

TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



**August
2018**

Next Meeting

24th August

7.30pm

Please return all Spring Show

Trophies this meeting

New Growers

Sat. 25 August 2.00pm

At the home of Julie Lack

232 Fuller Rd, Southbrook

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 January—Family \$25.00 / Single \$25.00

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TOOWOOMBA ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

Meeting Minutes dated 27th July 2018

The President opened the meeting at 7.25pm and welcomed members.

HOUSEKEEPING: - Toilets, Evacuation Procedure – mentioned. Also members urged to familiarise themselves with the procedure.

GUEST SPEAKER: Ross Pedley will tell us all about growing Hoya's.

JUDGES FOR TONIGHT Peter Neylon, Cec Crees & John Woolf.

NEW MEMBERS - Roger and Davia Nicholson have been approved and were warmly welcomed.

VISITORS: nil

SICK LIST: Nil

MINUTES: Moved A Neylon, seconded S Keen that the minutes of the June meeting as printed in Tanbark are correct.
All those in favour – carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A brief report on the correspondence for the month;
Last month's Management Committee minutes available.
Various newsletters. Show Invitations and cancellations.
Secretary moved that correspondence be accepted and outward endorsed, Seconded by Roy Anderson. Carried.

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

Credit balance in working account of: \$7,157.19

Total Income for the month: \$426.15

Total expenses for the month: \$2,000.17

Bernie moved that the financial report be accepted and all accounts tabled be passed for payment. Seconded V Reid. Carried.

The president explained the high expenses this month was due to over \$1,100 for our annual insurance.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. New growers group is at David & Caroline's on Sunday 5th August at 2.00pm. Don't forget a chair and a plate for afternoon tea.
2. Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings North on 28th July – That's tomorrow. Roster here tonight – apologies for giving out incorrect information.
3. Club shirts. Some progress: the meeting agreed with the MC suggestion to purchase Polo type club shirts at a cost to members of \$25 for 2 pockets with embroidery and \$20 without pockets. Club to purchase shirts and a fitting out of members prior to embroidery.
4. The winter show; while successful florally was not well patronised by the public. The thought that it was held on the same weekend as the Nambour Garden Festival may have detracted from the attendance numbers. The event showed a small profit of \$65.76 but in terms of members' sales, a total of \$3442 being returned to members from plant sales.
4. Bark orders taken tonight – order will be placed and available in next few weeks. Members to be advised of time and pickup point. Payment at that time.

6. Two members of this club have been asked to present papers at the 13th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference in 2019.
7. President John reported on AOC conference at South Windsor last weekend. Attendance was very poor and the event was poorly organised. He gave a short Power point presentation and told members that we can be very proud of the 2015 conference staged by our club.
8. We have another Sausage Sizzle rostered for 10th November at Bunnings West.
9. Winter Show Trophies & prizes were distributed. Congratulations to all concerned.
10. Members were advised to return Spring show trophies by next meeting.
11. Bruce Vayro spoke on an upcoming Kabi show on the 18-19th August at the Strathpine Community Centre.

Ross Pedley then gave us a delightful insight into growing Hoya plants. The similarity to epiphytic orchids was amazing. Many questions ensued and Ross was warmly thanked by members.

Kev Baker gave a short segment on several species; *Paph. appletonianum* and *Ddc. javieriense* – both species easily grown and worthy of a place in the orchid house.

John Woolf gave us a run down on the winners on the bench tonight – well done all.

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm – President wished all a safe trip home and would meet again at the Sausage Sizzle tomorrow.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS – AN OVERVIEW by Julian Coker

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Australia is relatively rich in its native orchid population with over 750 different species. Two thirds of these grow in the ground – the terrestrials, and one third on trees or rocks – the epiphytes or lithophytes. The major populations occur along the eastern seaboard in New South Wales and Queensland, in Victoria and south-eastern South Australia and in the south-western corner of Western Australia. Some species extend across northern Australia and others to the west of the Great Dividing Range but few are found where the rainfall is below 400 mm per year.

A strong Asian and New Guinean influence is found in the orchids of northern Queensland. This decreases as we move south and is totally absent in southwest Western Australia. Between southeast Australia and Tasmania there is a similarity with species found in New Zealand. Many terrestrial species and in some cases whole genera are endemic to Australia. Many terrestrials grow with a specific fungus in a shared relationship. This is referred to as symbiosis. If that particular fungus is lost, the orchid dies, which explains why so many terrestrials are difficult or impossible to maintain in cultivation.

Flower size is generally small (commonly 50 to 200 mm across) compared to the commonly seen exotic orchids, such as *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Phalaenopsis* etc. However this is adequately compensated by their great diversity in shape, colour and delicate perfume. Every colour is represented in the terrestrials including black and blue, and their diversity in shape is incredible. Flower count varies from one in some species to over one hundred per stem and many thousands per specimen plant. The smallest of all flowers is found in the genus *Bulbophyllum*, where the whole flower of some species is only a few millimetres across. The majority of native orchids flower in spring. However, there are many that flower at other times and some flower more than once a year. Flowering time depends on latitude for widely dispersed species, being earlier in the north and at lower altitudes.

Although common names are frequently used by the layperson or orchid-newcomer, the botanical name is to be preferred. Initially this often appears daunting but once mastered the botanical name is totally specific, compared with a common name, which may describe different orchids in different areas. Thus the term spider orchid is commonly applied to many different orchids throughout the world, but if we mean the particular spider orchids that grow across southern Australia we use the name *Caladenia*.

This is equivalent to our surname, and to distinguish between the various spider orchids we use a further name equivalent to our given names, e.g., *Caladenia dilatata*, *Caladenia carnea* etc. Other examples include the donkey orchid – *Diuris*, the greenhood – *Pterostylis*, the waxlip orchid – *Glossodia*, etc.

The terrestrials are found especially in the southern states, including Tasmania, but also extend up the eastern seaboard. Moisture and sunlight are the most critical factors governing their growth and flowering, so that they are usually found in open forests, natural grasslands, coastal heaths and swamplands. They are generally found in poorer soils, because the undergrowth and trees commonly overgrow them in richer soils. Areas with a rainfall of at least 750 – 1000 mm per year are preferred, although some species are found in the Mallee and the alpine areas. The terrestrials grow from a fleshy tuber and have a definite annual cycle, controlled mainly by soil moisture. Following a dry period, generally the summer, and under the stimulation of increased soil moisture, a shoot forms, grows through the surface of the soil and develops leaves and commonly a flower stem and flower, prior to dying back in the late spring. If fertilization occurs this process is extended whilst seed is produced and dispersed. Prior to dying back, the next season's tuber is produced, and with colony orchids several tubers are produced. These colony-forming orchids, such as *Pterostylis*, *Diuris*, *Chiloglottis*, etc., are those most easily introduced into cultivation. They may be grown in shallow containers in a mixture of equal parts of well-decayed humus, coarse river sand, and friable bush loam. The tubers are planted (preferably during the resting phase) to a depth of 30 – 50 mm and the surface covered with coarse sand or *Casuarina* needles. Enough water is provided during the resting stage to prevent desiccation, and this is increased during the growing stage. Perfect drainage is essential and nylon fly wire placed in the bottom of the pot helps to prevent pests entering and damaging the roots and tubers.

Tubers may be lifted each year or left undisturbed. They may only be collected from their natural habitat on private property, with the owner's permission. It is generally best to remove the natural soil and replant them in the suggested mix. The species most suitable for hobby cultivation are *Pterostylis nutans*, *Pterostylis curta*, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *Diuris pedunculata*, *Diuris maculata*, and *Chiloglottis gunnii*. With more experience, other species from these genera and also *Spiranthes*, *Thelymitra*, and *Caladenia* may be attempted. Do not attempt to grow *Caladenia*, *Glossodia* or *Prasophyllum* species or *Dipodium punctatum*, as they are all difficult or impossible to maintain in cultivation.

Terrestrials may be grown without any heat in all states, all the year, either in the garden or in a bush house. They prefer 50% shade, adequate air movement and a weak fertiliser during the growing season. Avoid frost and be on constant watch for snails, slugs and aphids.

The epiphytes and lithophytes are found mainly in the tropical rainforests of northern Queensland and from southern Queensland to northern and mid New South Wales. Only five species extend into eastern Victoria, two into Tasmania and three across to northern Western Australia. Some, such as *Dendrobium falcorostrum* and *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*, are found in relatively confined areas around the Queensland/New South Wales border. Others such as *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Cymbidium suave* extend along the full eastern seaboard, while *Cymbidium canaliculatum* extends across northern Australia. Mean temperature is the main determining factor that controls their range. True epiphytes use the trees or rocks simply for support and gain their nutrition from the humus that collects about their roots or from minerals dissolved in the water that passes over them. They are the native orchids most amenable to cultivation, especially *Dendrobium*, *Cymbidium* and *Sarcochilus* species.

Dendrobium is the major Australian epiphytic genus with over 50 species. Within this there are two major groups. The warm growing includes Dendrobium bigibbum (the Cooktown Orchid) and Dendrobium discolor (the Antelope Orchid), while the cool-growing group includes Dendrobium kingianum (the Rock Orchid), Dendrobium speciosum (the King Orchid) and the fleshy-leafed variety Dockrillia teretifolia (syn. Dendrobium teretifolium, the Bridal Veil Orchid). The warm-growing varieties require a heated glasshouse during the winter in the southern states, whilst the cool growing species may be grown in a shade house.

Epiphytes may be grown either on a slab or in a suitable potting mix. Some may be grown either way. With slab culture a stable surface must be provided. Thus well-weathered hardwood or tree fern, cork or various stable fissured barks such as Casuarina or Melaleuca may be used. If a plant is not already established, it must be fastened to a suitable slab with nylon cord or galvanised staples. The root area should be covered with a wad of Sphagnum moss during the initial stages. It is essential that the plant be firmly secured at this stage so that movement cannot damage the root tips before the roots have had time to adhere to the slab. The slab is then hung in a well-ventilated area with 30 – 50% shade, and watered and fertilised during the growing season. At this time water should be applied copiously and then the root area allowed to partially dry before the next watering. During the cooler months watering should be decreased in proportion to the activity of the plant.

Container culture is more appropriate for cooler-growing dendrobiums and their hybrids. terracotta saucers with holes added, squat plastic pots, baskets and even hollow logs are appropriate, provided drainage is adequate. A suitable compost is made from 3 parts of 5 – 8 mm weathered pine bark and 1 part of coarse river sand. Re-potting should be done in the warmer months after flowering, when active new growth begins. Provide 30 – 50% shade together with adequate air movement. Regular fertilising with a balanced fertiliser provides for optimum culture. As with slab culture, water copiously during the growing season and taper this off during the cooler months.

Rapid development is occurring in hybridizing programmes involving native dendrobiums and excellent results are being achieved. Older hybrids are being re-made with superior parents and new hybrids are being developed between the Dendrocoryne and Phalaenanthe groups. These are yielding cooler growing plants that have larger flowers and a wider colour range. These hybrids provide an exciting challenge for those willing to try to grow them. The native cymbidiums and sarcochilus are amenable to culture but are generally not as easy to maintain in cultivation. Of these Sarcochilus hartmannii is probably the best one to try first. With sarcochilus hybrids, the use of the totally purple-red cultivar Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' and species such as Sarcochilus hirticalcar are opening new horizons.

As well as the above type of culture, dendrobiums especially may be grown in the garden in specially prepared beds, or on rocks, stumps or trees. Those suitable for garden culture include Dendrobium kingianum, Dendrobium speciosum and Dendrobium falcorostrum and many of the hybrids between them, such as D. Bardo Rose, D. Delicatum and D. Hilda Poxon. They require a position that provides morning and early afternoon sun, with protection from the hot afternoon sun, drying winds and frost. In time these plants will grow to specimen size and provide dramatic displays during the flowering season.

Some species are threatened with extinction due to man's encroachment into their natural habitats. Hopefully, adequate nature reserves will be established for their preservation. Where appropriate, the collection and cultivation of some of these unique gems may be necessary if they are to survive and be enjoyed. Selected outcrossing of choice clones is also very appropriate and superior clones are resulting from this approach. Native orchids are part of our natural heritage and together with recent advances in hybridisation for colour, shape and multiple flowering time, combined with their delicate perfumes and massed flowering displays, they provide a most desirable addition to any collection.

From the President's Desk

The winter show may not have been the financial windfall we had hoped with just over a hundred patrons through the doors in two days but once again the quality and numbers of beautiful plants exhibited was amazing. Well done to all winners and thank you to everyone who made it such a spectacle. Plant sales saw over \$3400 returned to members so that was worthwhile.

I feel we should be looking at cutting the Sunday opening back to lunchtime as very few members of the public passed through the door after midday. Given the limited attendance it may be prudent to cut out the second day altogether. A matter for the show and management committees to consider.

Our latest Sausage Sizzle was a great success with the event raising over \$1180 for the club and a fun time was had by all. As a club, we say thank you to all the members who could help out. Based on the warm daytime temperatures recently it won't be long before repotting will start in earnest. Don't forget if you need bark we will be ordering bark within the next week so if you need some, it would pay to let me know as soon as possible.

The New Growers group on the 5th was another informative afternoon enjoyed by 15 members. Unfortunately I couldn't attend but given the lovely weather I'm sure it was a great get-together. Spring show is only weeks away so make sure you are training any plants that may need it. Please return any spring show trophies you may have to the August meeting or get them to Peter and Glenda Neylon as soon as possible.

The club is in need of several members to familiarise themselves with the operation of our EFTPOS equipment as at the moment it seems to be left up to just a couple.

Last show we needed to have 10 tablecloths laundered as the result of plants being watered too close to show time and leaking through the pot and marking the table covering. If you have plants that may leak, please bring a saucer to put under the pot to save the club the expense of laundry. As usual we'll need lots of helpers at setup time and over the 5 days of the show so if you can spare some time for your club it would be much appreciated. We'll have a roster at the next meeting.

Scribes and runners also required for judging night. A roster for that will also be available at the next meeting.

Until next time,

Good growing.

John

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

6th Sept 2018	Gowrie Road Hotel, 208 Bridge St, Newtown	11.45am
4th October 2018	Meringandan Hotel, Main St, Meringandan	11.45am
1st Nov 2018	Murphy's Creek Tavern, 3 Thursa St, Murphy's Ck.	11.45am

July 2018 Meeting Results

Class	Plant Name	Owner
Novice Hybrid	<u>Onc.</u> Tsiku Marguerite	P Kajewski
Novice Species	<u>Dcd.</u> <i>javierense</i>	V & I Reid
Novice Seedling	<u>Nil</u>	
Judges Choice Novice	<u>Onc.</u> Tsiku Marguerite	P Kajewski
Open Hybrid	<u>Den.</u> Jesmond Treasure x Jesmond Gold	A Neylon
Open Species	<u>Pths.</u> <i>stricta</i>	T Deans
Open Seedling	Nil	
Judges Choice Open	<u>Pths.</u> <i>stricta</i>	T Deans
Master Hybrid	<u>Paph.</u> Nerida 'Rudak	J & C Terry
Master Species	<u>Paph.</u> <i>appletonianum</i>	J & C Terry
Master Seedling	<u>Phrag.</u> Waunakee Sunset x Rosalie Dixler	J & C Terry
Judges Choice Master	<u>Phrag.</u> Waunakee Sunset x Rosalie Dixler	J & C Terry
Judges Choice Overall		
Popular Vote	<u>Oncsa.</u> Sweet Sugar	T Deans

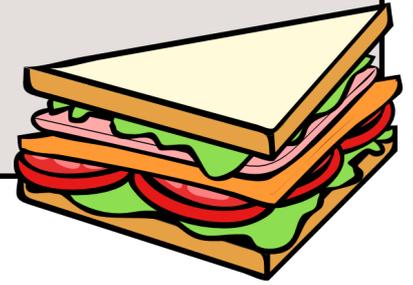
***Member Prices* Note: Cash only for Heather and Neville please. Phone : 46356868**

Squat Pot 100mm	\$0.20	Standard Pot 100mm (Tall)	\$0.25
Squat Pot 125mm	\$0.30	Standard Pot 100mm	\$0.20
Squat Pot 140mm	\$0.35	Standard Pot 125mm	\$0.25
Squat Pot 175mm	\$0.50	Standard Pot 140mm	\$0.30
Squat Pot 200mm	\$0.60	Standard Pot 180mm	\$0.50
Orchid Pot 70mm	\$0.25	Standard Pot 200mm	\$0.60
Orchid Pot 100mm	\$0.40	Standard Pot 250mm	\$1.20
Orchid Pot 125mm	\$0.55	Saucer 200mm	\$0.70
Orchid Pot 150mm	\$0.70	Saucer 300mm	\$1.55
Orchid Pot 175mm	\$1.20	Pot Hangers 360mm (Pack)	\$3.00
Orchid Pot 200mm	\$2.20	Pot Hangers 500mm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Small (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 45cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Medium (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 60cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Large (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 90cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Labels 100mm (Pack)	\$3.00	Pencil- Stabilo 8008	\$3.50
Labels 140mm (Pack)	\$3.00	Coco Husk	\$16.00
Orchiata Bark 40L	\$25.00	Cymbidium Mix (Pack)	\$8.00
Perlite Super Coarse (Pack)	\$8.00	Sphagnum Moss (Pack)	\$8.00
Orchid Mix 6-9mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Charcoal Fine (Pack)	\$8.00
Orchid Mix 9-12mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Charcoal Medium 20L	\$20.00
Orchid Mix 12-18mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Plantacote Fertiliser Top K 1kg	\$8.00
Rutec Root Booster 1L	\$8.00	Plant Stand-Short	\$20.00
Rutec Growth Booster 1L	\$10.00	Plant Stand-Long	\$22.00



Supper at the meeting

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



Thought for the month!

The most highly coveted of ornamental plants, the delicate, exotic and graceful orchid represents love, luxury, beauty and strength. In ancient Greece, orchids were associated with virility

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Remember - Next Meeting

24th August 2018