

orchid talk



August 2011



Articles for Orchid Talk due on or before 9th September 2011

President	Secretary	Treasurer	Editor	Show Organiser
Di Smith	Helen Day	Allan Nalder	Di Smith	David Newell
54 962 861	5439 0334	3410 0909	54 962 861	54 962 861

All correspondence to
The Secretary
P.O. Box 49 Bribie Island Q 4507
Email: Secretary Helen Day
Email-secretary@pdofs.org.au

Editorial Address

Di Smith 635 Beachmere Road BEACHMERE 4510
Email - president@pdofs.org.au

Web - www.pdofs.org.au

Patron

Carryn Sullivan
Member for Pumicestone

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 2011

◆ Cultural Meeting

Ningi Community Hall
Bribie Island Road, Ningi.
Meetings are held on the **4th Monday**
of each month starting at 7.30 pm.
Next Meeting: 22nd August 2011

■ Committee Meetings

All members are always welcome
at committee meetings.
Meetings are held on the **1st Monday**
Of the month at **7.30 pm** at
635 Beachmere Rd Beachmere
Next Meeting: 5th September 2011

●
Hello Everyone,

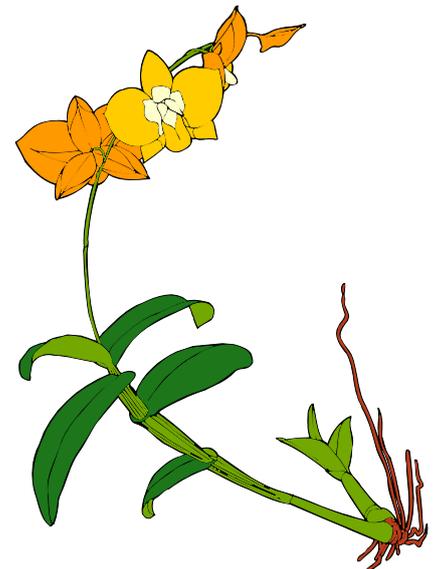
Hope everyone 's orchids are growing nicely and some new growths are starting to appear. It's been a chilly, dry winter. I fertilised today. The first time for ages. Maybe I may get some buds now. Repotting will start soon. I have done most of my oncidiums. All in sphagnum in terracotta pots this year. At the last committee meeting it was decided the first of our Day Society Meetings would be on 9th Sept. Please see page 4 for details.

Di.

FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- ❖ **Pumicestone email address.**
secretary@pdofs.org.au
- ❖ **Pumicestone web site:**
pdofs.org.au. Have a look. New photo's on the site
- ❖ **Please support the Beach BBQ this year. It's Sunday 20th November. Numbers will be needed for catering. Please put this date in your diary.**
- ❖ **Our day society starts on 9th Sept. This is a Friday. Please see page 4 for details.**
- ❖ **Club Fees**

Single \$15.00 annually
Family \$20.00 annually



Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

Workshop 21st August

We start our re potting from this meeting. We will start with Cattleya's. Please bring any problem plants you have. See back page for details.

Cultural Meeting August 22nd

At this meeting Sue Jones will be speaking on Cymbidiums.

Christmas Beach BBQ

This year our beach BBQ is on November 20th. This is the date of last Workshop for the year. We will be having our BBQ on the Pumicestone passage side of Bribie, opposite "Salt Restaurant". The club pays for everything. This is a 'free day' for members as a thank you for their continued support. Please put this date in your diary.

Christmas Break up December 8th

We will be having our Christmas break up dinner at the Beachmere Tavern. It will be the same format as last year. Everyone will order their own food and drinks. It is on a Thursday night. Be there by 6pm for a 6-30pm order.

Upcoming Events

Nambour Show	2 nd 3 rd Sept	Uniting Church Hall Nambour
Native Orchid show	16 th to 20 th Sept	St John's Lutheran Church Hall Toowoomba
EDOS Show	17 th 18 th Sept	420 Wondall Rd, Manly West
Glasshouse Show	23-24 th Sept	Beerwah Community Hall
Ipswich O/S Show	24 th – 25 th Sept	Silkstone State School
BIOS	8 th 9 th Oct	Bribie State High School
Our Show	12 th 13 th Nov	Ningi Community Hall

Upcoming guest speakers in 2011

September 26 th	Albert Gibbard QOS Judge
October 24 th	Talk on species by Robert Trost
November 28 th	Christmas Break up
December	No Meeting

Sunday 18th September

All members & friends are welcome to meet at Trost's Orchid Nursery at 1-30pm. This is our workshop day and Robert has very kindly allowed us to visit and have afternoon tea there. Please all come. This is your chance to pick up some lovely plants, many species, at a very reasonable price.

Day Meeting

Our first day meeting will be held on Friday September 9th and then every 2nd Friday of each month except December. The meetings will be held in the Ningi Hall each month. Benching and a cuppa from 9am.

Meeting to start at 9-30am. There will be either a guest speaker or a hands on day where we will pot or repot. We would like to have foliage sections at this meeting as well, so as the meetings progress we may have both orchid and foliage guest speakers on the same day. As our night meeting is where we do our business this meeting will be a little more relaxed. More information at this meeting. Everyone is welcome both our members and visitors. See you there.

Please Note. Change of email addresses

- **President Di** president@pdofs.org.au
- **Secretary Helen** secretary@pdofs.org.au
- **Treasurer Allan** treasurer@pdofs.org.au

Please note we still all have our personal email addresses. They are unchanged.

Encyclia polybolbum

I have had this plant for many years. It has been grown from a small plant in Bonsai Pots then potted up every couple of years. It is now in a very large bonsai pot and I use small stakes all around the perimeter to make it grow back upon itself. This is why it is so dense. It is grown under 70% shade cloth with no solar weave over it. It is in a little more shaded position than cattleya's on the cooler side of the bushhouse. This plant is listed under 3 names in the species book. Epidendrum and Dinemia as well as Encyclia. It is a native of Honduras, Cuba and Mexico. It grows on rocks or forest mulch in nature at an altitude of 600m to 2000metres. It gets fertilised just the same as all other orchids and I find it very easy to grow. Di



Equitant Oncidiums - A Presentation by Ann Sales

Some of the terms referring to these little miniature orchids are Equitant Oncidiums, Variegata Oncidiums, and Tolumnias. However you may also have heard of Zelemnias and Rodrumnias in the group too.

They originate from the Caribbean islands and are thus found in warm (intermediate) conditions with high humidity. They grow in bright light on tree branches. They are often exposed to water every day from the storms coming off the sea and then the sea winds dry them out quickly .

The plants grow in small clumps and given the right conditions they seem to grow all year round. They usually flower in spring though some will flower all year round (e.g. Zelemnia Liz)

Like the phalaenopsis, don't cut off the whole inflorescence when the first flowers wilt as they often send out side branches of more flowers.

Growing medium

Many people will tell you they are hard to grow. However I am sure that they are only hard to grow if you do not understand what conditions they like. It is so important too that your watering regime is suited to your orchid house environment and also what potting medium you are growing the plants in.

I grow my plants on Mounts, preferably on cork. However, I also use Callistemon twigs and even old fence palings, though I am achieving the best results on cork. But Cork is quite expensive. I am told they like red cedar too but haven't tried that myself. I have one plant in a wooden slat basket at the moment as a trial. I have however also seen plants grown quite successfully in plastic and terracotta pots though I have had no success with pots at all.

Unlike most other orchids I have deflasked, I took my equitants out of flask and mounted them directly on cork rather than into a compost. The plant roots go on the mount, are covered by a small piece of sphag moss and then attached firmly with fishing line. They must be firmly attached so they don't wobble. Instead of sphag moss, elkhorn or staghorn peat is also excellent. I do not advise that a large amount of sphag or peat cover the roots of the small plant. Of any plant I have deflasked, they have the smallest attrition rate. I have taken plants from flask to first flowering in 18 months.

Dieback

I also recommend that you take care with older plants where there is a large matted leaf mass . You will find that the oldest part of the plant will begin to die off and they then get root and fungal rot. If a plant starts going backward, remove it from the mount or pot and clean away any old or dying debris, divide plant if necessary and attach it to a new mount.

Growing conditions and area

I have these plants hanging on the south enclosed walls of my orchid houses thus they are facing north. They grow in my 70% shade houses where I grow Cattleya orchid. All houses have a permanent roof of solarweave and a pebble floor. The mounts hang from waist height and above on the back solid enclosed walls. They should receive good air movement and my orchid houses are situated where they receive light all day. The houses all have under bench sprinklers so that I can maintain high humidity.

Watering

I avoid watering on a cloudy or rainy day. I prefer to water on a sunny day around 10am with an aim to have the plants dried within an hour of watering. Thus I can water daily in such an environment in summer. I aim to water at least 3 times per week. I avoid misting in the heat of the day. I never water in the afternoon or early evening. Water can burn plants if it is sitting on them in the intense midday heat. It is better not to water if you do not think they will dry out quickly. Misting can be an advantage to keep up humidity and I find also the plants like the trickle of water down the walls behind the mounts on very hot days.

Fertiliser

I was advised to fertilise my equitants on every third watering which is, in the main, once per week. However I do not fertilise that frequently in winter and the plants still thrive. I use the same fertiliser that I use on my Cattleyas and this is predominately a low nitrogen high potash fertiliser with a very less frequent rotation to a high nitrogen once per month in the warmer months. I do however also use fish emulsion once per month.

Pests

The main concern that I have is ants which will bring in scale and mealy bug. Ants also like to find haven, and make nests, in cork. Regular spray of all my orchid houses for ants is done and repeated when ants are observed. I spray for ants all round the outside of the houses to bench high on all walls and under all benches and pots. Sometimes an infested mount will have to be sprayed for ants. Mites including red spider will also attack the equitants. However except in the case of ants, my preference is never to spray as a precaution and only spray when a pest is identified. Better to have conditions that the pests don't like. I quite like garlic /chilli and some of the natural oil sprays. If you have infestations, it is wise to rotate through different sprays to avoid pests building immunity to one spray. If you have a bug that you don't recognise, find out what it is before you start spraying with anything.

Propagation

These plants are easy to propagate even though the flowers are tiny. Once pollination occurs you will very quickly see a small seed pod develop. I have had seed pods to a flasker within 2 months of pollination with great success and flasks back within a year, however the standard recommendation is harvest pods from Tolumnias at 3 months and Zelemnias at 3¾ months.

The above notes are from our last Cultural Meeting. Ann's talk was very interesting. I have a problem growing Tolumnias but now know I have them in the wrong spot in the bushhouse. I hope others at the meeting enjoyed this talk as much as I did.

Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.



Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

Benching Results of Cultural Meeting July 2011

Judge for the night: Kathy Beatty

Judges Choice

Encyclia polybolbum

David & Di

<u>Genera</u>	<u>Placing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grower</u>
Cattleya	1 st	<i>Lc. Bonanza Queen</i>	Jim Day
	2 nd	<i>Lc. Donna Kimura</i>	Jim Day
	3 rd	<i>C. Horace</i>	Jim Day
Catt any other	1 st	<i>Pot. Free Spirit x Blc. Erin Kobayashi</i>	Jim Day
	2 nd	<i>Slc. Dal's Success</i>	Jim Day
	3 rd	<i>Slc. Hazel Boyd x Lc. Trick or Treat</i>	Jim Day
Dendrobium	1 st	<i>Den. Always Killani Jaq</i>	David & Di
Oncidium	1 st	<i>Onc. Twinkle</i>	David & Di
	2 nd		
species	1 st	<i>Dinemia polybolbum</i>	David & Di
	2 nd	<i>Dend. wenzellii</i>	David & Di
	3 rd	<i>B. glauca</i>	Jim Day
Any Other Hybrid	1 st	<i>Cymbidium</i> Unknown	Jim Day
	2 nd	<i>Epi. Peach Glow</i>	Janet Watson
Fern & Foliage	1 st	Maiden Hair	Jim Day
	2 nd	Enscipornis	Jim Day
	3 rd	Maiden Hair	Jim Day
Bromeliads	1 st	Brom	Janet Watson
	2 nd	Brom	Janet Watson
Novice Cattleya	1 st	<i>Slc. Tangerine Jewel x Slc. Batemanniana</i>	Martha Piccinich

Many thanks to the Community Gaming Fund for supplying us with computers and a laser printer to produce this bulletin.

Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

Return Post-P.O. Box 49 Bribie Island. Q 4507



Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Place
Stamp
here



Orchid Talk

Pumicestone District Orchid Growers Workshop

Our workshop is every third Sunday of the month except December. Next meeting is on **21st August** at **635 Beachmere Road Beachmere. 1-30pm start.**

See **page 3** of this bulletin for details. Please bring a chair, some afternoon tea, money for a raffle, and your problem plants. Contact Di on 54 962 861 or email president@pdofs.org.au for enquiries or information.

Shade Houses
by **PETER'S GLEN**
Manufacturers of Orchid,
Fern and Shade Houses
Since 1976
Ph: (07) 3207 2793
Fax: (07) 3822 2307
151 RAILWAY PDE., THORNSIDE Q 4158
www.petersglen.com.au

