Woolf serves a mean pot of tea



Di and Inge manning the craft stall





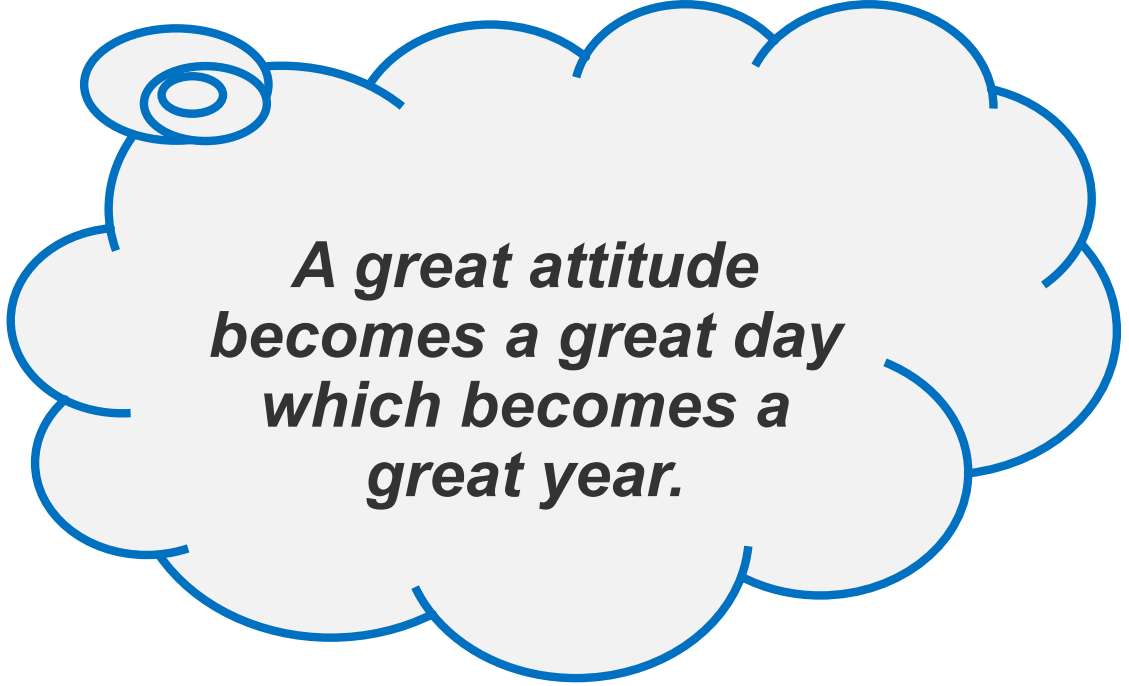
Supper at the meeting

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

Your offering is greatly appreciated.



Thought for the month!



*A great attitude
becomes a great day
which becomes a
great year.*

Pumping & Irrigation Products

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Ph: (07) 4634 3003 · www.downswater.com.au

Email: info@downswater.com.au

Downs Water
WAREHOUSE

**Remember -
Next Meeting
27th October 2017**