

# GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Date/Month of Meeting:

4<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Website:

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

Facebook:

Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

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## Message from the Editor

I would like to formally announce the following members who have been duly elected to the G&DOS committee for the upcoming 2026 term. Thank you to Julie Walker who acted as Returning Officer for our AGM meeting.

<b>President</b>	Gary Walker	
<b>Vice President</b>	Sharon Stretton	
<b>Secretary</b>	Sharon Bartlett	<b>Assistant Secretary:</b> Julie Walker
<b>Treasurer</b>	Shirley Downing	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Sharon Stretton	
<b>Show Steward</b>	Gary Walker	<b>Assistant Steward:</b> Barry Grainger

## DATE CLAIMER:

The Clubs Christmas party will be held on **6<sup>th</sup> December 2025** from 11.00am at the Indoor Bowls Club, Graham Street, Gympie. Please bring along something to donate to the multi-draw raffle (so everyone takes home a prize). There will be games, a delicious lunch and dessert, raffles and awesome company. Come along and enjoy!



## DATE CLAIMER:

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2026** – Gympie Bus Trip to Caboolture Show, nursery and growers. More information to come early next year.

## Winners of the Popular Vote at monthly Meeting:

GENRE	Orchid name	Owner/s of Plant
<b>Cattleya &gt;100mm:</b>	Rlc. Aran Powder Puff 'Natty'	Glen Bell
<b>Cattleya &lt;100mm:</b>	<b>TIE between:</b> Rth. Deception Nugget 'Nugget' and C. Pink Spice 'Delight'	Leanne Evans
<b>Dendrobium:</b>	Dendrobium Airy Crimson	Larry Downing
<b>Species:</b>	Vanda tricolor	Sharon Stretton
<b>Vanda:</b>	Vanda Roberts Delight 'Red Spot'	Gary Walker
<b>Any Other:</b>	Phalaenopsis unknown	Gary Walker



**Cattleya 100mm +:** Rlc. Aran Powder Puff 'Natty'



**Above:** Rth. Deception Nugget 'Nugget'

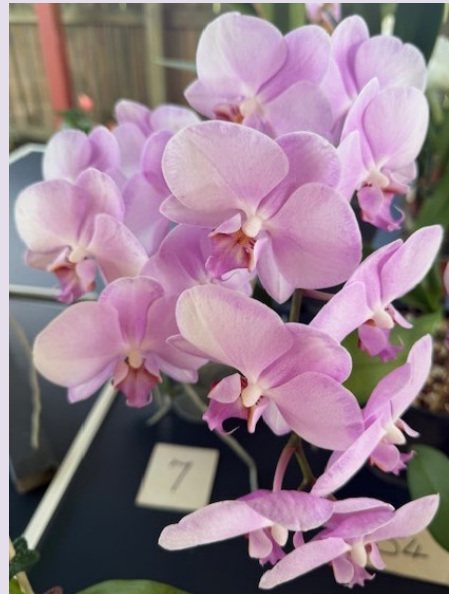


**Below:** C. Pink Spice 'Delight'

**Cattleya Less than 100mm:** TIE



**Dendrobium:** Den. Airy Crimson



**Any Other:** Phalaenopsis unknown



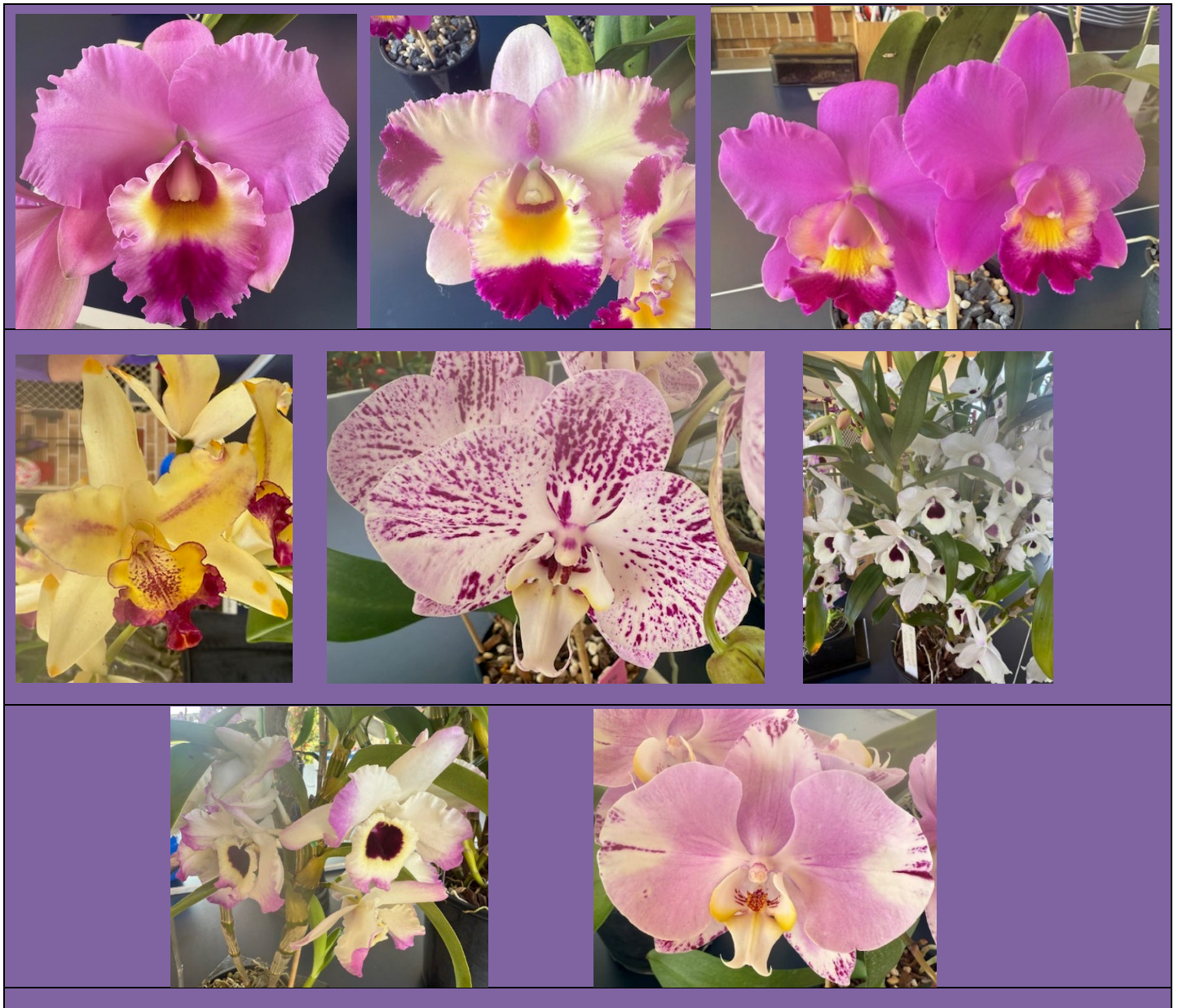
**Vanda:** Vanda Roberts Delight 'Red Spot'



**Species:** Vanda tricolor

Other orchids tabled at the meeting:






**Winners of the Raffles for the day were:**

Raffle winners were Larry Downing (flowering orchid), Cristan Lenske (flowering orchid) and Michelle Lenske (orchid plant). Congratulations to you all!

**Book available**

 <p><b>A FIELD GUIDE to NATIVE ORCHIDS</b> of the NOOSA BIOSPHERE RESERVE &amp; the SUNSHINE, COOLOOLA and FRASER COASTS.  Joan Heavey</p>	<p>Linda Falkner would like to let members know that the book (left) is available and has a lot of information regarding the native orchids in our region.</p> <p>If you are interested, please phone Linda on 0427570022, and she can organise this for you.</p>
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## Highlight – *Rhizanthella gardneri* (excerpt from BBC Future Earth newsletter)



Did you know that the world's most mysterious and elusive orchid lives underground in Australia? Scientists are trying to rescue this botanic marvel from going completely extinct.

As a child, Kingsley Dixon's favourite book was *Orchids of the West*, about the wild orchids of Western Australia, where he lived. There was one illustration in particular that left him transfixed: an ink drawing of *Rhizanthella gardneri*, commonly known as the Western Australian underground orchid.

"From when I was tiny, I used to just look at this page and go: oh my, there's an orchid, it lives underground, it doesn't have leaves, it doesn't have roots, and it has this fabulous flower! Dixon recalls.

A self-described "little plant geek", he spent much of his time in the Australian bush – the wild scrubland near his home in Perth – collecting orchids and then growing them on at home. "By the age of 13, I had a large collection of bush orchids, but the one sitting in the middle of the book, the Western Australian underground orchid – that was the dream of my life," he says. The closest he got as a child was seeing a preserved specimen in a jar, during a special trip to a herbarium for his birthday. It would take him years to finally spot one in the wild, during a field trip to the small town of Babakin in Western Australia in 1982, when he was 24. "We stopped for a cup of tea and I wandered into the bushland and kicked some soil only to reveal some coloured bracts of the orchid" he recalls. "It was an absolute Eureka moment".

Today, *Rhizanthella gardneri* is one of the world's rarest orchids and critically endangered due to habitat loss, with only a tiny number of plants surviving in the wild. The number fluctuates from year to year and in recent years has been as low as three or even none found at all, Dixon says, with climate change adding further pressure on the species. "It went in my own lifetime from seeing it to watching this species slip away" he says. So Dixon, now a professor of botany at the University of Western Australia and the former director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Western Australia, has a new dream, to save the underground orchid from extinction.

*Rhizanthella gardneri* is not only the world's rarest orchid, it is also one of the most mysterious. It's the only known plant that flowers underground. It also grows, germinates and sets seed totally underground, and is thought to be pollinated by termites.

The orchid is able to survive underground thanks to an intricate and complex three-way alliance: it connects to an above-ground plant, the *Melaleuca uncinata* bush, through a white, thread-like fungus. The connecting fungus transfers nutrients from the bush to the orchid.

This kind of beneficial bond with fungi, known as mycorrhizal association, is in fact typical of orchids in general, says Jacopo Calevo, a plant ecologist and orchidologist who has researched orchids and climate change in Europe and Western Australia. To understand how climate change affects orchids, one has to therefore look at the whole picture, he explains – the orchid, its special fungus, and in the case of the underground orchid, the *Melaleuca uncinata* bush as well.

"It's estimated that about 80-90% of land plants have a mycorrhizal association. But the extent to which orchids are associated with fungi, is unique" says Calevo, an honorary research associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London, and an adjunct research associate at Curtin University in Australia.

Orchid seeds are typically very small, and don't contain enough nutrients to help the seed germinate, Calevo explains. "So to germinate the orchid has to associate with a fungus that usually lives in the soil, that transfers the nutrients to the embryo" he says. As a result, "fungi are pivotal for the germination of orchids, so without fungi, the orchids cannot exist in the long-term", he says.

For the underground orchid, this complex life-support is even more intricate. "Other orchid species usually have one interaction – one orchid with one fungus or multiple fungi", Calevo says. But the underground needs both the fungus and the bush, so this makes the underground orchid more vulnerable to a stressful event in the environment" he says. "If anything happens to the bush, the

fungus cannot transfer nutrients to the orchid anymore, and the orchid can't survive in the long term".

The Rhizanthella orchid can lay dormant for several years, Calevo says. So far, no Rhizanthella orchids have been found in fire-affected reserve areas, but given the fungus and the Melaleuca bushes are recovering, it is likely that the underground orchid will come back, he says. However, this kind of recovery won't work if wildfires become so frequent that the beneficial fungi and bushes can't regrow in time for the orchid to come out of its dormant state.

### Next Meeting:

**New Club membership cost for 2026, is \$15 (single), and \$25 (family)**

**DATE:** Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**ADDRESS:** **Gympie Hockey Club (corner of Power Road & Woolgar Road)**

**TIME:** Benching of plants will commence from 1.30pm – 1.45pm

**JUDGING:** Voting of benched orchids will be held prior to meeting (between 1.45pm – 2.00pm)

**MEETING:** Will commence at 2.00 pm

**Please bring: your flowering orchids and a plate (to share) for afternoon tea.**



### Upcoming 2025 monthly meetings

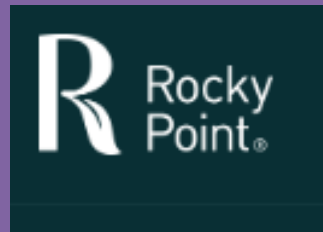
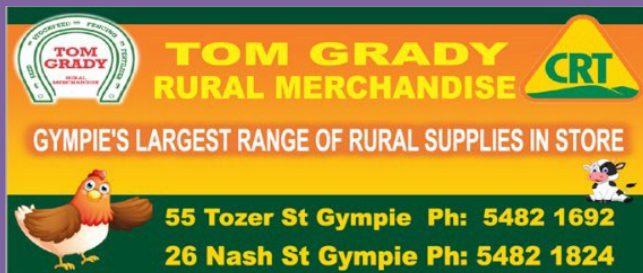
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
from 11.00am**

GDOS Club Christmas Party at  
Indoor Bowls Hall on Graham Street, Gympie

### 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](mailto:sharon.m.stretton@tmr.qld.gov.au)

**Our Sponsors:** Sponsors are an important part of our Club. Their support allows us to pay the prizes we do at our Show. Please support our sponsors and let them know that we appreciate their support!



## Upcoming SHOWS 2025

10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Bribie OS show with set up 9 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Nambour species show, Buderim UC hall; set up 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>2026</b>	
14 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	STOCQ - AGM meeting in Gympie Indoor Bowls club Hall, Graham St
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	Maroochydore OS closed show Buderim (public hours 8.00 - 3.30)
21 <sup>st</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	Rockhampton OS show Robert Schwarten Pavilion
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Gladstone OFS - with setup 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
11 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Glasshouse Country OS closed show, Glasshouse Community Hall
17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Sunshine Coast OS show, Uniting Church hall, Queen Street Caloundra
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2026	Gympie & DOS show in Indoor Bowls club hall, Graham Street.
8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Bundaberg OS show at Bundaberg Recreational precinct Pavilion University Drive, Branyan (set up 7 <sup>th</sup> )
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Maroochydore OS closed show Bli Bli (public hours 8.00 - 2.30)
20 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Gympie & DOS closed show, Indoor Bowls Club Hall, Graham St
17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Caboolture OS show with set up 16 <sup>th</sup> .
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2026	Port Curtis O&FS hosts STOCQ meeting
7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2026	Maroochydore OS show Buderim, benching on Thursday the 6 <sup>th</sup>
25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2026	Glasshouse Country OS show; set up Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September
26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2026	Rockhampton OS show Robert Schwarten Pavilion
November 2026	GCOS hosts STOCQ meeting at Glasshouse Hall (moved from 13 <sup>th</sup> June)

## 2026 POSTERS

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2026</b> <b>GYMPIE ORCHID SHOW</b> Indoor Hall at 35 Graham Street</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026</b> Saturday: 8.00am – 4.00pm Sunday: 8.00am – 2.00pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huge display of benched Show Orchids &amp; Foliage plants</li> <li>• Multiple Vendors for sale plants &amp; accessories</li> <li>• Refreshments</li> <li>• Expert Advice</li> <li>• Raffle prizes (\$1 a ticket)</li> <li>• Accessible to all</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Admission</b> Adults - \$4 each Children under 12 Free</p> <p>Web: <a href="http://www.Gympieorchidsociety.com">www.Gympieorchidsociety.com</a> Facebook: <a href="#">Gympie &amp; District Orchid Society Inc.</a></p> <p>Phone President Gary Walker on 0407 640 516 for any questions</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>GYMPIE</b> <b>WINTER ORCHID</b> <b>SHOW</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indoor Bowls Hall</b> <b>35 Graham St</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday, 20th June 2026</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plants to be tabled between 7.00 - 8.00am Judging at 8.15am <b>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 9.00am – 3.00pm</b> FOR SALE: Orchids * Tea * Coffee * Slices * Scones</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Enquiries: Gary Walker (President) on 0407 640 516 </p>
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