

# GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.



## NEWSLETTER August 2020

[www.gympieorchidsociety.com.au](http://www.gympieorchidsociety.com.au)

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Welcome to our newsletter for August 2020. Our last meeting was held at Mel and Judy Wheeler's place on August 29th. The meeting was opened by President jim Evans with some words of recollection and remembrance for the late Bevan Neuendorff followed by a period of silence.



*Vanda Somsri Gold KBR* (in Mel & Judy's shade house) *Rhyncostylis Chocoolood*



After the minutes of our last meeting were read, the first new item on the agenda was planning for next year's Gympie orchid show. The consensus among members was that we had to stay positive in these uncertain times, be prepared and hope for the best. In the event the organizing of the Gympie Expo was not taken up by our local Rotary Club, it was proposed that The Gympie & District Orchid Society make preliminary contact to book the showground pavillion for next year's orchid show. This would be held 30th April and 1st & 2nd May, with setup on Friday the 30th. It was envisioned that unlike previous occasions, this would be a benched show with 34 to 36 classes grouped for display on tables across the pavillion area.

Vendors on the list to be invited include John Robertson, Orchid Mania from Gunalda, Orchidaceous from Maryborough and Red Fox Orchids from Landsborough. The usual \$80 vendors fee would apply.

Mel Wheeler then gave a talk on cutting and potting keikies from soft cane dendrobiums. His advice was to wait until the keikie had 3 or 4 canes and then cut the parent cane below the keikie. This should ensure the newly repotted keikie gets off to a vigorous start as it will be able to draw nutriment from the old cane as well as it's own energy store. An application of oxynone will promote vigorous root growth. Doug Wilson also recommended using Derris Dust an insecticide often used on tomato plants. Jim Evans recalled his father growing *Dendrobium nobile* very well when he was a child and it was their prolific flowering which first kindled his wonder and interest in orchids.

Corrie Sheafe's Yamamoto style soft canes > with *D. Mild Yumi 'Lotus'* in the foreground.



*Dendrobium nobile*



*Dendrobium nobile* var. *virginalis* 'Alba'



Cool-growing soft-cane dendrobiums are typified by *Dendrobium nobile*, the 'noble' dendrobium, found in the foothills of northern India, southern China and the hilly areas of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Burma. The English were the first to breed hybrids using *D. nobile*, *D. nobile* var. *virginalis* and *D. finlayanum*. Japanese hybrids developed by Yamamoto in Japan were a development of the English hybrids and added *D. regium* to the gene pool to produce flowers without the black eye of *D. nobile*. His hybrids tend to have larger flowers and a wider range of colours.



*Dendrobium regium*



*D. Star sapphire* HCC/AOS



*D. Baron Sandy*

**Our next meeting which is our AGM, will be at Michelle & Cristian Lenske's place on Saturday, September 26th. The meeting starts at 2 pm. The address is 303 Power Road, Widgee.**

The Judge's Choice was *C. Dal's Emperor* 'Michelle' AM/QOS grown by Jim Evans. Jim commented that this was the best flowering he had achieved with this grex to date. The plant name was registered in 1998 by Brisbane growers D & B Littman who originally bred it. The AM was awarded to a plant grown by P. Denley



*C. Dal's Emperor* "Michelle"



*Den. Peter Shen 4N X Silver Wings 4N*

Don Elms brought the plant on the left to our meeting. It's flowers display the features of *Latouria* type dendrobiums. This genera includes about 50 different species with the majority native to Papua New Guinea and some to Samoa. They grow in hot, humid rain forests attached to the trees in tropical areas where it rains year-round.

Don informed us that it owes its good lip shape and color to the influence of "The Cooktown Orchid" *Den. bigibbum* and that it is classed as an Australian native hybrid.

The other plant Don tabled, *Pterostylis curta* (next page) is unusual among its genera for its variegated leaves.

*Cym. Sarah Jean X Last Tango* 'Geyserland' belongs to the 'intermediate cascading class' when being judged. Both its parents are prolific bloomers. *C. Sarah Jeans* are usually of paler shades from lemon to green with the exception of 'Ice Cascade' which is white, while *C. Last Tango* 'Geyserland' is of a definitely reddish hue. This cross shows a fairly even influence in colouration from both parents. It is interesting that the inflorescences become darker and redder as they age. (photo next page)

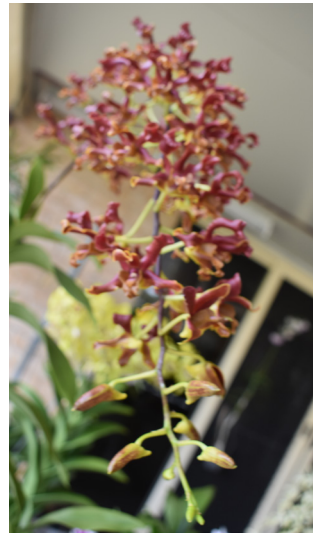
## Popular Vote

These orchids won the popular vote at our August meeting

<b>Cattleya</b>	<i>Rlc. Memoria Gordon Valence</i>	Doug Wilson
<b>Dendrobium</b>	<i>Den. Amy Shimonishi</i> ( <i>Den. discolor</i> X <i>Den. Hula Girl</i> )	Doug Wilson
<b>Species</b>	<i>Pterostylis curta</i>	Don Elms
<b>Any other</b>	<i>Cym. Sarah Jean</i> X Last Tango "Geyserland"	Joe Tramacchi
<b>Judge's Choice</b>	<i>C. Dal's Emperor</i> "Michelle"	Jim Evans



*Cym. Sarah Jean* X Last Tango "Geyserland"



*Den. Amy Shimonishi*



*Pterostylis curta*



*Rlc. Memoria Gordon*