

July 2014



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orchid talk

Articles for Orchid Talk due on or before 9th August 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



July 2014



Day Meeting

At Ningi Hall - Morning Tea at 9am for a 9-30 start. This is our AGM. Please attend. We are in need of a secretary and Treasurer.

Next meeting: 11th July 2014 (Friday)



Committee Meeting

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 7th July 2014



Presidents say:-

Hello Members,

This morning I am sitting at the computer doing the bulletin because I am chilly So are your orchids. Most orchids, not all, are not so happy in the winter. They do not want to go to bed with wet feet as you would not. Water your orchids on a nice sunny morning around 9am, depending where you are growing them, so they are nice and dry by night time.

You can cut your watering by half now. I watered my hardcane dens on Tuesday morning this week and had not done them for more than 2 weeks before. They were all happy. Not too much fertiliser at the moment. They are not in growing mode so it's a waste. Start in September with high nitrogen to make them grow.

See you at the Ningi Hall on July 11th for the AGM

Di

June Birthstone poem – the Ruby

*"The gleaming Ruby should
adorn,
All those who in July are born,
For thus they'll be exempt and
free,
From lover's doubts and
anxiety."*

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

Your birthstone is The Ruby

*& your birth flower is the
Larkspur or Water Lily*

Fees are now due. Please pay treasurer at next meeting. Family \$20- Single \$15- annually. If we have not received your fees by the end of July we will not be sending out any more bulletins.

Meeting 11th July

Next meeting is on Friday 11th July at Ningi Hall Bribie Island Rd Ningi. Starting time is 9 am for Morning Tea . The meeting starts at 9-30am. Being the AGM we do not have a guest speaker this month. Bring any plants you are having a problem with or you would like to show off and I will have a talk about them. As most members would know Jim Day has some medical problems that need to be sorted out in the next 12 months. Helen is our Secretary and does not want the worry of this job next year. We are in need of a secretary and Treasurer. All positions will be vacated on the day so if anyone would put their hand up for any job it would be appreciated. As you can see below our nomination form is to be in the hands of the secretary by no later than June 27th

.....
Welcome New members George & Pauline Holehouse, Max & Adrienne West and Sandra Frizzell. Hope you all learn lots about growing orchids and have a great time in our club.

NOMINATION FORM

This form is to be returned to the secretary of the above society by June 27th 2014. Address P.O. Box 49 Bribie Island . 4507.

I,..... wish to nominate
.....,for the position of
..... at the 2014 election of officers.

Proposed by.....signed

Seconded by.....signed

I,.....nominated for the above position,
accept. Signed.....

Date	Event
July 11th	Day Meeting Ningi Hall 9am AGM
August 4 th	Committee Meeting Beachmere 7-30pm
August 8 th	Day Meeting Ningi Hall 9am
September 1 st	Committee Meeting Beachmere 7-30pm
September 14 th	New Growers Beachmere 1pm
October 6 th	Committee Meeting Beachmere 7-30pm
October 10 th	Day Meeting Ningi Hall 9am Peter Furniss speaking on Phalaenopsis
November 3 rd	Committee Meeting Beachmere 7-30pm
November 14 th	Day Meeting Last for year
December 14 th	Break up Christmas Party Beachmere 11-30am

BARK

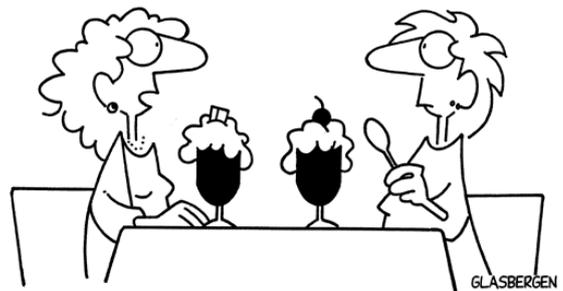
We have plenty of bark at the moment but it is in the shed at the hall. Please let Allan know if you want bark and he will organise it for you. His number is 0407597592.

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"The handle on your recliner does not qualify as an exercise machine."



"If you put a crouton on your sundae instead of a cherry, it counts as a salad."

Below is a very well written and informative piece on growing PHRAGMIPEDIUM. Darryl is an exceptional grower of these plants. I am hoping we can all visit his nursery in the near future.



Phrag. Calurum



Phrag Noirmont



Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice

PHRAGMIPEDIUM

Introduction

Called 'new world slippers' *Phragmipedium* are from Central and South America and NOT Asia as are *Paphiopedilum*. They are easy to grow.

There are between 15 and 27 species depending on source - some people lump species together and others split them up and raise what was a variety into a species in its own right.

They are found from Central America to South America.

The Genus was named in 1896 by Rolfe - prior to this they were known as *Cyripedium*, *Selenipedium* and *Uropedium*.

They have been in cultivation since the 1830's - *Phrag. caudatum* was first described in 1840. The second ever recorded orchid hybrid was *Phrag. Sedenii* in 1873 named for John Seden who was Veitch's chief gardener.

Phragmipedium differ from *Paphiopedilum* in a number of ways:

- Plants tend to be more grass like, with larger leaves generally held erect
- No colour on plant leaves and very little base colour.
- Flower spikes are jointed and branching unlike *Paphiopedilum*
- Flower bud segment edges touch while with *Paphiopedilum* they overlap
- The ovary is trilocular (3 cavities) while *Paphiopedilum* are unilocular (1 cavity)]
- Generally the base genome is $2n = 20$ while for *Paphiopedilum* it is $2n = 26$
- Chromosomes are smaller than *Paphiopedilum*

Plants are terrestrial, lithophytic or rarely epiphytic, generally growing on steep cliffs in leaf litter and moss in moist situations. They grow in high light areas with high seepage levels (water at the roots) and subsequently high humidity and in high rainfall areas with excellent airflow.

Phragmipedium tend to like higher light levels and more fertilizer than *Paphiopedilum*.

HOW I GROW THEM

This is how I grow them; others may differ in their culture. They are generally easy to grow as they come from the same general area as *Cattleya*.

Light

Phragmipedium like fairly bright light about 50 % to 60% shade, only slightly less than *Cattleya*. Leaves should remain a medium green. *Phrag. besseae* and its hybrids like a little darker.

Water

I divide the genus into 3 groups here: **dry**, **moist** and **wet**.

The species and hybrids from the following are in each group:

Dry - *caudatum*

Moist - *besseae*, *wallisii*

Wet - the rest

Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

It can be difficult with hybrids from the different groups as to what they want and can only be solved by observation. Water is perhaps the most critical both in terms of quality and quantity. *Phragmipedium* are usually found on mountain slopes with high seepage at the root zone and in high rainfall areas. Some are even found growing with their roots submerged in water. This should give you the idea that most love lots of water.

Phragmipedium like wet feet and clean water. Water quality is also important and town water with high salts and chlorine can cause problems - usually shown by leaf tips browning off. They should never be allowed to dry out completely. I grow mine in small saucers about 1cm to 2cm deep.

Airflow

As with all orchids air movement is important and even more so with *Phragmipedium*. Remember we are growing them moist and humid; if the airflow is poor it can lead to fungal and disease problems. Generally what we like to see is the flower spikes just swaying in the breeze.

Spacing of plants is also important and what we look for here is for plants to be just touching each other so that they can get airflow around them. Tightly packed plants can lead to a range of problems.

Temperature

My growing range is 0°C to about 40°C. They are considered to be intermediate growers (much like *Cattleyas*). Ideal is day of 25°C to 30°C and nights of 12°C to 15°C - so in general, local conditions are good for them.

As with all orchids as temperature increases we should look to raise humidity and airflow.

Humidity

Phragmipedium love high humidity, 60% to even 90% is just fine. Remember with the plants sitting in water the humidity is higher anyway. I will often in summer turn on foggers I have in my bush house to increase humidity and sometimes are water the floor to further increase humidity.

Fertilizer

I treat mine like all other orchids so they get liquid fertilizer at ½ strength every week or fortnight (I use Campbell's blue). I like to take them out of the saucers to fertilize and not have them sitting in the fertilizer.

I DO NOT recommend any form of slow release as it is too high in salts and the hairy roots will trap the salt next to the root and can burn the root. An excellent grower recommends to topdress the plants once a year with blood and bone at the rate of a teaspoon per litre of mix.

Potting and potting Mix

The best time to pot is straight after flowering. The mix needs to retain moisture and also keep good air circulation - so pot loosely.

Phragmipedium prefer a more acid mix with a Ph of 5 or 6 being fine. I use deep rather than squad pots as they have a very strong and vigorous root system.

As they are sitting in water the mix is always moist so I repot small plants every year and large plants every 2 years to freshen the mix. My current mix is 2 parts coco, 2 parts bark and 1 part perlite - the size varies depending on the pot size - so small grade for up to 80mm pots, medium grad for 100 to 140mm pots and large for 150mm +. The only problems I encounter is climbing plants and here I just cut another pot in half and join it to the main pot and top it up with mix and top cover with moss to hold it all together.

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Bush House

I would recommend a covered roof and open sides so you can control the rainfall a bit. My bush house is pipe construction with shade cloth (50%) sides and a lazerlite roof (55%), please make your house as high as possible for cooling and light dissipation reasons. Benches are weldmesh about 1m off the ground. I have an overhead fogging system to cool the plants but generally water by hand.

General

I consider *Phragmipedium* to be easy to grow - you treat them much like a *Cattleya* just growing in a saucer of water. If you allow the plants to clump up the flower spikes will get much longer and the flowers bigger.

Getting Started

They are not widely available and some of the newer hybrids are very expensive \$50 for a plant in a 50mm pot is not uncommon. This is because while they are easy to grow hybrids can be difficult to breed with breeders getting very little germination.

The best to start with, I would suggest, are:

Calurum (10cm+ dark pink - sequential flowering over 12 months +)
longifolium (15cm green, tan and maroon - sequential flowering over 6 months +)
Sedenii (8 - 10cm light pink - sequential flowering over 9 - 12 months)
Grande (large flowers with petals to 45cm+ - 2 - 5 flowers)

These are all very easy to grow and a flowering size plant can often be found for \$25.

Next along would be hybrids like:

	<i>Eric Young</i> (10cm bright red - sequential flowering)	
<i>Mem Dick Clemments</i>		(10 - 12cm red to orange - sequential flowering)
	<i>Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>	(12 - 15cm green and red flowers on tall spikes - sequential flowering)
<i>Noirmont</i> (12- 15cm red to orange flowers - sequential flowering.		

In closing

I would say give them a go, the reasons to grow them are as follow:

- They are about as easy as a *Cattleya* to grow
- Treat them much like a *Cattleya* but with wet feet.
- The flower for a long time with up to 18mth from the one flower spike being possible - always something to take to a meeting
- The plants are not unattractive
- There is a large range of colours (white, pink, red, orange, magenta, greens and tans) and a large range of flower sizes 4cm to 90cm and shapes.

Darryl Banks, Phone: (07) 5442 9224

Phrag. Mem Dick Clemments





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. 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.