

Orchid Talk

President

Di Smith
Ph: - 54 962 861

Secretary

Ernie Stewart
Ph: - 3408 7420

Treasurer

Pam Milliner
Ph: - 5495 5520



Editor

Di Smith
54 962 861
sizzlin@bigpond.com

August 2008

Patron

Carry Sullivan MP
Member for Pumicestone

Articles for Orchid Talk due on or before 12th September 2008

Correspondence

Secretary: ernieste@bigpond.net.au

PO Box 49 Bribie Island Qld 4507

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

August 2008

Cultural Meeting

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

Next Meeting: 25th August

Committee Meetings

All members are always welcome at committee meetings.

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

Next Meeting: 1st September 2008



From your President:-

Hello Everyone,

What a bitterly cold night to come to a meeting. A very big thank you to those who braved the cold. Thanks to Patrick for his interesting talk on speciosum 's, We spoke on the New growers starting on the 17th August. Please make an effort to come to this. It is open to other society members and the general public. If you know someone who may like to attend please bring them along. Congratulations to Ernie & David Eyles for winning prizes at the Maroochydore show. Thanks to Allan for setting up.

See you at the next meeting. Di

Bulletin Advertising

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

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Full Page | \$60.00 |
| Half Page | \$45.00 |
| Quarter Page | \$35.00 |
| Business Card | \$25.00 |

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

Please send any Notes etc
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at sizzlin@bigpond.com

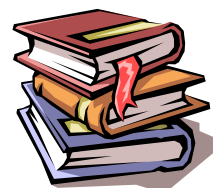


FROM YOUR COMMITTEE -

August 2008

Future Cultural Meetings (Mark
Your Diary)

Our main discussion was organizing New Growers. It will be called Pumicestone District Orchid Growers Workshop. The first one will be on August 17th at 635 Beachmere Road Beachmere.



Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

David will be the speaker on re-potting. The club has discussed buying bark, pots etc. This will depend on how popular this workshop is. Darryl is speaker in September and he will also speak on re-potting at Beachmere.

Please attend to make this a success & bring plate of afternoon tea, a chair and hat.

Once we have got this workshop organised we will be having some at Montville (Darryl's).

Members, visitors and members from other societies are all welcome. If you have any ideas for this please let one of the committee know.

August 25th Guest Speaker

Jim Day is this month's guest speaker. He is a member of Glasshouse Country Orchid Society and has showed his foliage plants at our shows for many years. His plants are grown to perfection and he has won many a prize at all the shows. Jim will have some plants for sale so bring your wallets.

Guest Speakers

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| This Month | Jim Day | on ferns |
| September 22 nd | Barry & Althea Connor | on African Violets |
| October 27 th | Barry Kable from Peters Glen | he will speak on his Choice of orchid |
| November | Our Christmas party and rolling raffle. | |
| December | No Meeting | |

September 22nd Guest Speakers

We will be having a very informative talk on African Violets. Plants will be for sale. Please put this date in your diary.

October 27th Guest speaker

Barry Cable 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.

***Dendrochilum wenzelii* (Judges choice)**

This genus is widespread through the Sumatran & Philippine areas. All are very similar although some have very long inflorescences. The plant on the bench was the red form but it also comes in yellow. These epiphytes do have dormant periods like most orchids but being sub tropical these flower most months of the year. I grow them in an area 600mm off the floor under 50% shade cloth. I water twice a week in the winter and every couple of days in summer. They do like high humidity. I fertilise them once a week with the rest of the orchids. They are very rewarding to grow. Patrick (Photo on page 6)



Tillandsia



Foliage

Foliage (popular vote)

I have owned this plant for quite a long time. I bought it from the Caloundra plant sales. It has grown & grown since I have had it and is now a lovely plant. It gets fertilized every now and then with Miracle Gro. It is grown in a bush house under 70% shade cloth on a bench. Di

Maroochydore Show

Thank you to the members who gave us plants in flower for the Maroochy Show. Thanks to Allan who set up and pulled down. Congratulations to Ernie for a first with *Den. Spiral Gem*, David Eyles second with *B/c. Ruth Gee* and second to David & Di with *Den. Wee Mary*.

Glasshouse Show

This is the next show we display at. Set up is on 25th 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.

ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE

Everyone is probably familiar with the common yellow 'Dancing Lady' oncidium that grows in your garden. The term 'oncidium alliance' refers to a large number of different genera all belonging to the subtribe Oncidinae, such as *Brassia*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossums* etc. By interbreeding between these different genera a great range of different shaped and coloured flowers has been produced.. These intergeneric hybrids are quite easy to grow. As some of these genera are warm growing and some are cool growing it is a good idea for the grower to find out the growing requirements of the genera used as parents. Reference books such as 'What Orchid Is That' are very useful for this. You will of course need to be able to decipher the genera used to make the hybrid. Reference back to the Sanders 'List of Orchid Genera' is probably the easiest way to get a detailed list of intergeneric hybrids. Below is listed a few of the more common hybrids you will come across in the Oncidium Alliance:

Aliceara (Alcra) = *Brassia* x *Miltonia* x *Oncidium*

Bakerara (Bak) = *Brassia* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*

Brassia (Brs) = Natural genus

Brassidium (Brsdm) = *Brassia* x *Oncidium*

Colmanara (Colm) = *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*

Degarmoara (Dgmra) = *Brassia* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum*

Hamelwellsara (Hmwsa) = *Aganisia* x *Batemannia* x *Otostylis* x
Zygopetelum x *Zygosepalum*

Maclellanara (Mclna) = *Brassia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*

Miltassia (Mtssa) = *Brassia* x *Miltonia*

Oncidium (Onc) = Natural Genus

Vuylstekeara (Vuyl) = *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum*

Brassia lanceana

GROWING CONDITIONS

As a general rule most Oncidium Alliance require slightly cooler conditions than Cattleyas, Dendrobiums etc. Grow your plants in the shadier section of your greenhouse where they do not get the hot summer sun. If you do not have a shady spot then grow them lower to the ground where they will get any breeze blowing through the greenhouse. If you look at the leaves of your Oncidium type plants you will see that most have a soft type of leaf. As a guide usually plants with soft leaves like more shade, plants with hard thick leaves like more sun.

POTTING MIX

If you look at the roots on the Oncidiums you will see that they have a finer type of root. This indicates they like a bit more moisture than orchids with larger, fleshier roots like cattleyas and vandas. We find we have excellent results by using sphagnum as our potting media. If you do not like using sphag then use a bark mix a bit finer than you would use for potting cattleyas in the same size pot

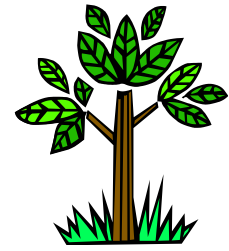
POTTING IN SPAGNUM

Use only top grade sphagnum. We only use export grade 'Austmoss' brand sphag from Tasmania. It costs a little more but in the long term it is worth the expense. The pots you use should be the squat type with plenty of drainage holes. The 'Port Pot' brand pots are excellent for sphag use. Alternatively, the squat terra cotta pots can be used. These have the added advantage of keeping the plant cooler as the water leeches out through the terracotta. This is particularly useful for the real cool growing oncidium types. Some people mix crumbled polystyrene or perlite through their sphag – we prefer to use straight sphag. A little bit of crumbled polystyrene in the bottom helps with drainage. When using sphag the pot must be fairly tightly packed with sphag – the looser the sphag the more water it holds. A layer of small stones or pebbles (or something similar) on the sphag will stop the green algae from growing over the top of the sphagnum. Do **not** let your sphagnum moss dry out as it is very difficult to rewet.

Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.



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Judges for the night: David Newell & David Eyles

Benching Results of Cultural Meeting July 2008

| Genera | Placing | Name | Grower |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Judges Choice:- <i>Dendrochillum wenzellii</i> | | | Patrick Devereux |
| Cattleya Exhibition | 1 st | C. Ruth Gee | David Eyles |
| | 2 nd | C. Walkerinter | David Eyles |
| | 3 rd | C. Intermedia x C. White Blossom | David Eyles |
| Dendrobium | 1 st | <i>Den.</i> Spiral Gem | Ernie Stewart |
| | 2 nd | <i>Den.</i> Fantasyland | David & Di Newell |
| | 3 rd | <i>Den.</i> Unknown | David & Di Newell |
| Oncidium & Alliance | 1 st | <i>Odcdm.</i> Wildcatt | David Eyles |
| | 2 nd | <i>Onc.</i> Sharry Baby | Patrick Devereux |
| | 3 rd | | |
| <i>species</i> | 1 st | <i>Dendlm. wenzellii</i> | Patrick Devereux |
| | 2 nd | <i>C. loddigesii</i> | David & Di Newell |
| | 3 rd | <i>Dendlm. cobbianum</i> | Patrick Devereux |
| Foliage | 1 st | foliage | David & Di Newell |
| Bromelaid | 1 st | Tillandsia | David & Di Newell |
| | 2 nd | Bromelaid | David & Di Newell |

Cultural Note

It is still very cool so cultural notes have not changed much from last month. Don't forget to only water on days that are sunny early in the morning. You are much better off to water less than more so if you are not sure – don't. We are getting a lot of soft rot on the den flowers at the moment because of the moisture in the air. If this happens to you cut the flower spikes off immediately and remove them from the bushhouse. Don't forget a spray of mancozeb helps. Your soft canes should be starting to flower soon also your speciosum. They put on a lovely display in the bushhouse. Start thinking about your re potting. Next month depending on the weather you could start. If you need anything to start your repotting don't forget to call Barry Cable 3207 2793. He is your October guest speaker and will bring an order to you on the night.



Stamp
Here

Name

Address.....

CityStatePost Code.....

Orchid Talk

Pumicestone District Orchid Growers Workshop

Our workshop is every third Sunday of the month except December. Next workshop is September 21st 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. If you would like to join our society please see a committee member for details. Contact Di on 54 962 861 or email sizzlin@bigpond.com for enquiries or information.

Anne Sarraud  Mandie Sarraud

Bribie Sand, Gravel & Landscaping

171 - 173 First Avenue - Bribie Island
Telephone 3408 1037
Fax 3408 1955

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