

*August 2014*



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# **orchid talk**

**Articles for Orchid Talk due on or before 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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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



## **August 2014**



### **Day Meeting**

At Ningi Hall - Morning Tea at 9am  
for a 9-30 start. Guest speaker Geoff  
speaking on Gerberas  
Next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014  
(Friday)



### **Committee Meeting**

All members are always welcome  
at committee meetings.  
Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
Of the month at 7.30 pm at  
635 Beachmere Rd Beachmere  
Next Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014



### **August Birthstone poem - the Peridot**

*"Wear a Peridot or for thee,  
No conjugal fidelity,  
The August born without this  
stone,  
'Tis said, must live unloved  
alone."*

### **Presidents say:-**

Hello Members,

We get a lot of westerly winds blowing through our paddocks. I don't know if you all get as much as us but if you do, water a little more frequently. The plants get very dry. Only water in the morning and make sure their foliage is dry before evening.

September is the month we start to replot. Make sure you replot the cooler growing orchids first and wait till November for Hard Cane Dendrobiums.

This month our guest speaker will be talking on Gerberas.

September will be back to Beachmere on a Sunday for our 1<sup>st</sup> replot of the year.

Di

*Happy birthday to all members  
having a birthday this month.*

*Your birthstone is The Peridot*

*& your birth flower is*

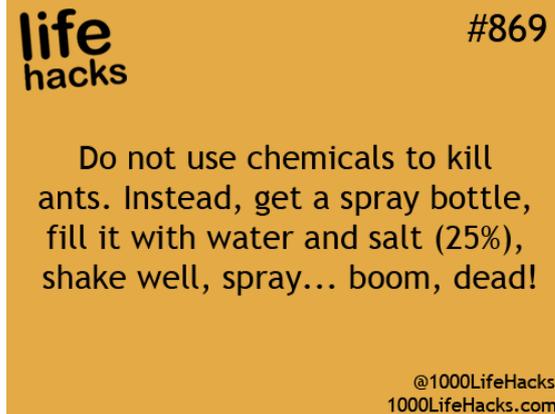
*The Gladiolus or Poppy*

Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> August

Next meeting is on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August at Ningi Hall Bribie Island Rd Ningi. Starting time is 9 am for Morning Tea . The meeting starts at 9-30am. Our guest speaker this month is Geoff. He will be speaking on Gerbera's. Bring any plants you are having a problem with or you would like to show off and I will have a talk about them. We will be having a small meeting after our guest speaker to elect officers.

Date	Event
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Day Meeting Ningi Hall 9am
August 9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup>	Maroochydore show
August 23 -24	North Bris O/S show Botanic Gardens
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Committee Meeting Beachmere 7-30pm
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	New Growers Beachmere 1pm
September 13/14 <sup>th</sup>	Beaudesert O/S Canungra School of Arts Hall
September 11-12-13 <sup>th</sup>	Lockyer Valley O/S Show Laidley Cultural Centre
October 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup>	Ipswich O/S & Ipswich Bromelaid Society Show Silkstone School
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting Beachmere 7-30pm
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Day Meeting Ningi Hall 9am
October 17/18/19 <sup>th</sup>	Orchid Species Society Botanic Gardens
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Committee Meeting Beachmere 7-30pm
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Day Meeting Last for year
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Break up Christmas Party Beachmere 11-30am

If any members would like to get ready for their repotting, the club has everything you need in the shed at the hall. Remember to pick up your potting needs this Friday at the meeting.



**Members, the club is having a fund raising BBQ at Bunnings Morayfield on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know at this Friday's meeting if you can help for a couple of hours either morning or afternoon on the day.**

**At the moment we are organising a bus trip north. Hopefully we will visit Heatons Fern nursery & another plant nursery plus a couple of Orchid nurseries and lunch at a club. This was discussed at our committee meeting last night so it is in it's very early stages. Will keep you posted on date in the next bulletin.**

**A woman went to the doctor's office where she was seen by one of the younger doctors. After about four minutes in the examination room, she burst out of the door and ran screaming down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room. The older doctor**

**marched**

**down** the hallway back to where the young doctor was writing on his clipboard. "What's the hell is the matter with you?!" the older doctor demanded. "Mrs. Terry is 71 years old, has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?" The younger doctor continued writing and without looking up said,

**"Does she still have the hiccups?"**

## **REPOTTING VANDAS**

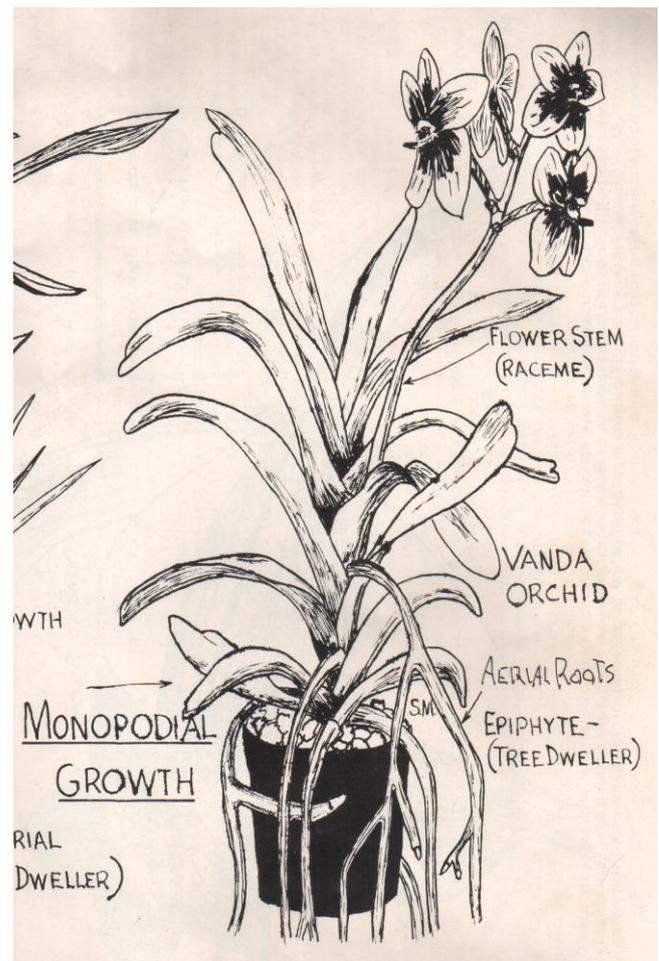
In their natural environment vandas grow on the sides of trees and rocks with their roots exposed to all the elements. After they get wet when it rains they dry out very quickly. In our greenhouse culture we have to try to duplicate these conditions. If you look at your vanda you will note that the roots are very thick and fleshy. You will also note that the growth habit is different to cattleyas, dendrobiums etc. in that it has monopodial type growth - that is that it grows singly upward instead of growing across the pot with multiple canes. There are generally two methods of potting vandas most commonly used - Pot culture and Basket culture.

Before you start potting your vandas ensure you have all the necessary equipment ready to use - secateurs, steriliser etc as per the cattleya potting sheet.

### **POT CULTURE**

When choosing the correct size pot to put your vanda into, select the size that will comfortably support the vanda on your bench. The size of the height of the vanda will dictate what is suitable. Next you will need to decide what mix to use. Keep in mind the rule of thumb to work by - the thicker the roots the coarser the bark. As vandas have very thick roots you will need to use a coarser bark mix than you would use for cattleyas, dendrobiums etc. A good mix would be your standard cattleya mix you would use for that size pot and add the next grade bark up from that to the mix to make it a little bit coarser.

After removing the vanda from its old pot remove the mix from around the roots. If a few bits of the old bark are attached to the roots and cannot be taken off without damaging the vandas roots then leave them on. Place the vanda in the centre of the pot with base of the plant where the roots meet growth, level with the top of the pot. Fill the pot with your mix making sure it is fairly firm in the pot. If the plant is loose in the mix you may have to stake it. Ensure you put the label back in the new pot. Return to the greenhouse. If you are repotting at a very hot time it is advisable to put in the plant in a shadier position until the plant re-establishes itself in the new mix.



**BASKET CULTURE**

The type of basket you decide to put your vandas into is a personal choice for you to make. The old wooden baskets are still very popular for their aesthetic look, but the more modern plastic baskets are practical as they will not rot like the wooden ones will do. You can also make your own baskets out of gutter guard and similar material if you choose.

Potting into baskets is very simple. After you have removed the plant from the old mix, simply thread the roots through the holes or slots in the basket ensuring the base of the plant stays level with the top of the basket. Put some coarse bark in the basket around the roots. If the plant is wobbly attach it to the basket's wire hanger. Ensure the name label is in the new basket. It is beneficial to put a bit of old mans beard around the top of the basket to help hold moisture and keep up humidity. Don't let the beard grow too thick as it can hold too much moisture. Hang back in your greenhouse as for pot culture.

You will find you will need to water basket grown vandas more than pot grown vandas as the extra air movement in the basket makes them dry quicker.

**REMEMBER** : POT YOUR VANDAS IN THE WARMER WEATHER WHEN THEY ARE SHOWING GREEN TIPS ON THE ROOTS AND ARE IN GROWTH MODE.



**Sorry there are no names on the plants above. They are not my plants.**



*Slc. Seagulls Mini Catt Heaven.*



*Phrag Caluram*



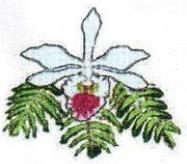
*L. purpurata*



*Den. superbiens*

**The September meeting will be back at 635 Beachmere Rd. This will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September starting at 1pm. We will start repotting at this meeting. If any member has a plant they are not sure how to manage, bring it along & we will head you in the right direction.**

**Please bring a plate of afternoon tea and a chair and also some raffle money.**



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
here



# *Orchid Talk*

*Our meetings are divided between the Ningi Hall, Bribie Island Road Ningi, and 635 Beachmere Road Beachmere.*

*At the Hall you will hear a guest speaker talk & at Beachmere we will be doing hands on potting and talking about all genera of orchids.*

*Anyone wanting to learn how to grow an orchid please attend all meetings.*

*Day meeting at Ningi cuppa at 9am for a 9-30 start at the hall - 1pm start at Beachmere. Please bring a plate of food.*

*Problem plants most welcome. If you have an orchid you are not sure what to do with bring it along.*



**Don't forget the club has a web site. [www.pdofs.org.au](http://www.pdofs.org.au). If anyone would like to add some information to this site please feel free to email it to me and I will forward it to Phillip.**