

# TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



**November  
2018**

**Attention**

**NEXT MEETING**

**THIS FRIDAY**

**16TH November**

**(3rd Friday this month only)**

**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.**

Minutes of Meeting dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

The President opened the meeting at 7.20pm and welcomed members and visitors.

**HOUSEKEEPING:** - Toilets, Evacuation Procedure were once again mentioned – members were urged to familiarise themselves with the procedure.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Michael Coker is tonight's guest speaker and will speak on growing species orchids as well as a second talk on "Adding value to your collection".

**JUDGES FOR TONIGHT** Mal, Ivan, Warren and Max

**VISITORS:** Michael Coker, Rebecca Vonhoff and Kerrie Morrison were warmly welcomed.

**MINUTES:** Moved Charlie Dedekind, seconded Kev Baker that the minutes of the August meeting as printed in Tanbark are correct. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A brief report on the correspondence for the month;

Correspondence – Last month's Management Committee minutes available.

Various newsletters. Show Invitations.

Secretary moves that correspondence be accepted and outward endorsed, Seconded Val Reid. Carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** - Christina reported a credit balance in the cheque account of \$14,694.35. She also presented accounts for payment for Engraving - \$172.50 and a name badge - \$11.00. She moved that the report be accepted and the accounts be passed for payment. Seconded David Woolf. Carried.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. The president reminded members of the next sausage sizzle to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November at Bunnings West. A roster was circulated.
2. The bus trip to Nambour Species show is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and will leave the Cobb & Co Depot at 6.00am. Cost to members is \$20 plus for a further \$10 they can have a two course lunch at the Nambour RSL. Members were reminded to wear their club shirts if they have them.
3. Christina gave a financial wrap up of the spring and summer shows. The spring show provided a profit of \$12,407.47 while the summer show ran at a slight loss. Members were reminded to provide Christina with their bank details (if you haven't already) please.
4. TOS has been invited to attend and exhibit as a guest society at the QOS meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Members interested in going please contact president John.

5. 2021 AOC Conference has been offered to the clubs of SEQ. President explained the possible pitfalls and the members agreed to support the project should it go ahead. Members will be kept informed.
6. The Christmas party will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December at Club Glenvale (Toowoomba Hockey Club). Cost to members will be \$20 and will receive an orchid plant on the night. List circulating or let Carolyn know please.
7. Christina Neylon has been nominated as club treasurer. Moved by Murray Ferguson and seconded by Val Reid. The motion was carried unanimously.
8. June and Gordon Bloodworth have donated a group of orchid books which will be distributed among new growers. Thanks June and Gordon.

Michael Coker then gave us a wonderful presentation on how to identify and grow orchid species and to have orchids blooming each month of the year.

Kev's Corner – the job tonight was passed on to Michael who spoke about two plants of *Paph. villosum* explaining their ease of growth and are a worthwhile inclusion in a collection.

Following supper, Michael gave his second talk on “Adding value to your collection” which was very entertaining, thought provoking, informative and humorous.

The meeting thanked Michael enthusiastically.

Guest speaker at the November meeting is to be well known Victorian native orchid grower and breeder Brendan Larkin.

Meeting Closed at 10.10pm – President John wished all a safe trip home and hoped to see many members at the workshop with Michael tomorrow.

Brendan Larkin will not be guest speaking at the November meeting. The committee apologises for the late notice but this was due to some confusion with the adjusted meeting date.

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

<b>6th Dec 2018</b>	<b>Blue Mountain Hotel, New England Hwy, Tmba</b>	<b>11.45am</b>
<b>3rd Jan 2019</b>	<b>Club Glenvale (Hockey Club) Boundary Street</b>	<b>11.45am</b>

## From the President

November already – nearly Christmas; this can only mean that our Sarcophilus and Indian dendrobiums have almost finished flowering and we've completed our last show for the year. Ya-hoo. I personally think that four shows a year is at least one too many. It is a conversation all members need to be involved in.

Our Summer Show may not have drawn crowds or been the financial success that our spring show was but we had some beautiful orchids on display. Grand Champion went to a nicely flowered plant of Onc. Tiger Glow owned by David and Carolyn Woolf. Reserve champ was a Sarcophilus Nickys Twin Bees owned by Sonia and Steve Pope while Champion Novice plant was an attractive white Phalaenopsis, the name of which was unknown but the owner was Peter Kajewski. This will be the last victory in Novice section for Peter as he will graduate to open class next year. Well done Peter.

Our October meeting took on the appearance of a mini-show with 75 lovely plants on the bench for all to enjoy.

We were treated to two wonderfully entertaining talks by our guest speaker Michael Coker who, I believe I have convinced to return in 2019 to further entertain and enlighten us on orchid matters. Michael spoke on growing species orchids and provided a better understanding and appreciation of species orchids. A species orchid is a native orchid that grows (or grew) in the wild somewhere in the world. He showed slides of orchids suitable for growing cool in our area which flower over the full 12 months.

He finished the talk by reminding us that growing species can be rewarding; challenging and exciting.

The second talk was "Adding value to your orchid collection" which posed the question "what is value" and what might devalue your collection? We need to identify what we consider to be a valuable attribute. Some attributes that may devalue could be: "hand me downs", shy flowerers, slow to grow or flower, big growers but sparse flowers, flowers buried in foliage and similar orchids to what we already have. So look for reputable nurseries, Show bench and plant sales, swap with other growers or approach growers of plants that you find attractive. Avoid EBay and the words "rare".

All up a wonderfully thought provoking talk.

We then attended a most enjoyable and informative workshop at Carolyn and David's on Saturday morning. Another great experience. Thanks David & Carolyn and a big thanks to Michael.

Then a few more sleeps (not dreaming of orchids of course) and we're off on a bus trip to the Nambour Species Orchid Show. All twenty four of us had a great day with lunch at the Nambour RSL and a stop off at Doug and Kath Wanka's which is a very comprehensive private collection. Then we set sail for home and those of us "lucky" to be at the front of the bus were entertained by Bill our driver. All in all it was a really good day.

Our "orchid calendar" is quite full with a sausage sizzle this coming Saturday. No wonder Fritz barks at me when I get home. Until next time – enjoy your orchids. *John*

## **COOL-GROWING MINI CATTLEYS** by Richard Salvado Reprinted with the kind permission of OSCOV

Generally speaking, most cattleyas of the bifoliate type (two leaves per pseudobulb) are easier to grow in cool conditions than the unifoliate type (one leaf per pseudobulb), which often grow better with heat. Hybrids with the cool-growing genus *Sophronitis* in their pedigree will often grow cool – these will most likely have the prefix Sic. (*Sophrolaeliocattleya*), Sc. (*Soprocattleya*) or Sl. (*Sophrolaelia*) preceding the variety name. Plants with a smaller growth habit are usually easier to grow than the taller ones, which often need heat.

All cattleya hybrids will grow and flower better with a minimum temperature of 6-8°C; however, most mini-cattleyas can be grown successfully in Melbourne without artificial heat. In my experience, the minimum requirements for their cultivation are a shade house with a solid roof and provision of fairly good light. You can always bring the plants indoors in very cold weather, and certainly bring them inside and enjoy them whilst they are in flower.

Depending on the character of the potting mix, watering may be carried out as infrequently as once a week during cooler weather but watch your mini-cattleyas carefully and if the plants appear dry, give them a drink. In warm weather you may need to water every day or two. Repot in the warmer weather when the new growths are at least 25 mm tall. Take care, as the new growths are very brittle and are easily broken. I use any available fertiliser and in addition use Seasol® frequently.

Mini-cattleyas don't like to be cold and wet in the cooler months and a cool, damp atmosphere will cause spotting of light-coloured flowers. As with your other orchids, you should keep a keen eye open for pests, particularly scale, slugs, snails and caterpillars. Few orchids will tolerate direct contact with frost, and mini-cattleyas are no exception. However, they cope with extremely cold conditions better if their potting mix is on the dry side.

With regard to potting mixes, these depend very much on your growing conditions – if your plant isn't looking healthy, try a different potting mix. My favourite mix is 75% coarse Perlite/25% chopped sphagnum moss. In my conditions this seems the best mix and has wide acceptance Australia-wide. I am also currently using 50% coconut fibre/25% coarse Perlite/25% pine bark and have found that larger plants grow well in this mix; however, seedlings dislike this mix, and become very stunted. Three other mixes that I have used (50% pine bark/50% Absorba-Stone, 100% pine bark and 100% moss) do not suit my conditions.

Some cool-growing mini-cattleyas and two of the species used to breed them are: *Sophronitis coccinea* (red flowers), *Laelia pumila* (mauve flowers with darker lip), *C. Orpetii* (red flowers), *C. Jungle Beau* (yellow flowers with purple lips), *Sc. Beaufort* (red, orange and yellow flowers), *C. Seagulls Mini-Catt Heaven* (orange to red flowers) and *C. Mini Purple* (purple or mauve flowers). Mini-cattleyas are very rewarding orchids, and are not as difficult to grow as many people think. So why not buy a plant or two and give them a go!

## October 2018 Meeting Results

Class	Plant Name	Owner
Novice Hybrid	<u>Sarco.</u> unknown	J Lack
Novice Species	<u>Den.</u> <i>thrysiflorum</i>	P Kajewski
Novice Seedling	<u>Nil</u>	
<b>Judges Choice Novice</b>	<b><u>Den.</u> <i>thrysiflorum</i></b>	<b>P Kajewski</b>
Open Hybrid	<u>Sarco.</u> Cenedra 'Scarlet'	A Neylon
Open Species	<u>Cym.</u> <i>madidum</i>	A Neylon
Open Seedling	<u>Phal.</u> unknown	P Kajewski
<b>Judges Choice Open</b>	<b><u>Sarco.</u> Cenedra 'Scarlet'</b>	<b>A Neylon</b>
Master Hybrid	<u>Phrag.</u> Green Hornet	J & C Terry
Master Species	<u>Paph.</u> <i>villosum</i>	J & C Terry
Master Seedling	<u>Paph.</u> Caroline Hands	J & C Terry
<b>Judges Choice Master</b>	<b><u>Paph.</u> Caroline Hands</b>	<b>M Martin</b>
<b>Judges Choice Overall</b>	<b><u>Paph.</u> Caroline Hands</b>	<b>M Martin</b>
<b>Popular Vote</b>	<b><u>Den.</u> <i>densiflorum</i></b>	<b>N &amp; H Guppy</b>

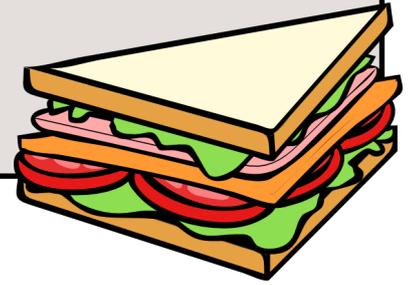
\*Member Prices\* Note: Cash only for Heather and Neville please. Phone : 46356868

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	\$12.00
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	Perlite Super Coarse (100l)	\$36.00
Orchid Mix 9-12mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Plantacote Fertiliser Top K 1kg	\$8.00
Orchid Mix 12-18mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Plant Stand-Short	\$20.00
Rutec Root Booster 1L	\$8.00	Plant Stand-Long	\$22.00
Rutec Growth Booster 1L	\$10.00		



## Supper at the meeting

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



## Thought for the month!

*Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul.*

**-Luther Burbank**

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Remember - Next Meeting

16th November 2018