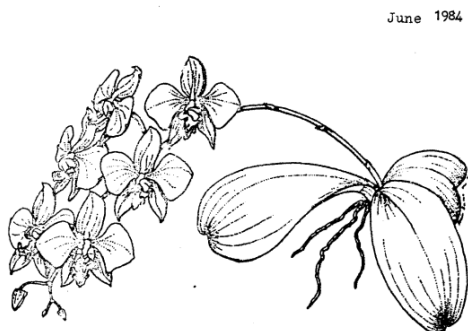


Blooming well



**A look at the first 75 years of the
Townsville Orchid Society Inc.**

**75th Anniversary Book
1947 – 2022**



June 1984

Phalaenopsis amabilis var *papuana*



2nd Edition
August, 2022

Jeff Knowles
Jan Allen

Objectives of the Townsville Orchid Society Inc.

The promotion of good fellowship.

The advancement of knowledge of all that pertains to orchids, particularly their natural history, cultivation and hybridisation.

The dissemination of such knowledge amongst members and kindred societies.

Members shall also assist the Government as far as possible in preventing vandalism and the destruction of orchids in their natural habitat.

Do you remember?

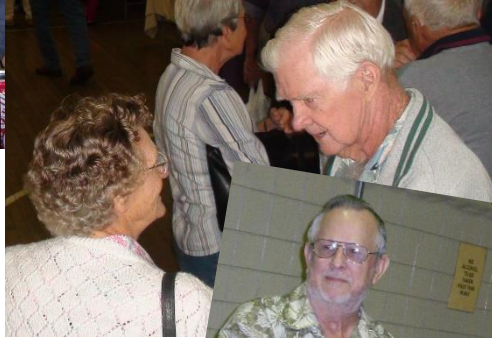




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Messages.



As the current Townsville Orchid Society President, I am proud and honoured to be a part of the club's 75th Birthday celebrations. Although I have not been a member of the club for very long, compared to some of our most senior members, I would like to say that the companionship and friendship within the club is very rewarding. I have enjoyed the challenge of learning how to grow and maintain my orchids, through the knowledge of our veteran growers and local lecturers.

In celebration of this magnificent milestone, the Townsville Orchid Society are hosting a 75th Birthday Gala Show and Sales with a Gala Dinner in recognition of the enormous success as a very strong club. With a lot of hard work by the current committee members and the help of our volunteers, I am quite sure that the 75th Birthday Gala Show and Sales event will be a great success.

I sit here wondering, if in 1947 when the club was first established, that the initial organisers who started the club would have believed that the club would have withstood the challenges thrown at us all throughout the past years. I take my hat off to the past Presidents and committees who have kept it running so magnificently.

I would like to wish The Townsville Orchid Society Inc. an incredibly HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY, and I also wish the club many more successful milestones in the future.

Robyn Dundas
2021/2022 President
Townsville Orchid Society Inc.



Hello everybody!

Huge congratulations to Townsville Orchid Society for reaching the milestone of 75 years. When so many orchid clubs are sadly struggling post covid it is wonderful to see that some clubs, TOS in particular, are going from strength to strength.

To have both survived and grown in strength over such a long time is testament to the passion and enthusiasm of its members. No club can survive without input from the volunteers within it and it is clear that TOS has a particularly great bunch of them. To put on such a commemorative show also demonstrates the vision of the membership.

I love attending orchid shows and part of my vision in becoming AOC President was to travel around and visit as many as possible. Covid-19 stopped this happening for a couple of years and although travel is returning to normal, flights are not as abundant or competitively priced as before. Consequently, I am not able to join you in person for the 75th Birthday Celebrations in Townsville but I know that you will all have a fabulous time admiring orchids, smelling orchids, judging orchids, and buying orchids. I am already jealous!!!

Have a Great Birthday Townsville Orchid Society!

Dr. Marion Davey
President
Australian Orchid Council Inc.



I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to the Townsville Orchid Society on its 75th birthday.

Founded just a few years after the conclusion of the war, the TOS flourished in Townsville – not too dissimilar to how orchids flourish in our ideal tropical environment!

From the first public exhibition at the Australian Workers' Union Hall in Denham Street in 1948 to the monthly meetings now held on Charles Street, Kirwan, the Townsville Orchid Society has been a key focal point of the Townsville community, including those beyond the range of orchid growers and admirers in our region.

The Townsville Orchid Society's leadership in promoting interest in orchids was recognised with other orchid societies in regional Queensland joining with them to join the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council in the 1960s.

From these humble beginnings, the Townsville Orchid Society has gone from strength to strength.

I wish the Society all the best for the next 75 years... and beyond!

Cr Jenny Hill
Mayor of Townsville



What a remarkable accomplishment for a Community Organisation to not only reach 75 years but to still consistently contribute and promote positivity to this wonderful city we call Townsville. I have been involved with the Townsville Orchid Society Inc. for around 6 years now through my role as a Townsville City Councillor and while I have always taken pride in my yard it was always more about my lawn, a couple of native trees as well as a few palms.

What a difference a few years make, along with professional and transferable advice from the helpful volunteers from the Townsville Orchid Society Inc I have a new found love and respect for all things orchids.

While one of their main aims is to educate people on how to grow and maintain orchids, which they do by holding many Orchid Shows throughout the year with thousands attending these shows, they also bring many of our seniors together on a regular basis.

I personally attend many of these shows and always walk out with a few more orchids, that little bit more knowledge around orchids as well as some more information on the history of orchids. My yard now boasts at least 30 orchids of various kinds and at different times of the year give it some beautiful colour.

As a Council and a society, we always look at ways to work collectively to bring our community together and to embrace that Community Spirit. The Townsville Orchid Society typifies this Community Spirit and has done for 75 years. I would like to genuinely thank all those members, volunteers and committees from those 75 years for their great work and I look forward to more shows in the years to come.

Regards

Cr Russ Cook
Councillor for Division 5
Chair Townsville Water & Waste Standing Committee
Chair Community Safety Advisory Committee



Congratulations!

Congratulations to all members of The Townsville Orchid Society Inc. on your Society's 75th anniversary. I extend these congratulations in my capacities as the current Queensland Delegate on the AOC Inc's. Board of Management and as the AOC Inc's Regional Registrar for Queensland.

Those July 1947 general meetings definitely laid the foundations for the great Townsville area orchid society that you are now. By the Spring of 1948, your members were sharing their passion for orchids with the public on the occasion of your society's very first orchid show. More significant firsts were still to come in:

- the 1983 hosting of the first ever Australian Orchid Conference in a non-capital city,
- the 1998 hosting of the 6th Asia Pacific Orchid Council Conference, and
- being the first Australian orchid society to acquire its very own premises.

So, please celebrate your Society's amazing achievement with your 2022 Winter Orchid Show and special 75th Anniversary Dinner.

Finally, congratulations again on a great achievement and best wishes to all members as you power forward to your Society's centenary celebration.

Les Vickers

Queensland Delegate, AOC Inc. Board of Management
& AOC Inc. Regional Registrar (Qld)



As chairman of the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Inc. (TQOC) I would like to congratulate the Townsville Orchid Society in reaching 75 years as a club.

The club has had a long standing in the community. The monthly meetings and the new grower's monthly meetings where the more experienced growers have handed their wisdom onto the new growers.

Townsville Orchid Society has held a large number of Tropical Queensland Orchid Council conferences in June on the Queensland birthday long weekend. This requires a lot of planning and man hours to put these together. Jobs well done. The club has put a lot effort into training new Australian Orchid Council Judges. The Townsville Orchid Society has lent tables and chairs and man power to help set up and dismantle the two North Queensland Orchid Fairs held on behalf of the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council. The Townsville Orchid Society has put on World class shows. This is something the club can hold their heads up high.

So once again, congratulations on the past 75 years.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable time, and may the next 75 years be enjoyable. I thank all the office bearers, past and present for the effort that has been put in to making Townsville Orchid Society a club of champions.

Mervyn Fuller

Chairman of the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council



In the 75 years of Townsville Orchids Society's history many things have changed.

In the late 1940s, there would have been a restricted supply of new orchids and few avenues for finding them. Mericlone was being experimented with in France and quality orchids would have been hard to find. In recent years, many genera within Laeliinae, Oncidiinae and Aeridinae have had name changes which affected many intergenerics.

75 years ago, the Townsville Orchid Society would have been a great source of fellowship for a lot of people before the age of television, mobile phones and social media, but now, societies have to compete against these forms of technology.

There were members of this society whose names were known throughout Australia but sadly many of those people are no longer here to celebrate.

Last year I arranged to attend the Townsville Orchid show and had contacted an executive member of the society but, unfortunately, the show was cancelled at short notice because of a COVID outbreak in the area.

I wish the society every success and that it remains meaningful in Townsville so that it will continue to attract volunteers.

John Rees
Registrar General of Judging
Australian Orchid Council

Founders

The inaugural meeting was held on 20th June, 1947 and the first general meeting on 2nd July, 1947 at which the first elections were held. The following shows the attendees at either of these meetings.

Dr J Breinl	Elected first Patron at first general meeting.
Mr R P Kirke	Elected first President
Mr P K Searle	Elected first Secretary / Treasurer
Mr S Brock	Elected first Vice-President and Technical Advisor.
Mr S Short	Elected first Vice-President
Mr C Freeman	Elected first Vice-President
Mr P Johnstone	Elected to first committee
Mr P Bretherton	Elected to first committee
Mr J Sim	Elected to first committee
Mr K Kennedy	Elected to first committee
Mr C W Dette	Elected to first committee
Mrs E Nott	Elected to first committee
Mr G Butler	
Mr H S Doorey	
Mr H Wooster	
Mr J Berge	
Mr J Kirke	
Mrs J Sim	
Mrs H S Doorey	
Mrs E C Maloney	
Mrs Hodell	
Mrs Gregory	
Mrs Haywood	
Mrs Sarviner	
Mrs K Kennedy	

Current Management Committee

Patron	Mrs Jean Nicholson
President	Mrs Robyn Dundas
Treasurer	Mr Jeff Knowles
Vice President – Shows	Mrs Jan Allen
Vice President – Hall	Mr Robert Rasmussen
Vice President – Hospitality	Mrs Ruth Whiting
Publicity Officer	Leonie Johnson
Committee Member	Mrs June Cairns
Committee Member	Mr Troy McGill
Committee Member	Mr Noel Grant
Editor	Mr Noel Grant
Librarian	Mr Noel Grant
Technical Officer	Mr Charlie Truscott
Programme Director	Mr Greg Kelly
Host	Mr John Rutledge
Host	Mrs Denise Lincoln
Host	Mrs Sam McGill
Returning Officer	Mr John Nuss
Scrutineer	Mr Noel Grant
Scrutineer	Mr Robert Rasmussen

A vibrant history of the Townsville Orchid Society

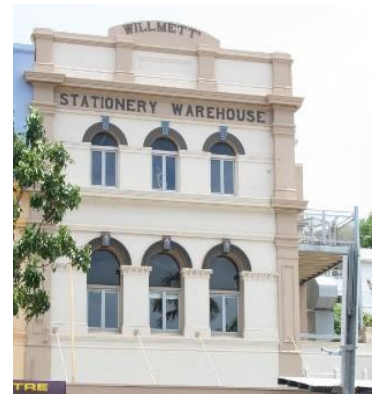
As the world was recovering from World War II, a small group of citizens decided to put a bit of colour and community spirit into Townsville. These six kindred spirits were orchid enthusiasts and keen to connect with others who had the same interests.

From a simple advertisement in the Townsville Daily Bulletin in June 1947, 75 years ago, a seed was sown. From these humble beginnings the Townsville Orchid Society was formed and continues to flourish.

The Inaugural Meeting – 20th June 1947

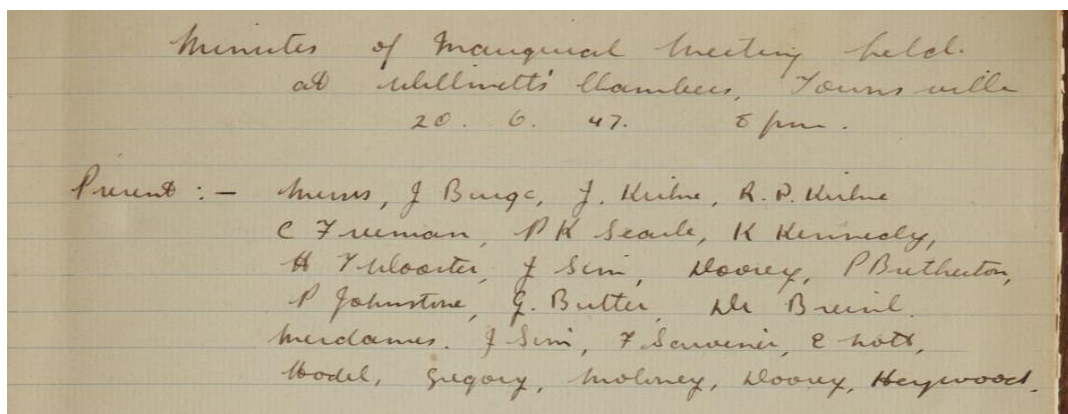


Advertisement from the Townsville Daily Bulletin on 19th June 1947.



Willmetts Chambers

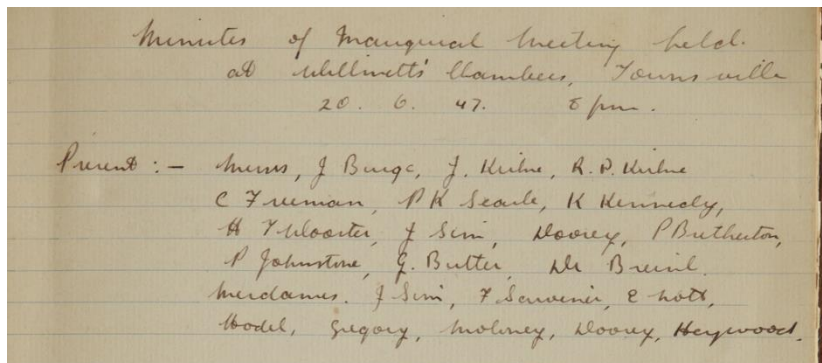
At this inaugural meeting on Friday 20th June 1947, “The Townsville Orchid Society” (TOS) was formed. This meeting was opened by Mr P. K. Searle on behalf of the convenors, with twenty-one enthusiasts in attendance. A temporary committee was formed and a sub-committee which was given the task of drafting rules for the Society.



A copy of the original minutes showing the attendees at the inaugural meeting.

The first General Meeting of the Townsville Orchid Society – 2nd July, 1947

At the first general meeting on 2nd July 1947 the important business of adopting rules and electing officials was carried out. The rules adopted followed closely to those of the Queensland Orchid Society with one particular difference. TOS opted to admit junior members at a reduced subscription of 5/- per annum. This was in the hope of encouraging the younger generation to pursue this interesting hobby.



A section of the minutes from the first general meeting..

Four plants in bloom were tabled by Mr Stan Brock who spoke of their nature, habits, and the best methods of cultivation.



Vanda boxallii



Spathoglottis plicata

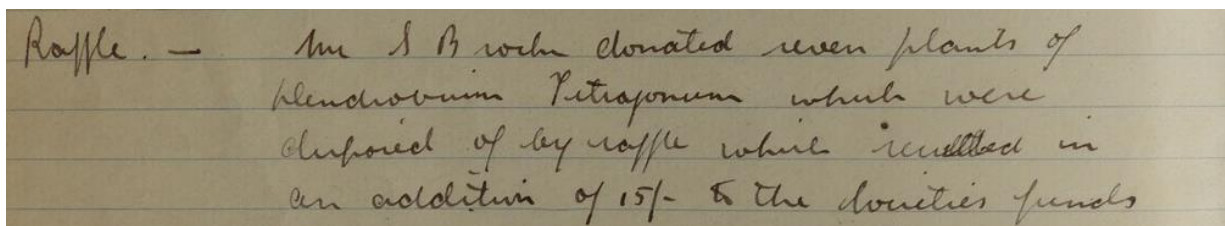


Casdetia hispidum



Dendrobium d'albertisii

How different do our meetings look now? Quite similar in many respects with the tabling of plants, senior growers imparting their knowledge, the TOS 'shop'and the raffle table.



Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Emblem

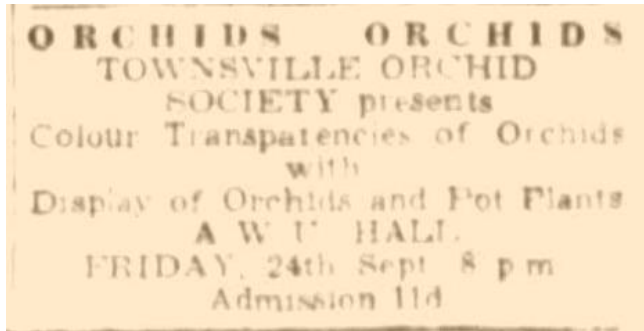


At the next general meeting, held on 25th July, 1947, a spectacular local orchid *Phalaenopsis rosenstromii*, commonly known as the Mt. Spec orchid, was chosen as the emblem of the Society and remains our emblem to this day. A badge bearing the image of this orchid can be found as our logo which is used in all our correspondence, advertising, prize certificates and signage. (Note: This orchid is now classified as *Phalaenopsis amabilis* subsp. *rosensrtomii*).

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

1948 – First Exhibition

It wasn't long before the Townsville Orchid Society had their first public exhibition. An invitation to Townsville citizens resulted in a capacity audience on Friday 24 September 1948, at 8pm.



The show was opened by the patron Dr. J. Breinl. It took the form of a lantern lecture and an exhibition of locally grown orchids. The slides of the exotic, colourful orchids and commentary were provided by Mr W. Kirkwood of Cairns.

The exhibition of local orchids was described by the Townsville Daily Bulletin as 'remarkable', of a surprisingly high quality, being the subject of much admiration. A thoughtful gesture on the part of the Society was to present all cut orchids to the Red Cross for its Chelsea flower show in Brisbane.

It was decided to make the Spring Show an annual event and it is now believed to be the oldest regular spring show in Australia.

1949 – Floral Grandeur 9th-10th September 1949



About 300 plants, all locally grown, were exhibited. They comprised about 13 species of North Queensland orchids, and 36 exotic varieties.

The Show was non-competitive and proceeded over 2 days, finishing at noon on Saturday.

Ref: Townsville Daily Bulletin Saturday 10th September 1949.

AN OUTSTANDING ORCHID



Townsville residents have recently had opportunities of appreciating the unexcelled beauty and fragrance of orchids, mass displayed by dozens of varieties by the Townsville Orchid Society. For individual brilliance, however, it is doubtful whether any of those blooms could compare with a magnificent specimen being displayed publicly for the first time by Mr. Stan Short, one of Townsville's foremost orchid lovers. When this picture was taken the orchid was studded with seven exquisite blooms. These blooms, about six inches in diameter, consist of petals delicately shaded in light and dark pink, merging into vivid mauve lips of velvety appearance. Botanically, this wonderful manifestation of nature is known as *Laelia Cattleya Excellency*. (Walters Studio, photo.)

Ref: Townsville Daily Bulletin Tuesday 11th October, 1949.



C. Lustre

x



C. Suavior

= Laeliocattleya Excellency

1952 – 5th Annual Exhibition of the Townsville Orchid Show

Citizens came out in their finery to witness what was described as ‘the finest display of orchid blooms ever seen in North Queensland.’



*Ref: Townsville Daily Bulletin,
Monday 22nd September 1952*

1953 – Magnificent Blooms at Orchid Show



It was reported in the Townsville Daily Bulletin (Saturday 19th September 1953) that ‘Thousands of multi-coloured and fragrant blooms converted the Y.M.C.A. hall into a veritable fairyland, representing a capital investment of somewhere in the vicinity of £2000 by Townsville orchid enthusiasts.’

1954 - The Royal Visit

The Townsville Orchid Society was heavily involved in providing orchids during the Queen's visit in March 1954. Not only were they asked to provide orchid blooms for presentation to the Queen and decoration of the Royal dais at the Sports Grounds, but they also received a request from the local agents of the Shaw, Savill, Albion company to provide a sufficient quantity of orchid blooms for the purpose of decorating the cabins of the S.S. Gothic during the Queen's visit to Townsville.

With the resources of some 80 members at its disposal, and kindred societies of North Queensland on stand-by, the Society was confident they could fulfil all requests.

The bouquet was comprised of cattleyas, vandas and native North Queensland orchids.

The Royal dais at the Sports Reserve was decorated with pots of *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* (Cooktown orchid more correctly now called *Den. bigibbum*) and *Dendrobium superbiens*, two of our most colourful North Queensland natives, making it an exceedingly spectacular display.



PRESENTATION TO QUEEN



Little Robyn Breinl, chatting with the Queen after she had presented her with a bouquet of orchids in Townsville yesterday.
(Friley Studio photo)

1954 – 7th Annual Exhibition

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY EXHIBITION



Some of the very fine orchids on display at the Townsville Orchid Society's show, which opened on Friday and which will be continued until 10 p.m. to-day.

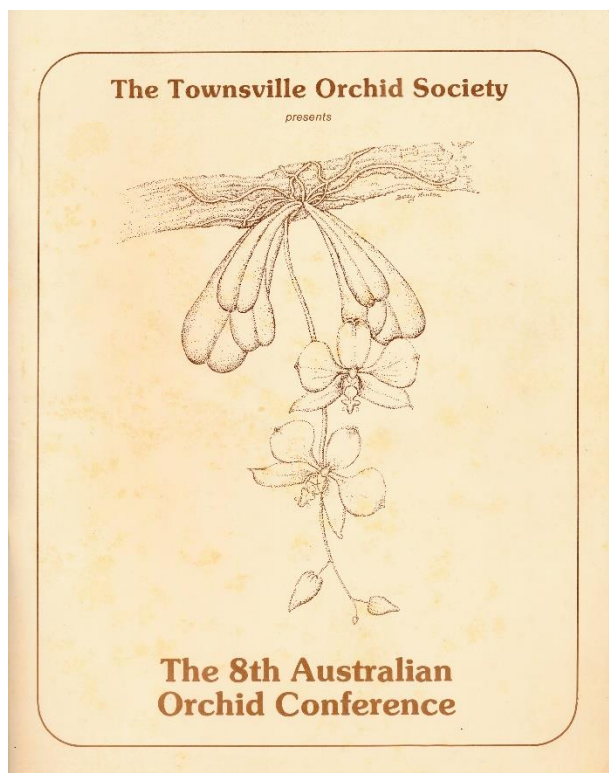
Even after supplying a massive quantity of orchids for the Royal visit in March, the Townsville Orchid Society presented what was described by the Deputy Mayor and Society Patron, Alderman John Breinl, as 'the best that had ever been staged in Townsville by the Society.'

The number of blooms and the number of varieties represented were a record for any show staged by the society.

Blooms of almost every conceivable colour and from almost every country in the world were on display, including a collection of valuable hybrid orchids recently imported by the Society from France, Holland and England. The value of the whole exhibition was between £3080 to £4000.

September 1983 – 8th Australian Orchid Conference

The 8th Australian Orchid Conference, organised and hosted by the Townsville Orchid Society, represented a milestone for provincial Orchid Societies. In a break from tradition, this was the first time the Australian Orchid Council had chosen to award its triennial conference to be held outside a capital city. What a privilege and a great success.



8TH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE WORKING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
Mr. Frank Tooth

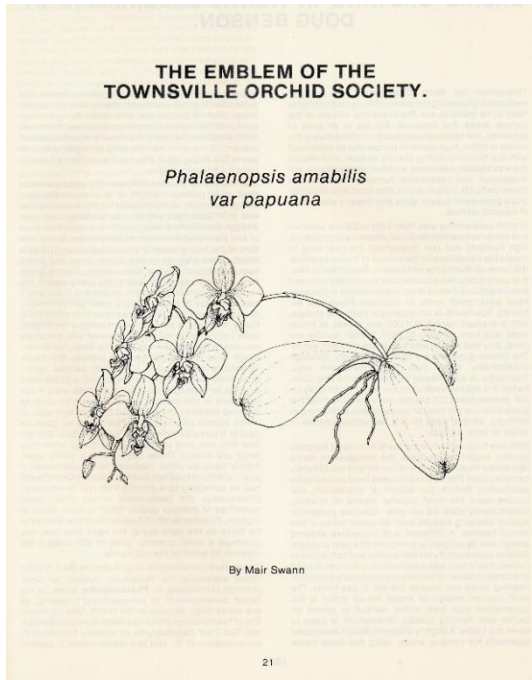
VICE CHAIRMAN
Mr. Lister Arrowsmith

TREASURER
Mr. Peter Pavia

SECRETARY
Mr. Edward Boon

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Mrs. Kathleen Greenway

SUB COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
Show - Mr. Ronald Merritt
Lecturers & Programme - Mr. Ray Robinson
Accommodation & Tours - Mr. Mick Keith
Hospitality - Mr. Bert Verheyen
Catering - Mrs. Leslie Verran
Publicity - Mrs. Doreen Piltz
Fund Raising - Mrs. Rudolph Piltz
Reception & Entertainment - Mrs. Lorraine Tooth



Townsville Orchid Society



OFFICE BEARERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PATRON
Mrs. Ivy Nott
PRESIDENT
Mr. Ray Robinson
SNR. VICE PRESIDENT
Mr. Ronald Merritt
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mr. Harold Chapman, Mr. Frank Tooth, Mr. Edward Boon
TREASURER
Mr. Lister Arrowsmith
ASSISTANT TREASURER
Mrs. Hilda Arrowsmith
SECRETARY
Mrs. Sandy Goldsworthy
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Mrs. Geoffrey Harrison
PUBLICITY OFFICER
Mr. Bert Verheyen
TECHNICAL ADVISOR
Mr. Michael Richards
LIBRARIAN
Mrs. Beryl Golding
COMMITTEE
Mr. Ray Nicholls, Mr. Douglas Benson, Mr. Jack Kapitsky, Mr. Tony Kapcelovich
Mrs. Lorraine Tooth.

Ref: Proceedings of the 8th Australian Orchid Conference Townsville Nth Qld [27th Aug. - 4th Sept. 1983] – Editor Ray Robinson

1986/90 Orchid Shows



Spring Show display 1988



Spring Show Novice display 1988



Sewell's display Autumn Show 1989



Novice display Autumn Show 1989

AUSTRALIA

Win was worth the wait

TOWNSVILLE couple Mr Rudy and Mrs Darreen Piltz won the Grand Champion Orchid at the annual show judged in Townsville yesterday.

They won the grand champion award with the winning orchid *Oncidium-Kowait*.

It was their first win in many years of entering the shows.

The autumn orchid show, held annually in Townsville, brought 300 competitors from Charters Towers, Ayr and Ingham.

Judge Mr Ron Merritt said a winning orchid was chosen by how close it was to the perfect model for that particular orchid.



TOWNSVILLE orchid grower Mr Rudy Piltz with his Grand-Champion Orchid.

DISPLAY GROUP FOR 1989 SPRING SHOW

A TEAM

Group Co-Ordinators
P. Merritt

Contributors

R & P. Merritt
P & A Pavia
A & C Hughes
B Thompson
B Arrowsmith
M Arrowsmith
L & H Arrowsmith
I & P Walters
C & B Hoskings
M & A Flannery
M & M Richards
R & B Robinson
N & A Coffison
K & J. Eardman
T & D Hobden
G & R Reid

P Jack
M King
K Owens
J Parker
S Mammino
G Peever
K Kelly
K King Fay
J Nuss
T Boon
S Hinds
L Bailey
K & V Otto
Ray Smith
A Partlett
I Lettice

B TEAM

Group Co-ordinators
T T Kapcelovich
H C & M Barlow

Contributors

R & G Verheyen
T & T Kapcelovich
D Benson
G Ridge
R & E Hielcher
J Visser
R Aldridge
R Wormersley
M Smith
M Korsman
R & L. Woodfield
K & D Fleming
T & M. Watts
T & L Verran
M Leong

D Lucaci
W Ogilvie
Ted Richards
E Boyco
N & A Ludwig
R Hilder
L Hubbard
J & J Cambridge
G & B. Koch
H & M Barlow
S Goldsworthy
A Weeks
B Mayoh
M Rowe

NEW MEMBERS TEAM

Group Co-Ordinators
D & G Jeffrey
A Allen

A Burgess
D Arnold

Contributors

I Matthews
T Steward
G Poulsen
J Craven
L Springall
D Thompson
A Everingham
C Rogers
L & J Perkins
D & C Coates
J & J Dufficey
C Neucum
M & M Grant
I Bosworth
A Burgess
D Cels

R Lound
N Nettle
R & L Moss
R Stewart
M Rogers
M Reed
J Winters
R & J Sletten
I & J Breen
T Chuntle
A Kenna
D Barry
P Benson
M & L. Kerwin
P Trotter
B Blanchard & C Jones

D Barry
R McDaniel
R Sleden
J. Johns
R Lyon
D Ventis
I & H Bosworth
J Lawler
R & C Wittlieb
K Doran
D Kemp
A Allen
F Nicol
K Schonig
D. Nutley

C Truscott
M & B Cannon
A & S Zeigenfusz
J Mainsbridge
P Sourrys
V Costino
D Cooper
S Vaggs
W Miller
G & J. Fell
E Palmer
A & J Barker
R & V Pendreigh
Hardwick Family
B Schiappadori
D Arnold

Members are reminded that should they wish to have any of their Orchids judged at any of our shows, it will be necessary for the Name of the Orchid to be wired to the bloom, or immediately adjacent to the bloom, with the name card especially prepared and provided by the Society. Also, Members Number must be shown on the back of the Name Card.

PLEASE NOTE: Conventional Plastic Name Tags will not suffice.



A 1947 FOUNDATION member and patron of the Townsville Orchid Society, Mrs Ivy Nott, inspects this year's spring crop of orchids. She is pictured with the *Phalaenopsis* "moth" orchids. Lister Photo.

TOS Show in September, 1986



Floral art entries at the TOS Show in March, 1990

1998 - 6th Asia Pacific Orchid Council (APOC) Conference

Townsville was highlighted on the World Orchid stage when the Society organised and hosted the 6th Asia Pacific Orchid Council Conference in 1998. Locals and inter-state attendees were joined by orchid enthusiasts from many overseas countries at this spectacular event.



Ann Burnell (acting Mayor of Townsville) and Wal Nicholson (Conference chairman)



Sieu (Singapore Post), Mike Reynolds MLA, Jo Monie (Australia Post) and Jean Nicholson (TOS President) at the opening of the APOC Conference.

In order to commemorate this important event, a joint stamp issue between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of Singapore featuring beautiful orchids namely *Phalaenopsis rosenstromii*, *Arundina graminifolia*, *Grammatophyllum speciosum* and *Dendrobium bigibbum* was issued.



Singapore's display at the 6th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference



*6th APOC
Champion Floral Art*



The TOS display at the 1998 APOC Conference

Eye-catching displays of exquisite blooms filling the Townsville Convention Centre with colour and perfume were a highlight of the Conference. Registrants were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend lectures by outstanding orchid experts from Australia and overseas.

2016 Spring Show



A spectacular display at the 2016 Spring Show.

Townsville Orchid Spectacular 2017

In June 2017 the Townsville Orchid Society, hosted the Tropical Queensland Orchid Conference and Show marketed as the Townsville Orchid Spectacular. It was held at the Townsville Stadium, located at the Murray Sports Complex. This coincided with the Townsville Orchid Society's 70th Birthday. It was an outstanding project with massive displays that connected vendors, clubs, hobbyists and the general public together through orchids.



1965/66 - Formation of TQOC and the first regional conference

“As a direct result of the formation of the Queensland Affiliated Society Secretariat the TOS moved to form a Townsville Study Group” (AOR, June 1965). The Group was chaired by Mr. Ron Merritt, President of TOS. It held Australia’s first regional Orchid Conference in Townsville. Support was so strong and interest so wide, that the advantage of even closer co-operation became apparent and societies from Rockhampton to Innisfail joined with the Townsville Society to establish the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council (TQOC). (AOR March 1966). Mr. J. K. Tate of TOS was the first president. TOS has since organised numerous TQOC conferences, enabling orchid enthusiasts from far and wide to meet in Townsville.

The Townsville Orchid Society’s Hall

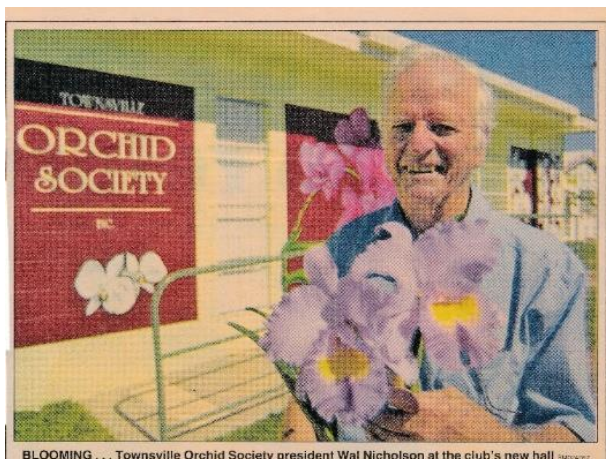
1985 – A Hall of Our Own

Until 1978, meetings and shows had been held in various locations throughout the city. The Souths Junior Rugby League Hall in Pioneer Park, Thuringowa (now the Riverway precinct) became a regular meeting place for the TOS, and in 1985, when it was put up for sale, TOS made an offer that was accepted. It was due to the financial success of the 1983 AOC conference, and financial support from members, that allowed this to occur. So, on 26 April 1985, TOS held its first meeting in their own hall, renamed ‘The Townsville Orchid Society Hall’ and making history as the first orchid society in Australia to own its own premises.

2005 – Opening of the new Townsville Orchid Society Hall

By August 2004, our Hall was destined to be demolished to make way for the Thuringowa Riverway project. A temporary meeting place was found whilst negotiations took place with the Thuringowa City Council with respect to compensation, allocation of land and the construction of a new building. With assistance through various Government and Community grants and a small loan, guaranteed by supportive members, a new hall was commissioned.

Almost 12 months later, on Sunday 17th July, the Hall was officially opened. Our inaugural Patron, Dr Breinl was invited to open the new hall.



BLOOMING ... Townsville Orchid Society president Wal Nicholson at the club's new hall

The Orchid Hall at Joe Kirwan Park, Charles Street, Kirwan was officially opened on 17 July 2005, with our inaugural patron Dr John Breinl officiating. Along with Dr Breinl, Peter Lindsay, Member for Herbert, Craig Wallace, Member for Thuringowa, Les Tyrell, Thuringowa Mayor and Tony Mooney, Townsville Mayor were invited guests.

Members of 52 years Tom and Lesley Verran attended the opening of the new hall. Mrs Verran and her husband joined the Society before they were married and their fascination with orchids continued throughout their married life. Ted Boon, a member since 1995 was also in attendance.



DEDICATED . . . Tom and Lesley Verran, society members for 52 years, and Ted Boon, a member for 50 years, outside the new hall
Photo: STEWART MCLEAN 03/07/20



Mr W Nicholson and Mr J Breinl at the opening of our current hall in Kirwan.



A picture of the hall extension in 2010

2022 – 75th Birthday Celebrations

To celebrate in style and to involve the local and wider community, a decision was made to move our 2022 Winter orchid show to a much larger venue. For this special occasion, it has been renamed the 75th Birthday Gala Show and Sales. The competition has been expanded to include members of other orchid clubs, who have been invited to enter their orchids into the judging.

There will be the usual tabletop displays of colourful orchids, all competing for minor prizes, and ultimately, the Grand Champion ribbon. Sponsorship has been gained for some of the Champion ribbons and the Grand Champion prize has been elevated to a massive \$500.



Local horticultural groups have been given the opportunity to display their plants, thus promoting their own organisations. A shopping paradise awaits with additional vendors coming from as far south as Bundaberg and north to Mt Molloy.

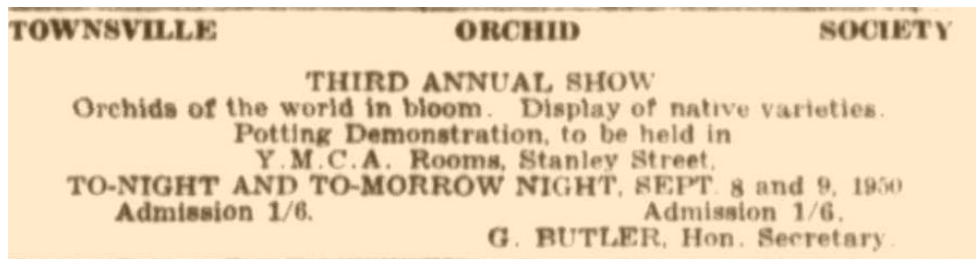
Councillor Russ Cook from the Townsville City Council will officiate at the opening of the 75th Birthday Gala Show and Sales. It is through the great support of Councillors of the Townsville City Council that we acquired a grant which will help us make this event a great success.

SUPPORTED BY



2007:- 60th Anniversary Party Cake
Lesley Verran and Phyllis Merritt

From the vault.



Advertisement in the Townsville Daily Bulletin for the Show to be held in 1950

Phalaenopsis amabilis var *papuana*

The symbol of the Townsville Orchid Society is the Moth Orchid which occurs on Mt. Spec and the Seaview Range. This large-flowered white *Phalaenopsis* has had a variety of names since it was first discovered in Queensland by Count Rosenstrom about the turn of the Century.

The first mention of *Phalaenopsis* in Australia appears to be the description of *P. rosenstromii* by F.M. Bailey in the Queensland Agricultural Journal for November, 1906. The only notes, other than the Latin description, given by Bailey are: "Hab: On trees, high from the ground, Daintree River, Gus. Rosenstrom".

The first written record of this species occurring at Mt. Spec appears to be by W.A. Nichols in the North Queensland Naturalist in 1936, although plants must have been known from there for sometime previously. A. Glindeman, a well-known orchid collector of the period, sent plants from Mt. Spec to Nicholls in 1935.

Nicholls (1936) suggested that the Queensland plants were the same as *P. amabilis* a wide-spread South East Asian species. In 1945 he published a more detailed argument proving this to be the case, but in 1949 he reinstated the name "*rosenstromii*" as a variety of *P. amabilis*. This was where the matter stood until 1969 when H.R. Sweet showed that the Australian plants were identical to the previously-named New Guinea variety, *P. amabilis* var. *papuana*.

To date the known Queensland distribution is: Mt. Spec, Seaview Range, Mossman River, Daintree River, McIlwraith Range, Iron Range. It has been heavily collected and is now rare in the southern part of the range, but remains in fair numbers, although never really plentiful, on Cape York Peninsula. It is a species of rainforests, usually below 500 m altitude, usually in gorges and often growing near watercourses low down on trees or on protected rock faces. In nature the leaves often bear the scars of insect attack. The flowering period is in Summer.

Bailey named his original species after the Collector Count Rosenstrom. A few common names have been applied this species, but few have really gained much currency. e.g. Moth Orchid, Mt. Spec Orchid, White Moth and Goat-eared Orchid (in reference to the large drooping petals.)

Phalaenopsis amabilis var. *papuana* is a good subject for cultivation, particularly in North Queensland where it can be grown on a tree in the garden or on a slab or pot. A well grown specimen has a long branched inflorescence with large white flowers, the equal of any naturally occurring species of the genus and one of the finest of the orchids.

Dr. P.S. Lavarack,
TOWNSVILLE.

Article by Dr P.S. Lavarack about *Phalaenopsis amabilis* var *papuana* now known also as *Phalaenopsis amabilis* subsp. *rosenstromii* – symbol of the Townsville Orchid Society.

Ref: Proceedings of the 8th Australian Orchid Conference Townsville Nth Qld [27th Aug. - 4th Sept. 1983] – Editor Ray Robinson

Recording memberships.

2547	Brown, J. S.	Deceased	21/1/56	23/11/1956	
2548	Brown, M. H. C.	Deceased	20/10/55		
2549	Brown, M. S. R.		5/2/55		
2550	Brown, Mrs. C. M.		23/2/56	Resigned	
2551	Brown, Mrs. V.		21/10/55	19/10/56	27/9/57
2552	Brown, Mrs. M.		21/1/56		
2553	Bell, Mr. J.		21/4/56	27/2/57	
2554	Brown, Mrs. S.		5/2/55		
2555	Bourne, Mr. E.		27/4/56		
2556	Barbi, Mr. L.		16/9/56		

Membership records were also once kept on 5" x 3" filing cards, where entries were either typed with a typewriter, manual in the early years, or handwritten. The details about members were quite extensive. (It is interesting to note the 6 digit phone numbers.)

The following examples from the TOS vault are the cards of Ron and Phyllis Merritt, or as recorded on their card, Mr and Mrs R Merritt.

COMMITTEE 1968-69
VICE PRESIDENT 1968-69.
Joined 25 3 55

Mrs. R. Merritt,
31 Kitchner Road,
Pimlico,
TOWNSVILLE. 4810.

subs paid to 1968.	Subs 73
" " " 1969	74-75
" " " 1970.	76-77
" " " 1971	77-78
" " " 1972	78-79

Best flowering plant Spring show 1972
TOS Judge

PHONE: 797655 R.P.M.S.I.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Merritt. Joined 25.3.55

31 Kitchner Road,
PIMLICO. Ron LIFE MEMBER & PAST PRESIDENT

Phyllis subs paid to 1979.

President 1968.69.	-	1980
Technical Adviser 1972.73.	-	1981
Snr. V. Pres. 1973.74.	-	1982
" " " 1974.75.	-	1983
" " " 1980.83	-	

T.Q.O.C. Registrar 1970.73. Ron. Vice President 81-82
1976.79.

T.Q.O.C. Judge.
Q.O.S. Judge 1979.
Presented with Life Badge 1974.

Phyllis. Comm 1968.69.
(Vice President)
1981-82

over.

Membershin records began in a solid account book.

joined 25 3 55

Mr. R. Merritt,
31 Kitchner Road,
Pimlico,
TOWNSVILLE. 4810.

Life Member & Past President
PRESIDENT 1968-69
PHYLLIS 5085
1983/89.

Technical Adviser 1972-73
Snr Vice Pres 1973-74
74-75

T.O.C. Registrar 1970-73
T.O.C. Judge. Presented Life Badge 1974.
T.O.C. Registrar 77-78-79

Best Flowering Plant Spring Show 1972,
Awarded H.C.C. for Asoda San Rit.

Asoda SAMRIT. H.C.C.

**Townsville
Orchid Society**



BULLETIN

P.O. Box 83 TOWNSVILLE

FOUNDED 1947

AUGUST, 1978.

PATRON: Mrs. I. Nott PRESIDENT: M. Richards Esq..
SECRETARY: E. Boon Esq., 'Ph. 740488 TREASURER: W. Griffiths, Esq., 792115

MONTHLY MEETINGS: = PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Held every fourth Friday of each month. Commencing at 8 p.m. with the tabling of plants at 7.30 p.m.; The next meeting to be held at the SOUTHS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB HALL situated at Pioneer Park, (directions on how to get there on Page 3) will be on Friday 25th. August, 1978.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held on the Thursday following the Monthly Meeting. Next Meeting, to be held at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. D. Greenway, 12 Murphy Street, Rosslea, will be on August 31st. commencing at 7.30 p.m..

SUBSCRIBERS TO: Australian Orchid Review; American Orchid Society Bulletin.

AFFILIATED WITH: Queensland Orchid Society; American Orchid Society; Tropical Queensland Orchid Council.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER TO: Australian Orchid Council.

VOLUME 13 No. 8

Price 9 cents.

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a Periodical under "Category 'B'"

The front page of the TOS Bulletin of August, 1978 telling members that the 25th August meeting will be held in the new venue – Souths Junior Rugby League Hall in Pioneer Park, Thuringowa.

TQOC Conferences

The Townsville Orchid Society has hosted the Tropical Queensland Orchid Conference on 13 occasions.

1966 This was the first TQOC Conference.

1967

1968

1969

1970

1971

1976 The “focal point will be the Townsville Cycle Club Hall” reported the AOR in March, 1976.

1986 TOS hosted the 21st TQOC Conference with the Conference Banquet being held at the Townsville International Hotel.

1997 at the Townsville City Council Administration building in June.

1998

2002

2010 at the TOS Hall, Charles Street in June.

2017 at the Murray Basketball Stadium in June as the “Townsville Orchid Spectacular” to help celebrate the 70th Birthday of TOS.



32nd TQOC conference held at the Townsville City Council administration building in June, 1997



45th TQOC conference held at the Townsville Orchid Society's Hall in June, 2010



Life Members

Date	Name
?	Mr R. P. (Bob) Kirke †
1973	Mr Bill Griffiths †
1974	Mr Alf Schnepel †
1974	Mrs Alma Davidson †
1974	Mrs Ivy Nott †
1974	Mr Ron Merritt †
1974	Mr Jim Kirke †
1974	Georgina Ridge (nee Butler) †
1974	Mr Bert Weal †
1974 ?	Mr Dick Searle †
1987	Slim Warner †
1989	Ray Robinson †
2004	Mick Keith †
2004	Ted Boon †
2005	Phyllis Merritt †
2005	Lister Arrowsmith †
2005	Jean Nicholson
2005	Wal Nicholson †
2005	Clara Sewell
2005	Warren Sewell
2016	Joan MacIntyre
2018	Jeff Knowles
2018	Robert Rasmussen
2018	Noel Grant



Life members at the TOS Christmas Party on 26th November, 2018.
L to R: Warren Sewell, Clara Sewell, Joan MacIntyre, Jean Nicholson, Noel Grant, Ted Boon, Jeff Knowles. (absent: Robert Rasmussen)

Executive Members 1947 to 2022

TOS year beginning with AGM Date	Patron	President	Secretary	Treasurer
Inaugural meeting Willmott's Chambers Townsville 20 th June, 1947	Nil	Chairman: R. P. Kirke † [Robert Patterson (Bob) KIRKE]	P. K. Searle †	P. K. Searle †
First general meeting 2 nd July, 1947 (first elections held)	Dr J. Breinl †	R. P. Kirke †	P. K. Searle †	P. K. Searle †
First Annual General Meeting 27 th August, 1948	Dr J. Breinl †	R. P. Kirke †	P. K. Searle †	P. K. Searle †
1949 26Aug	R. P. Kirke †	Stan Brock	Georgina Butler †	Georgina Butler †
1950 25Aug	Dr J. Breinl †	R. P. Kirke †	Georgina Butler †	Georgina Butler †
1951 26Oct	Dr J. Breinl †	R. P. Kirke †	A. C. Nielsen	A. C. Nielsen
1952 24Oct	Dr J. Breinl †	R. P. Kirke †	Mrs I J Waddell Mr J. Claes †	Mrs I J Waddell Mr J. Claes †
1953	Dr J. Breinl †	R. P. Kirke †	J Claes †	J Claes †
1954	Dr J. Breinl †	R. P. Kirke †	J Claes †	J Claes †
1955		A. C. Neilsen	Ron Merritt †	Ron Merritt †
1956		J. Tate	Ron Merritt †	Ron Merritt † / Bill Griffiths †
1957		J. Tate	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1958	R. P. Kirke †	Mr. J.K Tate	Ron Merritt †	Ron Merritt †
1959		Ron Merritt †	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1960		Ron Merritt †	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1961		Mr. J.K Tate	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1962		Ron Merritt †	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1963		John Tate	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1964	R. P. Kirke †	Ron Merritt †	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1965		Ron Merritt † S Hinds †	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1966		Sheddy Hinds †	V. Kirke	Bill Griffiths †
1967	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Ian Walters	E (Ted) Boon †	Bill Griffiths †
1968	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Ron Merritt †	E (Ted) Boon †	W. Griffiths †
1969	Mrs Ivy Nott †	F. Tooth	E (Ted) Boon †	W. Griffiths †
1970	Mrs Ivy Nott †	M. Watson	E (Ted) Boon †	W. Griffiths †
1971	Mrs Ivy Nott †	M. Watson	M. King	W. Griffiths †
1972	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Neville Ludwig	M. King	W. Griffiths †
1973	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Neville Ludwig	Mrs. M. E. King	W. Griffiths †
1974	Mrs Ivy Nott †	F. Tooth	M. King	W. Griffiths †

1975	Mrs Ivy Nott †	David Greenway †	Mrs. M. E. King	W. Griffiths †
1976	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Neville Ludwig	M. King	W. Griffiths †
1977	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Mike Richards	E (Ted) Boon †	W. Griffiths †
1978	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Neville Ludwig	E (Ted) Boon †	W. Griffiths †
1979	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Mike Richards	E (Ted) Boon †	W. Griffiths †
1980	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Mike Richards	Sandy Goldsworthy	W. Griffiths †
1981	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Ray Robinson †	Sandy Goldsworthy	Lister Arrowsmith †
1982	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Ray Robinson †	Sandy Goldsworthy	Lister Arrowsmith †
1983	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Ray Robinson †	Sandy Goldsworthy	Lister Arrowsmith †
1984 26Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Ray Robinson †	Stella Keith	Lister Arrowsmith † Geoff Reid
1985 25Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Ray Robinson †	Stella Keith	Geoff Reid
1986 24Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Wal Nicholson †	Sandy Goldsworthy	Geoff Reid
1987 23Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Geoff Reid
1988 28Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Geoff Reid
1989	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Geoff Reid	Greg Kelly	David Jeffrey
1990	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Geoff Reid	Greg Kelly	David Jeffrey
1991	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Hugh (Joe) Barlow	Ron West †	Barbara Koch
1992	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Geoff Reid	Ron West †	Barbara Koch/Greg Kelly
1993	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Geoff Reid	Ron West †	Greg Kelly J McCulloch
1994 28Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Minnie Korsman †	Ron West †	Geoff Reid
1995 27Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Jean Nicholson	Wal Nicholson †	Robyn Reid
1996 25Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Jean Nicholson	Wal Nicholson †	Robyn Reid
1997 24Oct	Mrs Ivy Nott †	Jean Nicholson	Wal Nicholson †	Robyn Reid
1998 23Oct	Mick Keith †	Jean Nicholson	Wal Nicholson †	Robyn Reid Doug Kemp †
1999 22Oct	Mick Keith †	Jim McArdle	June Roggero	Greg Kelly
2000 27Oct	Mick Keith †	Doug Kemp †	June Roggero	Greg Kelly Wal Nicholson †
2001 26Oct	Mick Keith †	Doug Kemp †	June Roggero	Wal Nicholson †
2002 25Oct	Mick Keith †	Doug Kemp †	Ron Scott	Wal Nicholson †
2003 24Oct	Mick Keith †	Wal Nicholson †	Thelma Keith †	Jean Nicholson
2004 22Oct	Mick Keith †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Warren Sewell
2005 28Oct	Mick Keith †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Warren Sewell
2006 27Oct	Mick Keith †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Warren Sewell
2007 24Oct	Mick Keith †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Warren Sewell
2008 24Oct	Mick Keith †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Rodney Daveson †
2009 23Oct	Mick Keith †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Charles Lee
2010 22Oct	Min Korsman †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Charles Lee
2011 28Oct	Min Korsman †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Charles Lee
2012 26Oct	Phyllis Merritt †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Charles Lee (Assistant treasurer)
2013 25Oct	Phyllis Merritt †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Lynnette White
2014 24Oct	Phyllis Merritt †	Wal Nicholson †	Jean Nicholson	Lynnette White Keith Chambers †
2015 25Oct	Phyllis Merritt †	Wal Nicholson † E (Ted) Boon †	Jean Nicholson	Keith Chambers † Terry Ruxton
2016 23Oct	Phyllis Merritt †	E (Ted) Boon †	Jeff Knowles	Terry Ruxton
2017 22Oct	Phyllis Merritt †	Jean Nicholson	Jeff Knowles	Ron Scott

				Kathy Ritchie Terry Ruxton
2018 28Oct	Jean Nicholson	Greg Kelly	Maureen Draper	Terry Ruxton
2019 27Oct	Jean Nicholson	Greg Kelly	Jan Allen	Terry Ruxton
2020 25 Oct	Jean Nicholson	Greg Kelly	Jan Allen	Jeff Knowles
2021 28 Oct	Jean Nicholson	Robyn Dundas	Helen Butler	Jeff Knowles

Please note:

1. The † symbol indicates that the person has passed away.
2. I am pretty sure that the unhighlighted entries in both the Life Member's List and the Executive Members's List are accurate, but those that are highlighted in light pink either I have no information on, or I am unsure of the accuracy.

If you can add to the accuracy of any of the information shown, in any way, please contact the Townsville Orchid Society.

Thank you.

Jeff Knowles.

HONOUR ROLL

1947 - 2022

INAUGURAL PATRON

Dr John Breinl

1918 - 2013



A well-known medical practitioner, former deputy mayor of Townsville and Captain in the Ambulance Unit of 11th Infantry Brigade. Dr Breinl opened our new Hall in 2005.

Patron 1947 - 1954

INAUGURAL PRESIDENT

Robert Paterson 'Bob' Kirke

c.1877 - 1966

Arriving in Townsville from his native Scotland in 1910, Robert P Kirke went on to become a shipping manager with Burns Philip. From July 1942 - mid 1946, while the WW2 was at its peak, he was appointed Port Controller.



President 1947-1948, 1950 - 1954

Stanley 'Stan' Robert Brock

1908 - 1987

Educated in Rockhampton, Stanley Brock went on to become an instructor in mechanical and electrical engineering at the Townsville Technical College. One of our founding members, he imparted his invaluable knowledge of orchids to the Society through his more common role as Honorary Technical Officer.

President 1949

Albert Charles 'Bunny' Neilsen

1918 - 1992

Bunny joined the Society on 20th January, 1949 and from the beginning he became a positive part of the Society's activities. Due to his energetic leadership while President the Society was placed on a path which led to its present position.

President 1955



J. Tate

President 1956 - 1958, 1963



Ron Merritt

1921 - 2012

Ron and his wife Phyllis joined the Orchid Society in the early 1950s and they both became avid supporters of the young Townsville Orchid Society. Ron was also a driving force in the establishment of the TQOC and a leading light in the field of Orchid Judging. Ron also served as our Technical Officer.

President 1959 - 1962, 1964 - 1965, 1968 - 1970

Shedrick 'Sheddy' Hinds

- 2020

Sheddy joined the Townsville Orchid Society in 1957. He was well known for his exquisite vandas and his colourful displays. Sheddy was a regular at the Orchid Shows.

President 1965-1966



Ian Walters

Ian joined the Society in 1961, being amongst the longest serving current members. Known especially for his interest in species orchids, Ian has run an orchid species nursery 'Burleigh Park Orchids' with his wife Pat for over 50 years

President 1967



Maurice N. Watson

1913- 1976

Maurice was an active member of the Townsville Orchid Society, joining in 1957. He had the foresight to encourage the TOS to apply to the Australian Orchid Council to have an Orchid Conference in Townsville.

President 1971



Neville Ludwig

Growing orchids was somewhat of an obsession for former train driver Neville. He has been engrossed in this hobby for over 50 years..

President 1972-73, 1976, 1978

Frank Tooth

President 1974



David Greenway 1940 - 1993

President 1975

Raymond Richard 'Ray' Robinson

1937- 2016

Before joining the Townsville Orchid Society in 1972, Ray's interest in orchid culture had already developed. As a member, he generously gave his time teaching other members about orchid growing - including flasking. As President, he was involved in the organisation of the Lecturers and Programming at the 8th Australian Orchid Conference, attracting many overseas lecturers.

President 1981 - 1985



Mike Richards

President 1977, 1979 - 1980

Walter 'Wal' Nicholson

1929- 2016

Until Wal and his wife Jean moved to Townsville with his bank job in 1979, transfers had prevented Wal from establishing any significant orchid collection, even though his interest in orchids began as early as 1954. Introduced to the TOS by his son, Wal's involvement in the Society grew, with him taking on key roles over the years. Wal was the Chairman of the 6th Asia Pacific Orchid Council Conference which TOS hosted in Townsville.



President 1986 – 1988, 2003- 2015

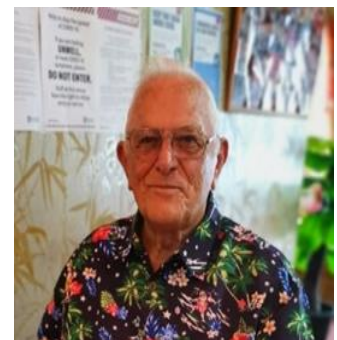


Geoff Reid

President 1989- 1990, 1992 - 1993

Hugh 'Joe' Barlow

Coming to Townsville in 1973 after retiring from the RAAF, Joe's interest in orchid growing was sparked by his mother-in-law's small collection. He began attending TOS meetings learning much about orchid culture and flasking. After many years away from Townsville, Hugh and his wife Marion are enjoying attending TOS meetings and learning about other growing techniques.



President 1991

Minnie 'Min' Korsman

1928 - 2012



Known for her talent in floral art, Min Korsman loved all plants, especially orchids. During her 10 years in New Guinea, she held office in the New Guinea Horticultural Society. In 1969, with 8 other Territory orchid growers, she attended the 6th World Orchid Conference, getting permission to take 250 plants to Australia for the conference. In Townsville, Min and husband Peter started up a business named 'Myall Orchids', specialising in New Guinea and Australian Dendrobiums. Min was Patron of TOS from 2010 - 2011.

President 1994

Jean Nicholson

After joining the Orchid Society with Wal in 1982, Jean got thoroughly involved in the Townsville Orchid Society as well. She spent many years in the roles of either Secretary or President. Jean and Wal attended World Orchid Conferences, starting with Glasgow in 1993 until their last in South Africa in 2014. They also attended Asia Pacific Orchid Conferences. Jean has been the TOS Patron for the last four years.



President 1995 - 1998, 2017.

Jim McArdle

President 1999

Douglas 'Doug' Kemp

c1932 - 2021

President 2000 - 2002

Edward 'Ted' Boon

1938 - 2021



Ted Boon's early interest in orchids started as a young child in Gympie. After moving to Townsville, at the young age of 15, he joined the Townsville Orchid Society as a junior member, remaining a member for 66 years. He served as President, Secretary, Show Chairman and was a committee member for 25 years. Ted was best known for his wealth of knowledge about orchids and his judging. He provided plant commentary at meetings and helped with advice to junior growers. He became a TQOC judge in 1988 and an Australian Orchid judge in 1991.

President 2015-2016

Greg Kelly

Greg is one of the Society's longest serving members, having joined the Society in the early 80's. He has been an active member, taking on roles such as Treasurer and Show Vice-President. Greg continues to serve the Society in the position of points coordinator as well as organising suitable speakers for each meeting, through his role as Program Director.



President 2018 - 2021

Robyn Dundas



Robyn is a keen grower, having already embraced orchid culture before joining the Townsville Orchid Society. Within three years of becoming a member, Robyn was winning Open trophies. In 2020, she had an article published in the Australian Orchid Review explaining her growing methods. Before becoming President, Robyn took on the role of Show Vice-President.

President 2022

Note: This "**Honour Roll 1947 – 2022**" section is a work in progress. It is a result of extensive research but in some cases, information about, and photos of, Presidents has not yet been gathered. Should anyone reading this document be able to provide more information to help complete this document, it would be appreciated.

In no way does the amount written about one person indicate their importance to the Society.

Jan Allen

Trophies

Ivy Nott Memorial Trophy

IVY NOTT Memorial Trophy for best *Den. discolor* annually.
Sponsored by – A. K. (Dick) Searle¹

Recipients.

1999	Alan and Carole Hughes
2000	Col and Marie Neucom
2001	Col and Marie Neucom
2002	Col and Marie Neucom
2003	David Roggero
2004	Tim Darr
2005	Thomas Peever
2006	John Nuss
2007	Alf Steel
2008	John Nuss
2009	Warren and Clara Sewell
2010	Stewart and Alice Zierk
2011	Alis Siarni and Grant Christophers
2012	Wal and Lyn Carlill
2013	Bruno Fighera
2014	Peter and Joanne Lucke
2015	Robyn Dundas
2017	Robyn Dundas
2018	Peter and Joanne Lucke
2019	Marie Bloom
2021	Alison and Jeff Knowles



Ivy Nott had a long and distinguished association with the Society. She was one of the inaugural members of the Society officially joining on 20th June, 1947. She was honoured with Life Membership in 1974 and she served as our Patron for over twenty years.

P. K. (Dick) Searle was also an inaugural member, chairing the meeting and then holding the position of Secretary / Treasurer. He was awarded Life Membership in 1974. (Note1: The engraving on the trophy incorrectly shows A. K. (Dick) Searle.)

Ted Boon Trophy

The Ted Boon Trophy is conferred annually for the plant with the highest Judges' points awarded at a monthly TOS meeting.

2021 Bruno Figuera



Ted Boon joined TOS on 23rd April 1956 as a mere youngster. Upon receiving his application for membership, the committee changed the constitution to include junior members. Ted served times as Secretary from 1967 to 1980 and President from mid-2015 to 2017. He was heavily involved with judging. Ted was awarded TOS Life

Membership in 2004.



Eric Boon Memorial Trophy

Eric Boon Memorial Trophy (possibly) awarded for the best orchid at show.

- 1970 Mr M Leong possibly for *Lc. Bonanza* 'Herbert River'
- 1971 Mr and Mrs Maurice N Watson with *C. Earl* at Spring Show
- 1973 Ian Walters for *Mendoncella* [*Galleottia*] *grandiflora*
- 1976 Tony and Tess Kapcelovich for *Brassia Rex* at Autumn Show
- 1978 Tony and Tess Kapcelovich
- 1979 Rudi and Doreen Piltz

I could only find a few references about this "aluminium teapot" trophy including the *Australian Orchid Review*, June 1973, TOS Membership cards and personal correspondence with Ian Walters

Eric Boon joined the TOS on 26th July, 1963 and died during Cyclone Althea in 1971.

Arthur Waddell Memorial Trophy

The Arthur Waddell Memorial Trophy is awarded by the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Inc. annually, for the AOC awarded orchid with the highest points in the TQOC area.



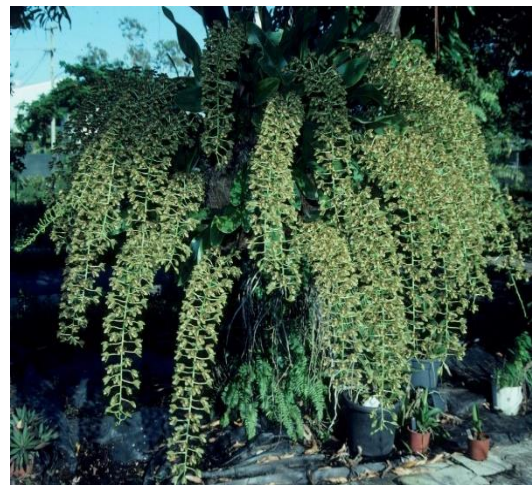
Stephen Fay (L) receives the Arthur Waddell Trophy and replica from Ted Boon (on behalf of TQOC) for having the AOC awarded orchid with the highest points in the TQOC area for the 2010 - 2011 year (Jean Nicholson photo.)

TOS winners of the Arthur Waddell Trophy.

1998	Tom and Delia Hobden	<i>Ctsm.</i> Raymond Lerner 'George' AM/AOC
1999	Keith's Orchids	<i>Grammatophyllum multiflorum</i> var. <i>tigrinum</i> 'Jordan' AM/AOC
2005	Charlie Truscott	<i>Rlc.</i> Burdekin Dream 'DJ' FCC/AOC
2006	Athur Withers	<i>Den.</i> Karie Wakida 'Amy' AM/AOC
2008/09	Alan Hughes	<i>Ctt.</i> Chocolate Bat 'Ingham' HCC/AOC
2010/11	Steve Fay	<i>Phal.</i> Steve's Rose 'Merrece' AM/AOC
2013	Doug Benson	<i>Dendrochilum filiforme</i> 'Barbara Robinson' ACM/AOC
2014	Bruno Figuera	<i>Dendrobium discolor</i> 'Nancy' ACE/AOC
2015	Carl and Marie Osborne	<i>Phal.</i> Memoria Jorjah Lyn 'Mackhunt' AM/AOC
2016	Mark Sanim	<i>Dendrobium nindii</i> 'Rigo' HCC/AOC
2017	Bruno Figuera	<i>Den. canaliculatum</i> 'Mount Poverty' ACE/AOC
2019	Charlie Truscott	<i>Rlc.</i> Memoria Jessica Kaye Lance 'Miss May' AM/AOC



Ctsm. Raymond Lerner 'George' AM/AOC
Tom and Delia Hobden 1998



Gram. multiflorum var. *tigrinum*
'Jordan' AM/AOC 1999



Den. Karie Wakida 'Amy' AM/AOC
Arthur & Val Withers 2006



Ctt. Chocolate Bat 'Ingham' HCC/AOC
Alan Hughes 2008/9



Phal. Steve's Rose 'Merrece' AM/AOC
Steve Fay 2010/11



Phal. Memoria Jorjah Lyn 'Mackhunt'
AM/AOC
Carl and Marie Osborne 2015



Dendrobium nindii 'Rigo' HCC/AOC
Mark Sanim 2016



Rlc. Memoria Jessica Kaye Lance
'Miss May' AM/AOC
Charlie Truscott 2019

Awarded orchids

Members of the Townsville Orchid Society have been very successful in growing and flowering orchids worthy of awards. The following are but some of the many high awards awarded by the Australian Orchid Council to TOS members.

Award of Cultural Excellence – ACE/AOC



Dendrochilum cobbianum 'Ingham' ACE/AOC
Alan Hughes 2005



Liparis condylobulbonn 'Ingham'
ACE/AOC
Alan Hughes 2008



Aerides odorata 'Wild' ACE/AOC
Doug Benson 2011



Dendrobium discolor 'Nancy' ACE/AOC
Bruno Figuera 2013



Cymbidium canaliculatum 'Mount Poverty'
ACE/AOC
Bruno Figuera 2017

Award of Distinction - AD/AOC



Den. Fire Imp 'Keiths' AD/AOC
Mick Keith 1992



Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'Keiths'
AD/AOC



Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'Nicholas' AD/AOC
Keith's Orchids 1992

Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'Keiths Blue' AD/AOC
Keith's Orchids 1992
(No photo available)



Ctt. Chocolate Drop 'Yellow' AD/AOC
Alan Hughes 1993



Rlc. Memoria Mary Hughes 'Sunny' AD/AOC
Alan Hughes 1993



Den. Red Toro 'Johnny's Black' AD/AOC
Alan Hughes 1993



Den. Rita Leicester 'Stella' AD/AOC
Mick Keith 1993



Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'Keiths' AD/AOC
Keith's Orchids 1993



V. Fuchs Royal Dragon 'Ingham' AD/AOC
Alan Hughes 1994



Van. Colmarie 'Newk' AD/AOC
Col & Marie Neucom 1994



V. Macknade 'Michael' AD/AOC
Tom & Delia Hobden 1995



Dendrobium bigibbum 'Tozer Stripe' AD/AOC
Neil Crees 1997



Rlc. Hawaiian Symbol 'Rainbow' AD/AOC
Alan Hughes 1998



Van. Mary Ellen 'Glorious' AD/AOC
Greg Kelly 1999



Rhynchostylis gigantea 'Peaches and Cream'
AD/AOC
Ron Merritt 1998



***Pda.* Nicholas Keith 'Newk' AD/AOC
Col and Marie Neucom 2000**



***V.* Red Rocks 'Reggie' AD/AOC
David Roggero 2001**



***C.* Jungle Gem 'Tara' AD/AOC
Olive Krogh 2003**



***Spa.* Caity-Brook 'Cutie' AD/AOC
Tom and Delia Hobden 2006**



***C.* Summer Magic 'Genelle' AD/AOC
Olive Krogh 2005**



**Rlc. Hawaiian Symbol 'Burdekin' AD/AOC
Col and Marie Neucom 2008**



**C. Ollies Folly 'Hot Spots' AD/AOC
Olive Krogh 2008**



**C. Jungle Hotspot 'Olive' AD/AOC
Olive Krogh 2010**



**Ctt. Chocolate Bat 'Ingham' AD/AOC
Alan Hughes 2009**



**V. Super Cooper 'Ellen Schneekloth' AD/AOC
Stacey Cairns 2013**



***Grammatophyllum wallisii* 'Ole
Faithful' AD/AOC
Doug Benson 2012**

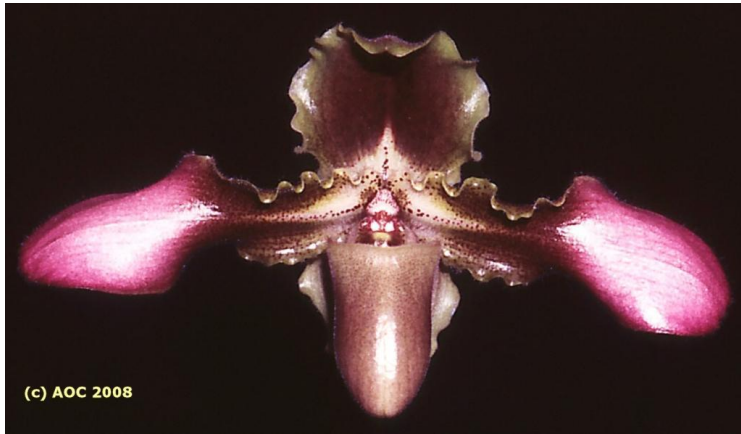
First Class Certificate - FCC/AOC



***Phal. Carmela's Wonder* 'Sharron' FCC/AOC
Charlie Truscott 2002**



***Rlc. Burdekin Dream* 'DJ' FCC/AOC
Charlie Truscott 2004**



Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum 'Elena' FCC/AOC
Charlie Truscott 2006



Den. Memoria Joan Laffey 'Pearlie'
FCC/AOC
Charlie Truscott 2019

Certificate of Botanical Merit - CBM/AOC



Eulophiella roempleriana 'Finest Endeavour'
CBM/AOC
Doug Benson 1993



Vanda miniata 'True Colours' CBM/AOC
Doug Benson 1995



Sobennikoffia humbertiana
'Keiths' CBM/AOC
Mick & Thelma Keith 2004



Cyrtopodium andersonii 'Cameron'
CBM/AOC
Tom and Delia Hobden 2005

Award of Cultural Merit - ACM/AOC



Dendrochilum filiforme
'Barbara Robinson' ACM/AOC
Doug Benson 2012



Dendrobium formosum 'Thelma' ACM/AOC
Mick and Thelma Keith 2011



Ansellia africana 'Keiths' ACM/AOC
Mick and Thelma Keith 2009



Angraecum eburneum subsp. *superbum* 'Keiths'
ACM/AOC
Mick and Thelma Keith 2014

Australian Orchid of the Year.



Grammatophyllum multiflorum var. *tigrinum*
'Jordan' AM/AOC
Keith's Orchids
Orchid Species of the year 1998



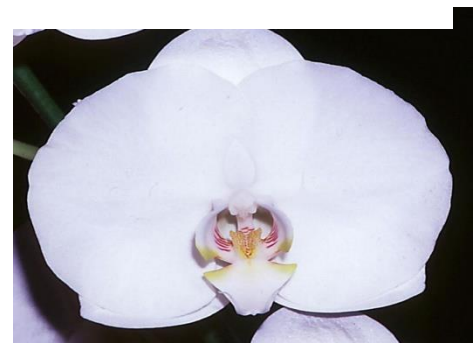
Liparis condylobulbon 'Ingham'
ACE/AOC

Phal. Carmela's Wonder 'Sharron' FCC/AOC
Charlie Truscott Orchid Hybrid of the year 2002

Rlc. Burdekin Dream 'DJ' FCC/AOC
Charlie Truscott Orchid Hybrid of the year 2004

Liparis condylobulbon 'Ingham' ACE/AOC
Alan Hughes Culture Award of the year 2008

Cymbidium canaliculatum 'Mount Poverty' ACE/AOC
Bruno Figuera Culture Award of the year 2017



Phal. Carmela's Wonder 'Sharron'
FCC/AOC



Cymbidium canaliculatum 'Mount
Poverty' ACE/AOC

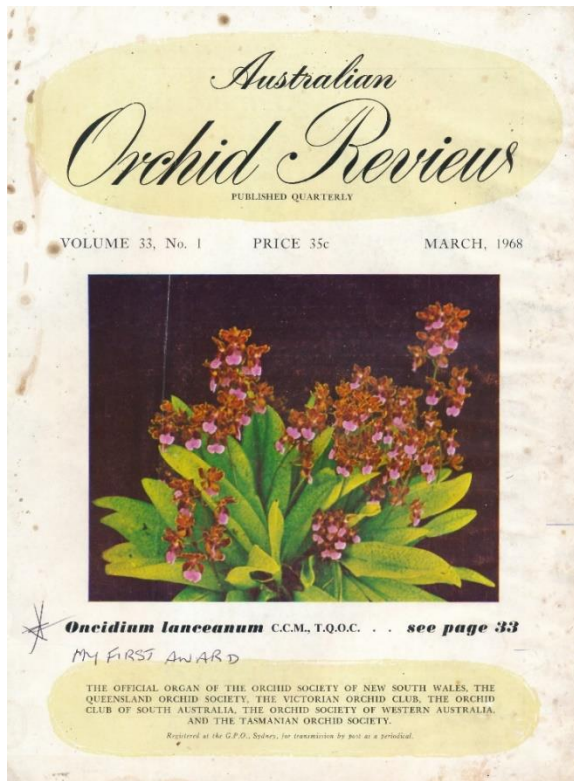


Rlc. Burdekin Dream 'DJ' FCC/AOC

Tropical Queensland Orchid Council (TQOC) First Award

The TQOC awarded its very first orchid in 1967. This was a Certificate of Cultural Merit awarded to *Trichocentrum lanceanum* CCM/TQOC [Onc. lanceanum CCM/TQOC] owned by Ted Boon.

A much more comprehensive list of TQOC awards can be found in Batey, John (Ed), *The Golden Days – A glimpse at the history of The Tropical Queensland Orchid Council*, 2016.



T.Q.O.C. makes first Award G. K. RIDGE

In December, 1967, the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council judging panel made its first award — to Mr. E. A. (Ted) Boon for his *Oncidium lanceanum*.

The plant which gained a Certificate of Cultural Merit was growing in an 8" concrete pot and bore 22 flower spikes, 3 of them budded only. There was a total of 154 open flowers and 16 buds.

The flowers were of good form and colour the lip being particularly bright and the flowers were normal size despite the quantity borne.

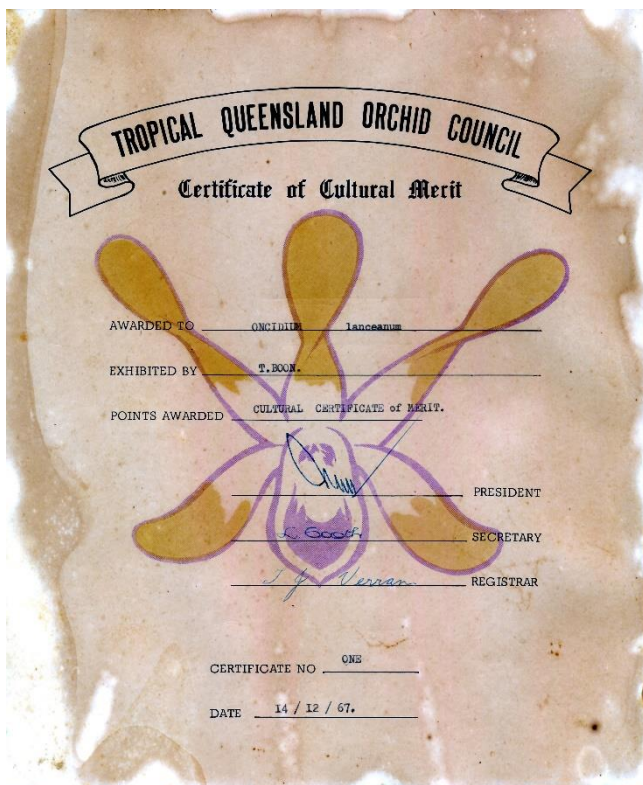
For the past several years the plant has steadily increased in size and flowered for the first time in Townsville in 1966, producing 6 spikes. It had previously been grown on the Atherton Tabelands.

With so much growth and no flowers, Ted's father, Eric (in his absence) tried shifting it and it has been alternatively under 64% Sarlon and under a tree getting stronger early morning and late afternoon sun. It produced the flowers whilst growing in the area of stronger light and was left there after the 1966 flowering to produce this magnificent flowering in 1967.

The potting medium is tree fern and oak bark and it is fed with liquid manure and Aquasol. Ted, although he started growing orchids in the north (Atherton and Townsville), just recently returned to Townsville from Toowoomba where he was a member of the local society. He is now Hon. Secretary of the Townsville Orchid Society of which he has been a member for 13 years.

Photograph taken by Mr. I. Walters using Agfa film — 1/60 sec. f.8.

100 Coraran St., Corrajong, Townsville
Queensland 4872



Current TOS Membership

Member	Date joined		
		Peter Cooper	7/07/2010
		Mary How Lum	7/07/2010
Daphne Hinds	25/03/1957	Merle Perkins	7/07/2010
Ian and Patricia Walters	2/09/1961	Peter and Joanne Lucke	3/09/2010
Doug Benson	1/01/1972	Jan Allen	1/07/2011
Ron and Gloria Hilder	1/11/1972	Bruno Fighera	3/03/2012
Barbara Robinson	1/11/1972	Thomas Zierk	5/10/2012
Warren and Clara Sewell	26/01/1979	Beverley Murdock	27/03/2013
Greg and Santina Kelly	1/01/1982	Robyn and Eric Dundas	3/04/2013
Jean Nicholson	26/11/1982	Kerry Turner	3/03/2014
Allan Hughes	25/07/1985	Ann Hardy	7/03/2014
John Nuss	26/07/1985	Fred Parker	4/04/2014
Noel Hardwick	1/05/1986	Irwin and Linda Feldt	29/09/2014
Noel and Maureen Grant	1/07/1988	Ruth Whiting	17/04/2015
Charlie Truscott	30/06/1989	Terry and Sarah Ruxton	26/04/2015
Jeff and Alison Knowles	1/02/1991	Evon Liang	13/07/2015
Edith Sim	2/04/1995	Stephen Woods	5/06/2016
Helen Steel	2/04/1995	Colleen and Greg Jackson	26/07/2016
Stewart and Alice Zierk	22/11/1996	Bill Hughes	26/07/2016
Joan MacIntyre	25/03/2001	Stephen Hinds	26/08/2016
Doug and Eve Penningh	11/01/2002	Roslyn Tappenden	28/08/2016
Robert Rasmussen	14/11/2003	Lynne Ryan	23/10/2016
Peter and Luz Lewis	1/10/2004	Noelene Parker	3/11/2016
Sid McKeich	13/05/2005	Leonie Johnson and Aidan Skinner	26/11/2016
Walter and Desna Martin	2/09/2005	Gary Watt	25/02/2017
Charles Lee	25/09/2005	Malcolm and Mary Triebel	23/06/2017
Denise Lincoln	30/09/2005	Deborah Blanchard	24/06/2017
John Rutledge	2/03/2006	Tony and Janice Kapcelovich	24/06/2017
Caroline Swart	29/09/2006	Carolyn Gibson	26/08/2017
Wal and Lyn Carlill	4/05/2007	David Williams	21/10/2017
Maureen Soper	3/08/2007	Peter and Joanne Serra	1/11/2017
Ann Roberts	1/08/2008	Keith Day	1/01/2018
Ron Scott	5/12/2008	Joanne and Michael Laffin	17/02/2018
Marie Bloom	31/07/2009	Kevin Owens	17/02/2018
Ladda Walsh	31/07/2009	Rob Sweeney	17/02/2018
Jenny Siganto	5/03/2010	Bev Simshauser	24/02/2018
Lyn Mutch and Col Berzinski	2/04/2010	Ann Richards and Barry Woodhouse	9/03/2018
Tina Phillips	30/04/2010		
June Cairns	4/06/2010		
Stacey Fidler	4/06/2010		

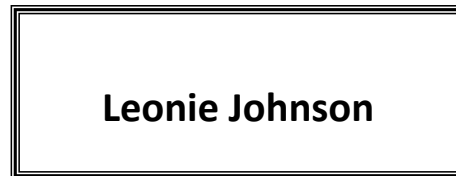
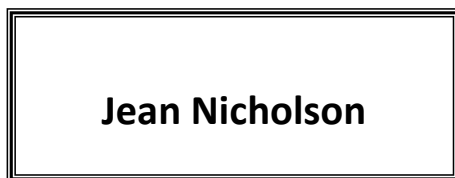
Ada Punchard and Fiona Moncrieff	9/03/2018	Andrew Hamilton	28/04/2021
Trevor Jochheim	13/04/2018	Helen Campbell	25/06/2021
Dieter Dattinger	16/04/2018	Ellen Fielder	27/06/2021
Julie Horn	16/04/2018	Jo Melvin	27/06/2021
John and Maureen Draper	16/04/2018	Petrice Melvin	27/06/2021
Bill and Lynette Howell	16/04/2018	Cheryl Stout	25/07/2021
Katy Taggart	17/09/2018	Karen Davies	3/09/2021
Pam Cooper	17/09/2018	Mark Vesley	3/09/2021
Jean Dawson	25/10/2018	Kerry Parkinson	24/09/2021
Huong Dao and Hung Xuan Ta	25/10/2018	Warren and Karen Jones	25/09/2021
Dennis Boyd	25/01/2019	Adam and Claire Riordan	25/09/2021
Lynette and Graham Johnson	25/02/2019	Donna and Paul Fletcher	25/09/2021
Samantha and Troy McGill	25/02/2019	Karen Withers	25/09/2021
Reg Dix	25/02/2019	Lisa and Abriella Neilsen	25/09/2021
Jenny and Rex Goadby	7/05/2019	Helen Lesley	25/09/2021
Rhonda Noble	24/05/2019	Peter Walton and Jayshree Mamtora	25/09/2021
Daphne Higginson	23/06/2019	Tanya and Geoff Cameron	25/09/2021
Janelle Stevens	28/07/2019	Robin Glawson and Will Enriken	25/09/2021
Margaret Boyd and Wally Brooker	21/09/2019	Kate Palmer	25/09/2021
Pamela Eggins	21/09/2019	Chona and Russell Milne	25/09/2021
Frank and Josephine Della	22/09/2019	Denis Parker	25/09/2021
Debra and Nathan Sanim	20/11/2019	Pauline and Peter McKenna	25/09/2021
Marie Venn	23/02/2020	Bob Loftus	25/09/2021
Jan and Brian Richardson	21/11/2020	Severini Chouknoun	13/10/2021
Brenda Connolly	21/11/2020	Joseph and Sharon Walker	23/10/2021
Donna Brown	24/01/2021	Karen Blackman	23/10/2021
Ralph and Gloria Robertson	26/03/2021	Lola Horwood	23/10/2021
Julie and Duncan McLean	27/03/2021	Lex and Joan Cooper	23/01/2022
Cecily Jones	27/03/2021	Sandra Le Corvu	23/01/2022
Hugh and Marion Barlow	24/04/2021	Janet Tout	27/02/2022
Marylen Alexander	24/04/2021	Harold Cooper	13/06/2022
Renaye Gregory	24/04/2021	Joan and Bill Beitzel	13/06/2022
Helen Butler	24/04/2021	Helen Townsend	13/06/2022
Karen Hamilton	28/04/2021	Marietta Tabell	26/06/2022

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A big TOS thank you to the following supporters of our 75th Birthday Celebrations.



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Stocker Family



Acknowledgements.

This historic book could not have been compiled without the aid of,

Trove, where the earlier *Townsville Bulletin* reports on the formation of, and the earlier years of the Townsville Orchid Society, are preserved for future generations to peruse and appreciate.

Australian Orchid Council who graciously gave us permission to use their photographs of the awarded orchids featured.

Orchids Australia, the official magazine of the Australian Orchid Council, in which many half-forgotten aspects of the history of the Townsville Orchid Society were found.

The Australian Orchid Review which was also a very valuable source of information.

Batey, John (Ed), “The Golden Days – A glimpse at the history of The Tropical Queensland Orchid Council”, 2016.

Townsville Bulletin

Material held in the Townsville Orchid Society’s library.

We thank you.

Corrections and additions.

If you spot information in this publication that you believe to be incorrect, or you have something to add to the story, then please send this information to the Townsville Orchid Society Inc.

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