



TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

Founded 20th June, 1947.



January 2009 eBULLETIN

Phalaneopsis amabilis var. rosenstromii

PO Box 836 D.C.
AITKENVALE QLD 4814

Meetings are held at 8pm on the 4th
Friday of each month except December
- in the Townsville Orchid Society
Inc. Hall, Joe Kirwan Park, Charles
Street, KIRWAN

Novice / New Growers Group meets in
the hall at 1pm on the Sunday (25th
January, 2008) following the General
Meeting.

**Next General Meeting:
Friday 23rd January, 2009**

**Next Management Committee
Meeting:
Friday 30th January, 2009**

Annual Membership Fees.

City Family	\$17.00
City Single	\$13.00
Pensioner Family	\$8.50
Pensioner single / Junior	\$6.50

Fees are due 1st September each year.

Australasian Native Orchid Society
Inc. (ANOS) – Townsville Group
Meeting held in TOS hall on 1st
Tuesday of every month except
January – at 8pm.
Next meeting: 3rd February, 2009.
ANOS donates an annual subscription
of *The Orchidian* to our society in
appreciation for the use of our hall.

While the Townsville Orchid Society Inc.
endeavours to ensure reliability and accuracy in
this Bulletin editorial content, responsibility for
advice and views expressed is not assumed by
the Society nor the Management Committee.



To purchase tables and comfortable chairs, sound
system, concertina door to secure computing
equipment.
All photographs are by the editor unless
indicated otherwise.

Patron: Mick Keith
President: Wal Nicholson

Secretary: Jean Nicholson
Treasurer: Rodney Daveson
Bulletin Editor: Jeff Knowles

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President's Comments

Welcome to 2009 during which I wish you all have a great time. We have a full year ahead of us, with normal Society functions coupled with preparations for the 2010 T.Q.O.C. Inc. Conference and Show, and hopefully extensions to our premises.

We have arranged to run one of Bunning's sausage sizzles, which I understand, are a money spinner, so we will require volunteers for organising the conference and the sausage sizzle, profits from which will go towards the conference. Usually it is those who do little towards such functions that criticise the end result. So, the more work you do to ensure success, it is logical that you will enjoy yourself to a greater extent – if we all pull our weight there should be no criticism.

Many enquiries have been forthcoming over the festive season's break, with regard to the society, particularly the Novice/New Growers Group. This Group's Phalaenopsis growing "contest" is bringing out a lot of talent so I hope those of you who are involved now have bigger and better plants.

The spell from meetings has given us a chance to catch up on other chores, although Jean & I have been caught up in family affairs – our son who works in England spent a few days at home bringing a couple of work mates – our number one grand-daughter turned twenty-one and her sister returned from a year in Italy as an exchange student – much celebration.

On the other hand, there has been some sadness, and we extend our condolences to Delia and Tom Hobden and families on the loss of Delia's mother just prior to Christmas.

The New Year is looking bright (except financially for some) so let's make the most of it and enjoy good growing and flowering.

Wal Nicholson

Little phallies, little phallies, little phallies everywhere.

With all the beautiful rain and glorious light there is certainly going to be some dramatic growths of the phalaenopsis plants in the two growing competitions. Congratulations to the following who were leading the pack at the November "measure in".

Mystery plant 1694.

Biggest: 1st Luz Lewis, 2nd Win Buckingham, 3rd Patricia Crawford, Heather Cannon, Diane Menghetti, Ann Roberts, Ann Scholl.
Largest increase: 1st Ann Scholl, 2nd Clara Sewell, Wal Nicholson (tie).

Mystery plant 1687.

Biggest: 1st Neita Coulson, Doris Blakeney (tie) 3rd Isabel Linthwaite, Ros MacIntyre, Luz Lewis, Jennifer Garvey, Barbara Robinson, Joan MacIntyre.

Largest increase: 1st Wal Carlill, 2nd Neita Coulson, 3rd Isabel Linthwaite.

The next measurements will be taken at the Novice / New Growers' Group meeting on Sunday 25th January, so bring yours along and be in the free special raffle draw (One entry per mystery plant brought). **Make sure you have your plastic label in both your pots. Your plastic label MUST have the plant name (1687 or 1694 at this stage) AND either your name or club number.**

Happy Growing.

Jeff and Alison Knowles

Lewis Knudson – 50 years since his death.

The October 2008 issue of "Orchids", the bulletin of the American Orchid Society, has an article on Lewis Knudson (1884 – 1958), who is sadly not well known to most orchid growers. And yet, this American biologist has had an enormous influence on the cultivation of countless millions of orchids.

In the early years of interest in orchids, collections of wild plants was the usual method of obtaining plants for sale, due to the difficulty of germinating orchid seeds. Huge numbers of plants were gathered and sent for sale, usually to Europe, with large numbers dying on the long journey.

Noel Bernad had shown in 1909 that orchid seeds in nature required mycorrhizal fungi for germination, and out of this work a method was developed whereby a culture medium could be used and the fungus artificially introduced. Lewis Knudson had an interest in the pure culture growth of plants, which led him to the hypothesis that orchid seeds could be germinated without the presence of the mycorrhizal fungi but with sugars and starches. From 1919 to 1922, he developed several growing media, which eventually led to Knudson's C medium, which is still in use today throughout the world for the germination of orchid seeds and for micropropagation of orchids.

So, the next time you see a flask of orchid seedlings for sale, spare a thought for the hard-working biologist who made it all possible.

Thanks to "Orchids" October 2008 and the website orchids.co.in

Noel Grant

Info from elsewhere.

Southport and Districts Orchid Society (Nov.08): Their judges' October choice was *Den. johannis*. Owners, P and D Sweet, give an insight into their orchid.

Nightcliff Orchid Society (Nov.08): They must be a jovial lot up there in the Territory as their Christmas party is being held at the Sante Fe restaurant. Their November meeting was an Orchid Auction Night. I do not know if these two events are somehow connected. You could search their newsletter to find out the true name of "Venus's slipper". Is the goddess of love the common thread for their activities? On a more serious tone, *The Importance of Light* by Dr. Withner is a fact filled article.

Did you know that one of the objects of the North Queensland Orchid Society Cairns is "The importation and resale of orchids to members"? In their November 2008 newsletter there is an article on *Miltonia spectabilis* containing general information and detailed growing information. If you are growing one, or more, of these you might like to compare notes.

Litchfield Orchid Club (Nov.08): Pity we didn't hear about their November meeting a bit earlier. They are having a wine tasting before the meeting. I can just imagine the motions and judging comments following a few bottles of red. [Oh, hello Dennis Fett.]

Orchids (The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society) (Nov.08): Their special report on *Lumpers and Splitters: Cattleyas and Molecellar systematics* is relevant in all areas of orchids. Although they do comment that, "The moral of this story is obvious. If someone "splits" your favourite genus into 17 new genera, don't dash out and change all the labels. Wait a few years." *Orchids* also contains many fine photographs and interesting articles. One that caught my eye was about Growing and Flowering Orchids in a Terrarium. Now there is a challenge for someone.

Eastern District Orchid Society (Oct.08): They had a very successful spring show with over \$2800 in profit. What was more exciting was that their membership promotion resulted in nine new members, with three of them receiving free membership for the 2009 year.

The OS of NSW (Nov.08) espouses the benefits of daylight saving when their president reports, "Daylight saving gives us more time to work on our plants and most orchids love the warmer conditions."

Ipswich OS (Nov.08) has a colour centrefold where their plant of the night *Sc. Lana Coryell* 'Cheryl' and others are shown. They are introducing a new class, cultural achievement, to the plants table.

OrchidWiz – the Orchid database

We are happy to advise that we have recently installed the “OrchidWiz” database in the Society’s computer. Our Librarian, Noel Grant, has been entrusted with assisting all members who wish to access this very useful tool. You can now, for instance, check the name of your newly-purchased orchid, find out who the hybridizer was, journey back through the lineage (often with photographs of the parent plants, the grand-parents, the great grandparents etc) back to the original species, and check how many of this orchid has been awarded. For species orchids, the database includes very useful information about the habitat in the origin country, as well as advice on cultivation, feeding, light levels etc. Be sure to tap Noel on the shoulder and ask him for a guided tour of the OrchidWiz database very soon. He is keen to show it off.

Noel Grant – Librarian

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Calendar

January, 2009

- 23 – TOS General Meeting, 8pm
- 25 – Novice / New Growers’ Meeting, 1:00pm
- 26 – Australia Day Holiday
- 30 – Management meeting

February, 2009

- 27 – TOS General Meeting, 8pm

March, 2009

- 1 – Novice / New Growers’ Meeting, 1:00pm

- 6 – Management Meeting, 7:30pm
- 27 – TOS General Meeting, 8pm
- 29 – Novice / New Growers’ Meeting, 1:00pm

April, 2009

- 3- Management Meeting, 7:30pm
- 5 – Ingham Field Day
- 17-19 – TOS Autumn Show
- 24 – TOS General Meeting, 8pm
- 26 – Novice / New Growers’ Meeting, 1:00pm

September, 2009

8-13 – 18th AOC Conference and Show in
Maribyrnong, VIC [Ph: 03 5283 1364 or
efwilde@bigpond.com]

2010

5-7.June – TQOC Conference and Show in
Townsville [Note: A must be there event!]

2011

September – WOC in Singapore [ditto]

Note: You MUST check all dates and times for accuracy
before making any plans or bookings.

JUDGES’ ROSTER

JANUARY

OPEN..... T.HOBDEN.... W.SEWELL.. ASSOC C.
TRUSCOTT

NOVICE/SPECIES..... A. HUGHES... A. KNOWLES...
ASSOC. T. DARR.. R.DAVESON

FEBRUARY

OPEN O. KROGH... C. NEUCOM... ASSOC. T.
DARR.. R.DAVESON

NOVICE/SPECIES..... T. KEITH.... E. BOON... ASSOC.
C.TRUSCOTT

MARCH

OPEN..... D. BENSON... K. GREENWAY.. ASSOC.
C. TRUSCOTT

NOVICE/SPECIES T. HOBDEN... W. SEWELL....
ASSOC. T.

DARR ..R.DAVESON

APRIL

OPEN..... E. BOON.... A. KNOWLES....
ASSOC. T. DARR. R. DAVESON

NOVICE/SPECIES.... O. KROGH...C. NEUCOM...
ASSOC.. C. TRUSCOTT.

MAY

OPEN..... A. HUGHES..... T. KEITH...
ASSOC. C. TRUSCOTT

NOVICE/SPECIES..... D. BENSON.... K. GREENWAY...
ASSOC.. T.DARR...

R.DAVESON

JUNE

OPEN..... O. KROGH.... E. BOON...
ASSOC. T. DARR.. R.DAVESON

NOVICE/SPECIES.... W. SEWELL.... A. KNOWLES..
ASSOC. C. TRUSCOTT

Ted Boon.

Novice/New Growers Group Report

On the 30th November, 64 members and friends met at Townsville Orchid Society Hall Inc. Charles Street, Kirwan for their final get together for the year 2008 and to enjoy their Christmas Luncheon. A huge downpour of rain in the morning (50 mm or more in a very short time) completely flooding the area all around the hall and the roadway out the front. Luckily the weather cleared and the sun came out although some members were concerned about the amount of flood water lying around in their area, thus preventing them to come to the luncheon. I would like to thank the people who offered to go and pick up members who were stranded by the flood waters. Our Christmas Luncheon was a huge success and to all the ladies who generously supplied the desserts, I would like thank you all most sincerely, and what a wonderful array of sweets it was to finish our meal. It was indeed an honour and a pleasure to be involved with the Novice/New Growers this last year, in conversation on the many ways in which you endeavour to grow your orchids and the many problems you may encounter. I am hoping that this coming year with help from our senior and more experience orchid growers, we will be able to further enrich your knowledge and to make your afternoons as enjoyable as possible. I would like to thank Jeff and Alison for promoting their *Phalaenopsis* Seedling Programme and for their advice they have given to all the members in relation to the growth of the seedlings by a monthly inspection of the plants and the encouragement award they give to the members. The winners this month were Isabel and Mary.

Congratulation to all our members who enter their flowering orchids in the popular vote section throughout the year and the winners were Neita, Caroline and Wal & Lyn. Last month's Bulletin listed several members of the Novice Growers Group were moved up to the open section, you are all still most welcomed to bring along your flowering orchids for the popular vote section and also share in the friendship of our Sunday meetings. Unfortunately we lost Lister Arrowsmith and Howard Curtis, two of our senior members during the past year to that big orchid house in the sky. May they both rest in peace.

What a wonderful Multi Raffle we had to finish off our afternoon's activities in 2008, so I would like to sincerely thank you all for your most generous donations you gave to the Raffle Table. There were flowering orchid, grocery buckets, bottles of wine, pot plants, bromeliads and many other items too many to mention. The first meeting of the Novice/New Growers Group for the year 2009 will be held on the 25th January at 1.00pm. so bring along a few overgrown orchid plants and your potting material for a repotting demonstration, also your flowering orchids for the popular vote. Alan Hughes will also give a talk on *Cattleya* Orchids. The meeting will conclude with our usual afternoon tea and the Multi Raffle. On behalf of Clara and myself, we would like to wish everybody a **Happy and a Prosperous New Year for 2009.**

Warren and Clara

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Delivery of TOS Bulletin

If you would like your copy of the Townsville Orchid Society's Bulletin to be delivered electronically to your email address, instead of by snail mail, then let me know. This will save the club money, it will get to you faster and you will have the added attraction of colour photographs - now that is a good deal.

You can contact me at Eml2me@hotmail.com If you send me an email then this will confirm your email address for me as well.

I am seeking a name for the electronic form of our Bulletin. "Rosenstromii" seem a bit long as does "Townsville Orchid Society electronic Bulletin". What is your suggestion?

Jeff Knowles - Editor.

Show photographs.

Please note that technical difficulties mean that the photographs from our last Autumn Show are not available.

TABLED PLANTS 28.11.08

OPEN

Dendrobium

- 1) Den. *hamiferum* x Den. *bigibbum* var. compactum P&M Korsman
 2) Den. Dragon Jade 'BFC' W&J Nicholson
 3) Den. Tobaen Dawn W&J Nicholson

Dendrobium

- 1) Den. Vimalamitra F&D Marnock
 2) Den. Blue Foxtail 'Salaya' W&J Nicholson
 3) Den. Spellbound x Den. Sunksawat F&D Marnock

Dendrobium

- 1) Den. Charelle Charlie x Den. *lasianthera* W&J Nicholson
 2) Den. *tangerium* x Den. *helix* P&M Korsman
 3) Den. *lasianthera* x Den. *conanthum* P&M Korsman

Cattleya

- 1) Blc. Ports of Paradise 'Emerald Isle' A Steel
 2) Blc. Mem. Helen Brown 'Sweet Afton' W&J Nicholson
 3) Blc. Kinza 'Southern Cross' x Slc. Pixie 'Pearls' A Steel

Cattleya - Miscellaneous

- 1) Blc. Rustic Spots W&C Sewell
 2) Enc. Justin Esdale x *atropurpureum* W&J Nicholson
 3) Schom. ? x *luddemanniana* W&J Nicholson

Vandaceous – Semi Terete

- 1) Ronnyara Blue Delight 'Hildos' W&J Nicholson
 2) Mokara Madame Panni W&J Nicholson
 3) V. J.V.B. x V. Gordon Dillon 'Blue' W&J Nicholson

Vascostylis

- 1) V. Five Friendships 'Pretty' N&M Grant
 2) V. Nong Kham 'Virej' W&J Nicholson
 3) V. Pine Rivers 'Red' N&M Grant

Ascocenda

- 1) Ascda. Chom Kao x V Virdonchon Gold N Coulson
 2) Rhy. Sri Siam x Para. Crown Fox 'Agate' W&J Nicholson
 3) Ascda. Unknown N Coulson

Aerides

- 1) Aerides Bangkok N&M Grant
 2) Aerides Fuch's Charm N&M Grant
 3) Aerides Bangkok W&J Nicholson

Cymbidium

- 1) Cym. Golden Elf W&J Nicholson
 2) Cym. Golden Elf W&J Nicholson

Bulbophyllum

- 1) Bulb. *baissetum* x Bulb. *lobii* W&J Nicholson

Oncidium – Intergeneric

- 1) Onc. Golden Anniversary 'Emas' W&J Nicholson
 2) Mtdm. Hawaiian Sunset 'Clifton' W&J Nicholson
 3) Wils. Golden Anniversary 'Rich Yellow' W&J Nicholson

Bllra.

- 1) Bllra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter 'Morning Joy' W&J Nicholson
 2) Brassia. Rex 'Choice' W&J Nicholson
 3) Bllra. Saidie Loo x Milt. Christmas Eve W&J Nicholson

Paphiopedilum

- 1) Paph. Delophyllum x Paph. Glaucophyllum L Kennedy & F Ames
 2) Paph. Deperle L Kennedy & F Ames
 3) Paph. Delyllum Glaucophyllum x Delanatii L Kennedy & F Ames

Paphiopedilum

- 1) Paph. Praestans x Paph. *primulinum* F&D Marnock
 2) Paph. Saint Swithin L Kennedy & F Ames

Phragmipedium

- 1) Phrag. Barbara Leann W&J Nicholson

SPECIES

Vandaceous

- 1) Tric. *luzonense* W&J Nicholson
 2) V. *tricolor* P&M Korsman
 3) Pomatocalpa *marsupiale* W&J Nicholson

Aerides

- 1) Aer. *maculosum* A Steel
 2) Aer. *falcatum* N&M Grant
 3) Aer. *maculosum* N&M Grant

Rhynchostylus

- 1) Rhy. *coelestis* alba N&M Grant
 2) Rhy. *coelestis* alba N&M Grant
 3) Rhy. *retusa* pink N&M Grant

Dendrobium

- 1) Den. *dearii* W&J Nicholson
 2) Den. *capituliflorum* P&M Korsman
 3) Den. *litorium* P&M Korsman

Miscellaneous

- 1) Bulb. *claptonense* W&J Nicholson
 2) L. *tenebrosa* A Steel
 3) Paph. *lowii* L Kennedy & F Ames

Points.

	23.01.09	Open	Species	Total
51	Coulson N	7		7
213	Grant N & M	18	17	35
65	Kennedy L & Ames F	12	2	14
193	Knowles J & A	22	8	30
119	Korsman P & M	9	10	19
77	Marnock F & D	10		10
147	Nicholson W & J	121	62	183
172	Sewell W & C	4		4
216	Steel A	20	18	38

MINUTES GENERAL MEETING HELD 28.11.08

Meeting Opened: 8.02pm by W Nicholson who welcomed all present to final meeting for 2008 and thanked members, particularly Warren and Clara Sewell for contributions to raffle table, as well as Alice's Orchids for the gifts of orchid plants.

Minutes: of previous meeting published in Bulletin. Moved a True Record of Previous meeting by M Korsman. Seconded C Sewell. Carried. **Business Arising From Minutes:** Nil.

Correspondence: Inwards: CBA/statement Cheque A/c; Day Dawn/Vouchers; Southern Cross Broadcasting/Cheque/Statement – nil balance; Ben Hall/hall hire/2 emails; Community Benefit Fund/purchase of laptop & chairs; S Zierk/emails x 2/legal letters/minutes inspection; Chris Jones/email re growing orchids; O.Q Inc/change of meeting details; Bunnings/sausage sizzle 17.05.09;

J Knowles/advice Atian Tsay; J Snell/change of address; NQ(Cairns) OS/invitation to Christmas Party 28.11.08; Other Society Bulletins; American OS magazine.

Outwards: Gambling Community Benefit Fund/ re purchasing articles; D Martin/acceptance as double member; J Dalton/re subscription/ AOC/subscription for N Coulson; Ben Hall/emails/hall hire; B Martin, M Roth, M Lock/new member letters; NQ (Cairns)OS/email declining invitation; S Zierk/ emails re requests; Advertisements/emails re monthly meeting.

J Nicholson Moved Inwards Correspondence be Received and Outwards Correspondence be Confirmed. Seconded N Coulson. Carried.

Business Arising From Correspondence: All finance matters to Treasurer; Purchased laptop and chairs – will have to pay the little extra incurred; Emails to S Zierk – letters and minute book always available to be read but not copied; O.Q Inc – no President or Secretary – may fold; Bunnings granted a sausage sizzle date – 17.05.09./training session available on Thursday 11 December -6pm – 1 hour - for interested members; Could have worked Christmas Eve but Boy Scouts are filling in; Hall hire – Ben Hall – 'gents' toilet door damaged – patched by W Nicholson – louvre broken and tables bent – withheld \$100 for payment.

Treasurer's Report: given by R Daveson – will print at later date – no power or telephone available. He Moved Adoption of Report and Confirmation of Cheques Issued. Seconded W Sewell. Carried.

Business Arising From Treasurer's Report: R Daveson asked if W Nicholson or W Sewell could explain differences in drink sales for last financial year and this one. W Nicholson explained the Auditor didn't always put the amounts together. Assured him we made a bigger profit this year; stating we sell approximately \$100 each week.

Novice/New Growers Report: given by W Sewell who reminded members that luncheon at 12md and to bring competition Phalaenopsis plants for measuring. Next meeting on Sunday 25 January 2009.

Registrar's Choice: Hybrid: Den. Vimalamitra owned by F&D Marnock and gained 81 Points. **Species:** Paphiopedimum *lowii* owned by L Kennedy and F Ames and gained 79 Points. Congratulations to the growers.

Editorial Report: given by J Knowles - 11 January is deadline for articles for bulletin. List passed around for emails as he hopes to send as many as possible this way. Mentioned a Phalaenopsis - 6cm -which sold on internet for \$250.99.

No **Show** or **Catering** Reports.

General Business: W Nicholson and W Sewell had spoken to B Barber re extension – ongoing. Townsville City Council had done more than suggested re fence etc. Not allowed to drive over ground at back because of infrastructure underground. W Nicholson hopes to obtain a key for lock on gate to be same as one now in use for hall – to discuss with Management Committee re letter to council.

Members adjourned for a very enjoyable supper provided by members who brought a plate.

Technical Adviser: Min Korsman chose several orchids from bench asking the growers to give details of purchase, growth etc.

L Kennedy, W Nicholson and A Steel all spoke on their plants. **General Business:** W Nicholson answered M Keith's enquiry re trophy displayed, saying it was the one given to P&L Lewis by mistake. Another trophy has been made available for T&E Lyster who won third place in the Novice Section of tables plants.

Lucky Door and Raffle: prizes were drawn. W Nicholson again thanked members for table of prizes and wished all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Meeting Closed: 10.17pm.

Condensed Minutes Management Committee Meeting held 5.12.08

Orchids Queensland Inc. will hold a rescheduled A.G.M. in our hall on Saturday 16 May to consider voluntary dissolution if required to do so because of a lack of President, Secretary and Treasurer and Committee Members representing the Central and Southern regions.

Resolved to hang on to old chairs and tables until extension completed.

Signs warning not to sit on tables to be placed on hall walls.

Resolved to allow W Nicholson \$68 to purchase a padlock with intermediate staple – can't remove key until locked - able to use hall keys – and have it engraved with TOS - for gate between hall and Hockey Club. Whoever opens gate to be responsible for shutting same. Council doesn't like people driving over ground's infrastructure – we must exercise all due care.

R Daveson would like put on record that he doesn't feel treasurer's bag the one held by W Sewell – this one patched in front busted at back and broken on side – claims he carried a brown one in when helping treasurer one night. Assured by W Nicholson and W Sewell it was the same old case held by several treasurer in the past. C Lee Moved a Motion “that if Rodney feels it necessary, a new treasurer's case be purchased.” Seconded A Zierk. Motion lost – 4 in favour – 5 against.

Editor J Knowles would like as many email addresses as possible to send bulletin by email.

Publicity Officer M Daveson told about responsibilities – has nothing to do with bulletin.

J Knowles congratulated all who supplied sweets for Novice/New Growers' luncheon.

We will host T.Q.O.C. Inc. Queen's Birthday weekend Conference and Show in 2010 – can't advertise heavily before June 2009 – must form a committee early in 2009.

Following discussion about design and cost of extension - W Nicholson to make a rough sketch - J Knowles suggested further information be obtained.

Resolved to accept applications for renewal of membership from R&J West and R Scott – placed in Open Section.

N Grant advised Orchid Wiz up and running – see him for information on orchid history.

No certificates given for Spring Show as no photos available.

Letter from R Daveson to members and others prior to A.G.M. and use of trade dollars discussed. W Sewell Moved a Motion “that all this stop right now.” Seconded A Zierk. Carried.

Ha Ha time !

A long time ago in Communist Russia there was a famous weather man named Rudolph. He had a 100% accuracy rate for his forecasts of the Russian weather conditions. His people loved and respected him for his faultless foresight. He was particularly good at predicting rain. One night, despite clear skies, he made the prediction on the 6:00 pm news that a violent storm was approaching. It would flood the town in which he and his wife lived. He warned the people to take precautions and prepare for the worst.

After he arrived home later that evening his wife met him at the door and started arguing with him that his weather prediction was the most ridiculous thing she had ever heard. This time, he said, he had made a terrible mistake. There wasn't a cloud anywhere within 10 miles of the village. As a matter of fact, that day had been the most beautiful day that the town had ever had and it was quite obvious to everyone that it wasn't going to rain. He told her to be quiet and listen to him. If he said it was going to rain – it was going to rain. He had all of his Russian heritage behind him and he knew what he was talking about. They argued back and forth for hours so much that they went to bed mad at each other.

During the night, sure enough, one of the worst rainstorms hit the village, the likes of which they had never seen. That morning, when Rudolph and his wife arose, they looked out the window and saw all the water that had fallen that night.

“See”, said Rudolph, “I told you it was going to rain.”

His wife admitted, “Once again your prediction came true. But I want to know just how you were so accurate Rudolph?”

To which he replied. “You see, Rudolph the Red knows rain dear!” *(thanks Ipswich OS)*

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty.'

Some photographs

from the November, 2008 Meetings.

Registrar's Choice for hybrid was *Den. Vimalamitra* owned by F and D Marnock and gained 81 Points. This dendrobium



was first registered in 1999 from the crossing of *Den. Thongchai Gold* and *Den. Palolo Sunshine*.

Paphiopedimum lowii owned by L Kennedy and F Ames, 79 points, gained the Registrar's choice for species.



Paphiopedilum lowii (Lindl.) Pfitzer 1895 grows at altitudes of 200 to 1700 metres and hails from Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi and Borneo. Many, many awards have been given to clones of this species orchid. One notable plant was *Paph. lowii* 'Exotic Dancer' which gained an FCC/AOS (93 points) in 1989. This particular clone had nine flowers on two inflorescences. The flowers had a spread of 15.4 cm. By 2006, the clone 'Haley Suzanne' with four flowers (spread of 18.6cm) and one bud on a single inflorescence, gained an AM/AOS with 83 points.



Tric. luzonense (Wal and Jean Nicholson)



Bulb. baissetum x *Bulb. lobii* (Wal and Jean Nicholson)



Aer. maculosum (Alf Steel)



Blc. Ports of Paradise 'Emerald Isle' (Alf Steel)



Paph. Praestans x *Paph. primulinum* (F and D Marnock)



Some of the many *phalaenopsis* plants in the growing competition.