

# Orchid Talk

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October 2008

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Articles for Orchid Talk due on or before 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008

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This newsletter is intended to provide general information & cultural notes only. Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. will not be responsible for any loss of property or injury to any person acting on information in the news letter

**October 2008**

### Cultural Meeting

Ningi Community Hall, Bribe Island Road,  
Ningi. Meetings are held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Monday**  
of each month.

**Next Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> October**

### Committee Meetings

**All members** are always welcome at  
committee meetings.

**Meetings** are held on the **1<sup>st</sup> Monday** of  
each month at **7.30 pm** at 635 Beachmere  
Rd Beachmere

**Next Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008**

### Bulletin Advertising

If you would like to advertise in the bulletin,  
The following annual rates apply:

Full Page	\$60.00
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Quarter Page	\$35.00
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#### **EDITORIAL ADDRESS**

Please send any Notes etc  
to Di Smith  
at [sizzlin@bigpond.com](mailto:sizzlin@bigpond.com)



From your President:-

Hello Everyone,

A big thank you to Althea & Barry O'Connor for a great talk on African Violets. It was very interesting and while listening I realized they are grown and ?????????? very much like orchids. We should all have some lovely violets in our bush houses. Over a period of time your committee has heard rumblings of not enough guest speakers. For the last 6 months there has been a different speaker at each meeting but only the same few members each month. As we are an orchid & foliage society we have tried to get speakers from all ????????. Your committee is working really hard to get a diverse ??????????. Please support the meetings.

See you at the next meeting. Di

*FROM YOUR COMMITTEE -*  
*August 2008*



September 22<sup>nd</sup> Guest Speaker

*Barry & Althea Connor will be this month's guest speaker. They have been growing African Violets for many years and are very knowledgeable. There will be plants for sale on the night so please consider buying one or two.*

Guest Speakers

<i>This Month</i>	<i>Barry &amp; Althea Connor</i>	<i>on African Violets</i>
<i>October 27<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Barry Kable from Peters Glen</i>	<i>he will speak on his Choice of orchid</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Our Christmas party and rolling raffle.</i>	
<i>December</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>	
<i>January</i>	<i>Kathy will be showing us a DVD on her recent trip to Thailand</i>	

October 27<sup>th</sup> Guest speaker

*Barry Kable from Peters Glen is October guest speaker. He will be speaking on orchids and some of the stock he carries. If you need anything eg fertilizer, pots, bark, labels, stakes etc. please contact him on 32072793 before meeting.*

November 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Break Up

*As always at our Christmas party the club will be supplying the chicken. Members are asked to bring a plate of Christmas food. We have a rolling raffle on this night so please bring a present or two to add to the others. Plants are benched on this evening same as always.*

***Dendrobium speciosum (Judges choice)***

## *Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.*

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This is an Australian Native. I have owned this plant for 12 years and it was a reasonable size when I bought it. It is grown on the floor in the tunnel house with the hardcane dendrobiums. Plenty of humidity. It has very large flowers and long inflorescences which makes it spectacular when in flower. This plant gets fertilized with whatever I fertilise the dens. Last few months it has been Miracle Gro but I will start with Horticultural solutions soon. Although these are beautiful flowers they do not last for long. Approx 2 weeks in 12 months. Di



I have owned this brom for years. It has had many pups taken off it and at the moment I have 7 plants the same. This particular brom needs plenty of light to keep its spectacular colour. It is a hot pink in the summer. Winter makes the colour fade a bit. It is grown hanging under a bench in a bushhouse with 50% black shade cloth. It gets about 4 hours of afternoon sun and is fertilized with the fertilizer run off from the orchids above. Di

### **Glasshouse Show**

**This is the next show we display at. Set up is on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Please put your plants under cover when buds appear. We have to put on a big display at this show so please keep an eye on your plants. If you can bring your plants to the September Meeting one of the members going to Glasshouse will take them home and look after them for you then you don't need to get them to anyone. Ernie will be looking after this show so please call him if you have any queries. (Number on front of bulletin) Allan is doing the labeling. Please get your names to him by Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Email [bigal@bytesite.com.au](mailto:bigal@bytesite.com.au) or phone 34100909. Please support the club.**

OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER WILL BE ON DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> AT THE BRIBIE ISLAND R S L CLUB THIS YEAR AT 6-30PM. PLEASE MARK THIS DAY ON YOUR CALENDAR.

### **You will forget it**

An 80 year old couple were having problems remembering things, so they decided to go to their doctor to get checked out to make sure nothing was wrong with them. When they arrived at the doctor's, they explained to the doctor about the problems they were having with their memory. After checking the couple out, the doctor tells them that they were physically okay but might want to start writing things down and make notes to help them remember things. The couple thanked the doctor and left.

Later that night while watching TV, the old man got up from his chair and his wife asks, "Where are you going

She then asks him, "Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?"

He replies "To the kitchen". She asks "Will you get me a bowl of ice cream"? He replies "Sure". She then asks him "Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it"? He says "I don't need to

write it down.  
She then says, "Well, I also would like some strawberries on top. You had better write that down cause I know you won't remember that. He says, "I can remember that, you want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries."  
She replies, "Well, I also would like whip cream on top. I know you will forget that so you better write it down."  
With irritation in his voice, he says, "I don't need to write that down, I can remember that." He then fumes into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes he returns from the kitchen and hands her a plate of bacon and eggs.  
She stares at the plate for a moment and says, "You forgot my toast."

### **Photographing Orchids by Ralph O'Brien Part 1**

Here are guide lines to be used or not used according to your taste. They are not rules, but may help you get the kind of orchid photographs you like or want. A digital camera will show you what works best for you.

#### **Decisions**

What do you want to photograph? Whole plant/flower/part of flower? What features of the flower do you really want to show/record? Shape, colour, texture, flower structure, leaf patterns, key identification features? Single plant/flower or group? Select the angle which best shows what you want. eg A group of flowers on one plant may show key ID features in one photo if you get the best angle. For general photos consider: face on; 45 degrees to side; 45 degrees above. Select Portrait (vertical) or landscape (horizontal) orientation.

#### **Getting Ready**

Isolate the plant – if possible move the plant away from others. If this is not possible get in close enough of use a telephoto setting to exclude unwanted objects. Move the plant away from the wall far enough for the wall or other plants to be a bit out of focus, so that they don't distract the viewer and you can avoid harsh shadows cast by your subject plant. If you are really keen you can set up a mini studio with a plain white, grey or coloured background. A plain black felt or velvet background can be very effective too. Flowers look good photographed against a blue / slightly cloudy sky.

#### **Lighting**

Soft outdoors light is great – without strong highlights or shadows. This can be done at home. Use white curtain/sheet to shield the plant from strong direct light. Use a piece of white cardboard or aluminum foil to reflect light into shadows. Try to avoid strong direct sunlight if you want subtle colours. A fine sunny day with a few clouds works well. Indoors try using a couple of reading lamps – one at about 45 degrees above and to one side with the second lamp placed on the other side to fill in shadows cast by the first lamp. Maybe use a third lamp on the floor shining light on the orchid from below and behind the plant. A lamp shining on the orchid from behind and high above can also give good effects. Experiment. Flash will render colours well, but the flash needs to be strong enough to overwhelm the effect of other light sources such as fluoro lamps or ordinary light bulbs which may give your pictures unnatural colour casts which we don't notice when taking a photograph. Experiment to see how it works.

#### **Camera settings for close ups (Point & Shoot cameras)**

Read the instructions again & again until you understand them. Set the lowest ISO level 50 – 100 preferably. Set image quality to fine. Set image size to large or medium. Leave sharpness, saturation contrast or default settings. Set White Balance to Auto (Auto white balance or AWB). Try the "flower" setting (if your camera has one) to see what it does. Check out how to turn the flash on & off. It is often useful to turn the flash on even on a bright day to put light over the shadows. Use the "P" mode if your camera has one. This may allow more control over the flash than the fully Automatic setting. Use the macro setting – (usually a tulip symbol) for close up photos from a few centimeters away. Check the instructions for details on the distance between camera and subject using this setting. You will need this setting if close up photos are not sharp.



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Try both the wide angle and tele settings of your lens both for macro and normal photos. You may be able to leave the lens set on macro permanently for all photos both near and far. This saves you adjusting the distance setting Not all cameras offer this convenience. Check the instructions and try taking photos at all distances- close up & far with the lens set to macro. If using flash turn the "Flash On" setting on the camera. Find your orchid and go in as close to fill the screen with your subject. Take a picture and look at the result.

### **Evaluating the picture**

If its not sharp Make sure that the camera is actually focusing on the subject. The camera may not focus on a plain surfaces such as the centre of a petal. Check the camera instructions on this. Often some edge – like the edge of a petal needs to be running through the focus point to give the camera a point of focus. When you have lined the subject up, press the shutter release gently until you see the image go sharp on the screen. Pause whilst you look at the image on the camera to make sure it is what you want. This first stage locks both the focus and the exposure. **Part 2 next time**





*Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.*



**Judges for the night: Kathy Beatty & David Newell**

**Benching Results of Cultural Meeting August 2008**

Genera	Placing	Name	Grower
<b>Judges Choice:-</b> <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>			David & Di Newell
Cattleya	1 <sup>st</sup>	C. Lynn Spencer	B & C McClure
Exhibition	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Blc. Sylvia Fry</i>	David & Di Newell
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Blc. George King X Blc. Taylor Made</i>	Ernie Stewart
Cattleya	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Lc. Gold digger</i>	David Eyles
Cluster	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Slc. Kauai Starbright x Slc. Hazel Boyd</i>	Peter Furniss
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Bc. Yellow Bird</i>	Peter Furniss
Dendrobium	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Den. Spiral Gem</i>	Ernie Stewart
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Den. Pixie Princess</i>	David & Di Newell
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Den. x delicatum</i>	Peter Furniss
Paph & alliance	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Paph. Dalla x sukkakulii</i>	Peter Furniss
Any Other Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Cym. Oriental Legend</i>	David Eyles
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Cym. Oriental Legend</i>	Peter Furniss
species	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	David & Di Newell
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Coelogyne flaccida</i>	David & Di Newell
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Dendlm. wenzellii</i>	David & Di Newell
Bromeliad	1 <sup>st</sup>	Bromeliad	David & Di Newell
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bromeliad	David & Di Newell
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bromeliad	David & Di Newell

Cultural Note

**You should be getting all your gear ready to start re potting or potting on very soon. Oncidiums and cooler growers can be done now if you have not already done so. I repotted a heap of oncidis today. We still use bark but some of the other growers are trying different medium. Talk to the other members for their opinion or come to our workshop. You will hear different ideas there. We also use 12 to 14 month slow release. Each time you water, your orchids get a little bit of fertiliser. This is extremely optional but it works for us.**



Stamp  
Here



Name .....

Address.....

City .....State .....Post Code.....

# Orchid Talk

## *Pumicestone District Orchid Growers Workshop*

Our workshop is every third Sunday of the month except December. Next workshop is September 21<sup>st</sup> at 1-30pm and our speaker will be Darryl Banks. He will speak on re potting. It will be at 635 Beachmere Road Beachmere. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea. Visitors most welcome. Contact Di on 54 962 861 or email [sizzlin@bigpond.com](mailto:sizzlin@bigpond.com) for enquiries or information.

Anne Sarraud  Mandie Sarraud

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