



GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Date/Month of Meeting:

29th July 2023

Website:

www.gympieorchidsociety.com

Facebook:

Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
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Welcome: I hosted our July club meeting, and a lovely Saturday afternoon was had enjoying perfect winter weather and discussing our favourite subject, orchids. There was a good attendance to the meeting and a lot of orchids were benched. Everyone enjoyed a chat afterwards, some afternoon tea and a look in the greenhouse. What a beautiful time of the year!



Winners of the Popular Vote at monthly Meeting

| GENRE | Plant Name | Owner of Plant |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cattleya | Rlc. Burdekin Dream 'Nadia' | Gary Walker |
| Dendrobium | Den. Special Surprise 'Rose' | Malcolm Ellis |
| Species | Rhy. gigantea 'orange' | Mel Wheeler |
| Vanda | V. (Mamo x Somjit) x Manuvadee | Ken & Kaye Christensen |
| Novice | Unknown cattleya | Julianna Toth |
| Any Other | Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' | Sharon Stretton |
| JUDGES CHOICE | Rhy. gigantea 'orange' | Mel Wheeler |



Cattleya: Rlc. Burdekin Dream 'Nadia'

Dendrobium: Den. Special Surprise 'Rose'

Species & Judges Choice: Rhy. gigantea



Any Other: Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'

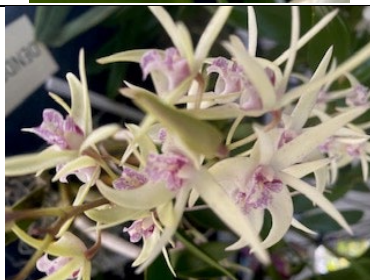


Vanda: V. (Mamo x Somjit) x Manuvadee



Novice: Unknown cattleya

Other Plants tabled at the meeting





Winners of the Raffles for the day were: Mike Kilshaw, Gary Walker & Kent and Sharon's mum who all took home a new orchid.

Editors Highlight - Winter care for your Orchids

During the winter season, most of your orchid plants are dormant – but that doesn't mean there is nothing to do in the shade house! Now is the time to replace tags that may be getting old, brittle and hard to read (you don't want to lose the names of your orchids), remove old flower spikes, clean up your pseudobulbs, weed and ensure effective pest control. This will ensure that when the warmer weather starts, you're not behind the 8-ball. Below are some things you should be doing during winter:

CHECK FOR PESTS & WEEDS

When preparing orchids for winter the first item of business is to give them a thorough inspection to check for pests and pull out any weeds that may be growing in the potting media.

- **Snails**

For outdoor orchid growers, snails can be a real nuisance. Whatever you use, **don't delay**. Snails wait for the cover of night to wreak their havoc and left unchecked, can infest a collection, kill your orchids fairly quickly, or inflict a great deal of damage to virtually every part of an orchid.

Chemical baits may be placed in the growing area. Ash and diatomaceous earth can be spread on horizontal surfaces to create a barrier though water will deactivate it. Beer in shallow tins can be spread in the growing area and the drowned pests removed the next day. Regular applications will have to be used because watering will disperse the controls.

Did you know that 5% caffeine will kill 65-90% of snails present in potting medium without harming orchids? This can be done by spraying or by pour-through. Caffeine can also be purchased in purified form for agricultural use and mixed with water for this purpose.

- **Aphids**

Aphids love to suck the nectar from new growth, so look for them on new leaves, roots, and flowers. You can identify aphids by a cluster of soft-bodied insects on new, tender growth. To treat for aphids, (carefully) spray off your orchid with a blast of water from the hose. Then, follow up with neem oil.

Plants can also be sprayed with a pesticide like Malathion, Orthene using the product in accordance with label instructions.

- **Scale**

Scale are not as easy to get rid of as aphids. These insects can be both soft-bodied and armoured. These little beasts hide wherever they can, including around the sheaths surrounding pseudobulbs. Really, scale

can hide in every nook and cranny imaginable. Armoured scaled form a hard crust that can be scraped off with your fingernail.

Treatment is the same for both hard and soft-bodied scale. Using an old toothbrush and 70% rubbing alcohol scrub down your orchid, focusing under leaves, around pseudobulbs, sheaths, and rhizomes. Then, treat repeatedly with horticulture oil.

- **Mealybugs**

Unlike scale, mealybugs do not glue themselves to their host and are easy to brush away. Mealybugs are also much easier to treat than scale. They look like white fluff and hide pretty much anywhere on the orchid. Treat with 70% alcohol if you find them. However, if mealybugs have infested the roots, you will need to use a systemic insecticide.

- **Mites**

Spider mites are tiny, orange-coloured pests that can be hard to see, but their results are not. If your orchid leaves are not smooth but instead have tiny indentations, your orchids likely have mites.

To treat, use horticulture oil. Plants can also be sprayed with a miticide like Avid, Talstar or Kelthane following label instructions being particularly careful to contact all the undersides of the leaves.

During warm weather, new generations mature every 6 days so repeat applications will be required, perhaps 3 applications at 4-day intervals. TetraSan is an insect growth regulator that can be used to keep the egg and nymph stages from maturing.

- **Weeds**

Now is a very good time to check the pots for weeds and remove these unwanted plants that may be growing in your orchid pots. **TIP:** Moss is not a weed. Rather, moss is a sign that all is well – that you have a healthy growing environment.

GIVE YOUR ORCHID THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE

For many orchid enthusiasts, keeping orchids warm enough throughout the winter months is important. For some orchids, the trick is to keep them warm enough, so that they don't freeze, yet cool enough to trigger blooming. Generally, temperatures between (10° to 27° C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above (38 C) or drops even into the (0 C) will not harm most orchids if no frost forms on the leaves.

Cooler temperatures are important for many orchids to initiate flower spikes. Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums, for example, both benefit from cooler temperatures to trigger blooming.

Phalaenopsis need temperatures for a few weeks down to 15.6° C. While Cymbidiums benefit from temperatures down in the 4.4°-7° C to initiate flower spikes.

Providing your orchid with proper temperatures in the winter will help enable them to bloom later on. Follow the guide below to learn how much cold an orchid can take, and how much cold they need to rebloom:

- Warm growers: between 18.3° – 24.9° C. Give these orchids winter lows between 18° – 21° C and summer highs around 29° C.
- Intermediate growers: between 15.5° – 26.6° C. For optimum care provide these orchids with winter lows of 14.4° – 16.6° C and summer highs 27° C.
- Cool growers: between 10° – 23.9° C. These orchids prefer winter lows around 10°C and summer highs around 26.6° C.

Surprisingly, sometimes the trick isn't how to keep your orchids warm in winter, it is how to keep them cool enough when it's too cold outside and too warm inside. For this reason, cool-growing orchids may be out of bounds, and that's okay. Stick with orchids that you can provide them with proper temperatures for your zone.

PROTECT YOUR ORCHID FROM COLD TEMPERATURES

If you only have a few orchids and can bring them indoors during winter, remember cold winter temperatures may seep through the glass if you have your orchid near a windowsill – pull the curtains closed to keep them warmer. Indoor growers need to keep their orchids a safe distance from heating and cooling vents, as well as exterior doors. This will protect orchids from drying air and cold temperatures.

A simple remedy if you have too many orchids and they live in the shade house all year long, is to cover your shade house with plastic during winter - this is likely enough of an insulated barrier to protect your orchids.

Orchids like continued airflow but if the air is dry, it will in turn dry out the plant. Humidity trays for orchids can be a good idea, especially during dry winter months. You can make your own humidity tray by using a plastic tray, a layer of stones with gravel, and water. Place the orchid pot carefully over it. Don't let the roots touch the water (or you'll be dealing with root rot). The water that evaporates from the humidity tray offers extra humidity to the beauties.

MAKE SURE YOUR ORCHID HAS ENOUGH LIGHT

Leaf colour is a good indicator of the amount of light a plant is receiving. Orchids should have bright green, healthy leaves. Dark green leaves indicate that a plant is getting insufficient light, and yellowish-green or red leaves indicate that a plant is getting too much light.

Shorter days in winter mean less light. Orchids thrive in bright, indirect light, so move them to the sunniest area in the shade house. Areas facing north or east are best. Keep orchids a little bit away from south-facing, as the light can be too direct.

There are low-light orchids that make great choices, too. These orchids include certain species of Phalaenopsis, Miltonia, Paphiopedilum and Bulbophyllum. Keep these type of orchids in the area of your shade house that get the least amount of light.

REDUCE WATERING ORCHIDS IN WINTER

During the winter months most orchids slow down their growth, some even go into a dormant phase. During the winter, instead of watering every week, for instance, water your orchids about every 10 days in the winter. Before a cold snap, watering the floors only will decrease chances of cold injury. Moist ground stays warmer than dry ground and increases the frost threshold.

Though Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums still require regular watering as they do not have water storage in the form of pseudobulbs, keep an eye on the potting media to make sure that these orchids do not dry out, nor stay unduly moist. I know that sounds tricky, but you'll get it.

FERTILISE ONLY IF YOUR ORCHID IS ACTIVELY GROWING

Do you fertilise orchids in winter? The answer is a definite maybe. Yes, do fertilise your orchid if it is actively growing during the winter. If you see new roots emerging, or leaves growing, do continue to fertilise your orchid throughout the winter.

If, on the other hand, your orchid is developing buds, dormant, resting, stressed, diseased, or newly potted, hold off on the fertiliser until it is actively growing leaves and roots again.

ORCHIDS THAT BLOOM IN WINTER

Some orchids bloom during the winter months, while others slow down their growth waiting for warmer weather. Other orchids go completely dormant. Here is a list of easy to grow orchids that bloom in winter.

- LYCASTE SKINNERI
- EPIDENDRUM
- BRASSAVOLA
- CYCNOCHES
- CYMBIDIUM

ENJOY THE WINTER SEASON

Generally speaking, most orchids do not require as much care during the winter months. After inspecting for pests, ensuring they are in a well-lit space, and seeing to their humidity needs, your orchids will need fertiliser only if actively growing and will require less water than they do during hot, summer months. With fewer demands from your orchids, you'll be able to enjoy winter and have a bit of a break!

Upcoming Events Schedule:

| AUGUST 2023 | |
|---|---|
| Set up 3 rd , 4, 5 August 2023 | Maroochydore OS Show at Buderim Uniting Church, cnr of Gloucester Rd & King St, Buderim |
| 15th – 19th August 2023 | Asia Pacific Orchid Conference (APOC) & Show, Singapore |
| SEPTEMBER 2023 | |
| 1, 2 September 2023 | Childers & IDOS Show (set up 31 st August) |
| 1,2 September 2023 | Nambour OS Show (Setup 31st of August) |
| 8, 9 September 2023 | Glasshouse Country OS Show |
| 14,15 & 16 Sept 2023 | Maryborough District OS Show – (set up on 13 th) |

| | |
|--|--|
| 15, 16 September 2023 | Noosa DO&FS show, Cooroy Memorial Hall, Maple Street (set up 14 th) |
| 22- 24 September 2023 | OrchidFest, sponsored by Hervey Bay OS (Setup 21st of September) |
| 23 rd September 2023 | STOCQ mtg, hosted by Hervey Bay OS |
| 30th Sept – 1st Oct 2023 | Rockhampton OS Show (Setup 29th of September) |
| OCTOBER 2023 | |
| 13th – 14 th October 2023 | Bribie Island Orchid Society show. (Set up & Judging on the 12 th) |
| NOVEMBER 2023 | |
| 4 th & 5 th November | Brisbane Orchid Species Show at Mt Coo-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium, Mt Coo-tha Road, Toowong |
| 11 th November 2023 | Nambour Species Show (set up 10 th), Buderim Uniting Church, 2-10 Gloucester Rd, Buderim |
| 2024 Dates | |
| 10th February 2024 | STOCQ AGM and Ordinary Meeting, Indoor Bowls Hall, Graham St, Gympie |
| 1st – 4th March 2024 | TIOS & WOC Tainan, Taiwan |
| 29th – 31st March 2024 | Gladstone OFS Show, Bill Robertson Toyota, Gladstone (Setup 28th of March) |
| 29th – 30th March 2024 | Bribie IOS Show (Setup 28th of March) |
| 5th – 6th April 2024 | Sunshine Coast OS Show (Setup 4th of April) |
| 20th April 2024 | South Burnett OS Show, Diggers Club, Wondai |
| 27th – 28th April 2024 | Gympie & District Orchid Society Show (Setup 26th of April) |
| June 2024 | STOCQ Meeting, hosted by Calliope O & FS |
| 11th – 12th October 2024 | Bribie Island Orchid Society (Setup 10th of October) |
| November 2024 | STOCQ Meeting, Hosted by Maroochydhore OS |
| March 2025 | 15th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference & Show, Taiwan |

Next Meeting Details

DATE: Saturday, 19th August 2023

ADDRESS: Gary & Julie Walker's – 26 Palmer Court, The Dawn

PLANTS: Benching of plants for Popular Vote will commence from 1.30pm – 1.45pm.

JUDGING: Voting will be held prior to meeting (between 1.45pm – 2.00pm).

MEETING: Will commence at 2.00 pm.

Please bring your plants, a chair and a plate to share for afternoon tea



| Future Meetings: | Location |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 30 th September 2023 | Mel & Judy Wheeler – 6 David Court, Southside |
| 28 th October 2023 | Kent & Sharon Bartlett – 6 Tailor Street, Tin Can Bay |
| 25 th November 2023 | Meeting and Christmas Party - TBC |

General Cultural Guide for June-August

| * Information is general in nature and given in good faith. | Watering/Weekly | Fertiliser/Weekly | Pest/Disease Control | Comments |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Cattleya | 2 - 3 times weekly | Blossom booster Low Nitrogen | Flower Thrips Yates Success or Pyrethrum on buds | Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools. |
| Dendrobium Hard cane | | Reduce fertiliser and cease by Winter's onset | Flower Thrips Yates Success Pyrethrum on buds | Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools. |
| Dendrobium Softcane | Once to twice weekly | Cease fertiliser | | If fertilizer is applied from now on, plantlets will form rather than flowers |
| Phalaenopsis | 2 - 3 times weekly | Reduce fertilizing with cooler weather. Low nitrogen | Preventative Fungicide if wet cooler weather Mancozeb | Weather is variable at this time of year. Reduce watering frequency as temperature cools. |
| Vandaceous | Water daily in hot weather 2-3 days if cooler | Balanced fertiliser if still in growth. Cease if weather cools | Flower Thrips Yates Success or Pyrethrum on buds | |
| Oncidium | In hot weather, every 2 days if cooler 2-3 | Balanced fertiliser if still in growth. Cease if weather cools | | |
| Paphiopedilums | Every 2 days in hot weather. 2-3 times weekly in cooler weather. | Balanced fertiliser | Preventative Fungicide if wet cooler weather Mancozeb | |

Newsletter snippets

Club members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter. Please email Sharon Stretton for inclusion (prior to the upcoming meeting, otherwise they will be included the following month). Email: sharon.m.stretton@tmr.qld.gov.au

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