

GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.



NEWSLETTER

June 2019

www.gympieorchidsociety.com.au

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Welcome to the June edition of our newsletter. Our last get together was at John and Lavina Rees' residence. Members travelled by bus from Gympie stopping off first at the recently opened Fox Nursery. There was a good variety of plants for sale including some Paphs and Phrags, a select contingent of imported Phalaenopsis seedlings, a diverse collection of the oncidium alliance and bulbophyllums among other genera that piqued my interest. All of the stock was in good condition and the nursery has plans to further extend its range and infrastructure.



At the Fox Nursery



That's not grass in front of Julie, it is a potted *Dendrochilum tenellum*

From the nursery we continued to John and Lavina's place. In welcoming us John alluded to the delightful verge of Warrigal Greens on the foreshore and the handfed Heron's favorite perch in the the backyard. When we were all settled in our seats, Trevor Heitmann gave a very informative talk on orchid pests and diseases and how to develop plans to treat them and break the cycle so they don't reoccur. I thought it might be useful to recall a few of the points he made.

The first requirement is to have optimal growing conditions with good drainage, light and adequate ventilation for the plants as healthy plants are less prone to disease. Over watering especially in winter causes root rot and conditions for fungal infections . Trevor suggested putting pot testers at different points in the orchid house. These are pots with growing medium but no plants that can be part emptied to ascertain moisture levels. Use uniform potting mixtures.

Fungal gnats are hard to spot because of their tiny size and because they emerge from the potting mix at night. Trevor's advice is to put "Trappit" sticky traps available from Bunnings around the orchid house to trap gnats and other insects. Besides keeping their numbers down, you will know what pests are causing your problems.

Trevor advocates keeping a calendar for your spraying cycles because you

will be using two, three or more pesticides in a systematic way to break the breeding cycles and to prevent pests becoming resistant to a particular agent. For treating fungal gnats, spray late in the afternoon with Neem oil, 5 days later with Zeus and 5 days later with Crown. This is one cycle with the 3 pesticides. Then repeat the process this time every seven days. Finally every 10 days starting as usual with Neem oil, then Zeus and finally Crown. This constitutes a complete treatment.

Trevor stressed the importance of using a wetting agent especially when treating scale and mealy bug.

For Dendrobium beetle spray every 5 days with Neem oil.

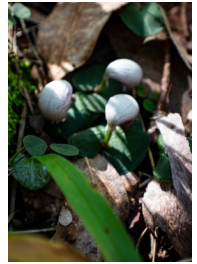
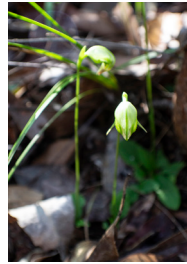
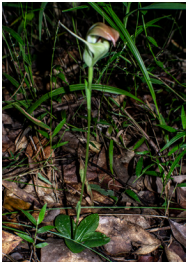
Use Queen's Green food colouring with Mancozeb to disguise the powdery residue left on leaves. These are just a few of the helpful tips Trevor shared with us on the day.

After the talk, John read a message of thanks from Jim and Leanne Evan's who were holidaying in China and we were treated to a sausage sizzle lunch and tour of John's greenhouse.



Our last stop before heading home was a visit to Robert Anderson's orchid houses. Robert gave us a friendly welcome and was happy to answer any of our members questions. I noticed he had "Trappit" sticky traps (about 20) which he heartily endorsed. He also had several small 35 watt ceiling fans which drew the air upwards. With the improved air circulation he can grow more plants

closer together. Several members commented on the good condition of the plants. So finally a big thanks to all who shared their knowledge and circumstances and made our bus trip so memorable.



Flowering this June at Mothar Mountain

Known Show Dates for 2019

10th, 11th August: Agnes Water O&FS show, Community Centre, Springs Road, Agnes Water; set up 9th.

Saturday 17th August is 100th year anniversary of the Mary Valley Show. Setup for orchid entries is on Thursday 15th after 2pm, judging is on the 16th and the one day show is open to the public on the 17th. Plants can be collected after 5pm on Saturday.

23rd, 24th August Noosa O&FS show in Cooroy Memorial Hall with set up 22nd.

31st August, 1st September Childers & IDOS show; set up 30th.

6th, 7th September: Nambour OS show set up 5th.

14th, 15th September 2019: STOCQ Orchidfest Rockhampton

19th -21st September: Maryborough DOS show St Paul's Memorial Hall, set up 18th.

19th, 20th September: SCOS (closed) Pelican Waters Shopping Centre

27th, 28th September 2019: Glasshouse COS show with set up 26th.

27th, 29th September: Hervey Bay OS show with set up 26th.

11th, 12th October: Bribie Island OS show with set up Thursday 10th.

1st, 2nd November Nambour OS species show; set up 31st October.

16th November 2019: STOCQ and OQI meetings at The Orchid House, 156A First Avenue, Bongaree hosted by Bribie Island Orchid Society.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 25th June at St. John's Church on the corner of Pine and Duke Street. Arrive 7pm for 7.30 start.