

# TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC



## FEBRUARY 2013 BULLETIN

Full contact details are on our web site <http://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au>

### TOS Inc. Directory of useful information:

Postal Address:  
PO Box 836 D.C.  
AITKENVALE QLD 4814  
Ph: 07 47734208

Hall Location:  
Joe Kirwan Park  
Charles Street  
KIRWAN QLD

Meetings are held 8pm  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each  
month except December  
in the Townsville Orchid  
Society Inc. Hall

General Meeting  
Friday 22nd February  
at 8.00 pm

Novice/New Growers'  
Sunday 24th February  
at 1.00pm

Next Management  
Committee Meeting:  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
at 7.30 pm

Patron: Phyllis Merritt  
President: Wal Nicholson Ph: 07 47734208  
Secretary: Jean Nicholson Ph: 07 47734208  
Email: [walandjean@bigpond.com](mailto:walandjean@bigpond.com)  
Assistant  
Treasurer: Charles Lee Ph: 07 4778 4815  
VP Show: Marie Bloom Home: 07 47783497  
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### TOS CALENDAR 2013

**February 2013** 22 – General Meeting at 8.00 pm  
24 – Novice /New Growers' Meeting – 1.00pm  
**March 2013** 01 - Management Committee Meeting – 7.30pm

### Annual Membership Fees

City Family	\$18.00	Pensioner Family	\$9.00
City Single	\$14.00	Pensioner Single/Junior	\$7.00

Details for paying membership fees: BSB: 064823 Account Number: 0009 0973  
Name of Account: Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Commonwealth Bank, Aitkenvale  
**Fees are due 1<sup>st</sup> September each year.**

### TOS - 2013 SHOW DATES

*Autumn - 5, 6, & 7 April*

*Winter - 21, 22 & 23 June*

*Spring 13, 14 & 15 September*

**TOS Members:** if you would like to receive the TOS Bulletin by email you can email me on the following email address:  
[siarni@gmail.com](mailto:siarni@gmail.com)



Registrar's Choice  
Blc. Dal's Kew  
"Drummer Boy" x  
Bc Dal's Charm  
J & A Knowles



Species & Best  
Specimen  
*Doritis pulcherriua*  
var  
"Chumporenensis  
N & M Grant

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Considering the state of the weather up to only a day before our last meeting, it was pleasing to see the roll-up which we had, followed by more than sixty only two days later for the Novice/New Growers Group. Thankfully we did not (for once) experience what our Southern cousins copped. Having lived in Bundy, Maryborough and Rocky I know exactly what those people have experienced, although never expected the devastation that Bundaberg has. While we lived in Bundy (early seventies) it was believed that any cyclones etc. would hit the top end of Fraser Island and veer away. One year, while a cyclone looked certain to strike, we pondered as to whether to open for business with a skeleton staff, and eventually decided about midday not to open. On the radio at 12.30pm it was reported that the blow had changed course about midday and we were clear, too late then to open a bank – for their sakes 'tis a pity this didn't repeat itself.

We have been very lucky, but very hot. The steamy weather seems to be encouraging growth in our orchids, with little evidence, so far, of fungal problems. Although our first show (Autumn) for the year, is about two months away, the conditions are looking favourable.

A couple of our members have undergone surgery during the month and seem to have responded well – keep it up. Best of health to everybody.

Thanks again to Alis for her efforts with the Bulletin, and to Stacey with the recording of Tabled Plants and their Points – this has meant a little more relief to Jean and I.

I note in the newsletter of the Cairns Club that their Bulletin compiler/Editor has pulled the plug, after twenty years. Why is it that Orchid Clubs/Societies keep pushing the willing workers for ever?? Think about it, with little effort by several members the work load on a few could be much reduced.

The new year seems to be heading in the right direction so we can expect a couple of bumper shows, whether we have a wet season or not. Best of Luck with your growing. Wal Nicholson

## SALE OF PLANTS AT FRIDAY MEETING

Bring along your surplus/for sale plants on Friday night, ensuring that they each bear a name tag as well as a price tag with your number and price on it. Quality plants, free of disease etc. - and in respectable pots or mounts only please.

## NOVICE/NEW GROWERS REPORT

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January 62 members and visitors met at the Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Hall, Charles Street Kirwan for their first meeting of the year 2013. A good attendance considering the very hot and humid weather that Townsville was experiencing on that day. The topic for the afternoon was on Prevention and Control of Fungal and Bacterial Problems. Several different types of fungicides were discussed such as Alginox to control certain fungi, bacterial and algae problems, Dithane M-45 for downy mildew, anthracnose, Fongarid to control pythium, Kocide for Rust downy mildew, anthracnose and bacterial spot, also Mancozeb were some of the fungicides that can be used to alleviate some of these problems. A disease that can appear on the leaf of a Phalaenopsis plant as a small water soaked spot is a light colour and it will spread rapidly. This blister is full of watery exudates which is a pure culture of bacteria. This disease spreads so quickly in the plant that within one or two days it may reach the stem of the plant and completely destroy it. Try and cut off the affected parts with a generous amount of the healthy tissue and rub some "flower of sulphur" into the now exposed fleshy tissue. The growing area should be well ventilated (air movement) a clean and a tidy growing area with hygiene most essential at all times.

A very interesting topic was the two catasetum plants supplied by Wal and Delia. Wal's plant had a raceme of all male flowers whilst Delia's plant had several buds of unopened female flowers. The leaves of the dendrobium plant that one of our members had been concerned about could have been the effects of Red Spider mites and it was suggested to use a miticide spray such as Natrasoap (Rate

10-20mls./per litre of water) or Maldison 500 :- 1.25mls./litre of water. Always take the necessary precaution when using a chemical to spray your plants, read the label thoroughly remembering that anything that is designed to kill insects, it will also kill humans, so that means it will kill you also. A couple of years ago, Shane Snow of J&V'S Fraser Coast Dendrobiums donated three compots of dendrobiums seedling to be distributed to the members of the Novice/New Growers. Would you please check to see if you have any of these plants in your shade house if so, could you please bring them along to the next meeting for me.

The names of these dendrobiums were as follow:- Den. Ram Misra x Bernadette) x Den. Dal's Monarc.

Den. Enobi Purple "Splash" x Den. Emma White.  
Den. (Brown Pixie X Green Devil) x discolour Broomfieldii".

We would like to thank June & Stacey who had volunteered to look after the co-ordinating of the tabling of plants and the voting results for the Popular Voting Competition this year. The results in the Novice Section was:- 1<sup>St</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Fran & Steven Gough and no 3<sup>rd</sup> Placing. In the Open Section, Peter & Luz Lewis was 1<sup>St</sup>, Ann Roberts was 2<sup>nd</sup> with Norma Palin in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Our get well wishes go out to Alis who had a few days in hospital recently, also to Maureen who has been unwell for the last couple of months. It was also great to see Barbara & Ziggy and Frances back again with us. Once again we had a wonderful afternoon tea and many thanks to everybody for your donations of prizes for the Multi Raffle Table and the purchasing of the Raffle Tickets.  
Warren & Clara

#### MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2013

**Meeting Opened:** 8pm by W Nicholson who asked Members to stand for a minutes silence for our late member Jill Lee.

He also reminded members to sign the Attendance Book for Insurance purposes.

**Visitors:** Paul O'Byrne welcomed.

**Bulletin Corrections:** Sunday Meeting commences at 1pm. Management Committee Meeting will be held on Friday 1 February.

**Minutes:** of previous Meeting held 23.11.2012 Moved as a True Record by T Phillips Seconded by S Fay. Carried.

**Correspondence:** Qld International Orchid Fair/Beenleigh Showgrounds 1-3 March; Heldover/TCC Parks/Irrigation; TQOC Inc/meeting 9 February; J Batey/list Field Days; J Knowles/List flasks/Shergolds; AOS Information sheets; Fitzgerald's Funerals/Ac; Hall Hire/emails; Other Society Bulletins; Burbank Catalogue; John Woolf/Catalogue.

**Outwards:** Hall Hire/emails.

Moved by J Nicholson that Inwards Correspondence be Received and Outwards be Confirmed. Seconded by C Berzinski. Carried.

**Business Arising From Correspondence:** Any member interested in J Woolf's catalogue contact W Nicholson. M Bloom and S Cairns will be delegates to the T.Q.O.C. Inc. meeting on 9 February at 2pm. Still waiting to hear again from T C Council re Irrigation.

**Assistant Treasurer's Report:** given by C Lee who Moved that his Report be Received and Cheques Passed for Payment. Seconded by B Blanchard. Carried.

**Business Arising From Assistant Treasurer's Report:** Ergon Electricity A/c was \$43.40 with income over \$500 from the panels. At Committee Meeting it was decided to go ahead with preliminary negotiations about air-conditioning – which will cost about \$30,000 and Council wants about \$2,600 for Irrigation so we will take things slowly.

**Registrar's Choice – Hybrids:** Dal's Gem x Dal's Charm gained 79 Points for J&A Knowles. **Species & Best**

**Specimen:** *Doritis pulcherrima* var 'Chumporenensis' gained 77 Points for N&M Grant. Congratulations to the growers.

**Novice New Growers:** will meet as usual at 1pm.

Thank you to E Boon for a summary of Tabled Plants for the night which was followed by a Tea Break.

**General Business:** J Nicholson announced the new 2013 Calendar which is available for \$5 per copy.

Registration for T.Q.O.C. Inc. Conference in Cairns closes at end of February. Copy of Registration and Accommodation available from Secretary.

**Lucky Door & Raffles:** drawn by C Lee.

**Meeting Closed:** at 9.15pm

#### JUDGES FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH

##### FEBRUARY

MASTERS/ OPEN: D. BENSON R. DAVESON

NOVICE/ SPECIES: T. BOON C. TRUSCOTT

##### MARCH

MASTERS/OPEN O KROGH T. BOON

NOVICE/SPECIES A. HUGHES D. BENSON



Name	POINTS			25.01.2013	
	Veterans	Open	Novice	Species	Aggregate
Allison - Allan		3			3
Blanchard - Brendon & White - Lynne				1	1
Bloom - Marie		5		7	12
Cairns - June & Stacey		19			19
Christophers - Grant & Siarni - Alis			4	1	5
Grant - Noel & Maureen	42			54	96
Googh - Stephen & Fran			12		12
Hardwick - Noel		6			6
Kelly - Greg & Santina	18				18
Knowles - Jeff & Alison	14			7	21
Lee - Charles	20			15	35
Lucke - Peter & Joanne			11		11
MacIntyre - Ross & Joan		18		6	24
Marnock - Fred & Donna		13		3	16
Nicholson - Wal & Jean	129			88	217
Phillips - Tina			11		11
Sewell - Warren & Clara	19			11	30
Steel - Alf	2			9	11

**FOR SALE: SHADE HOUSE FOR SALE**

Galvanised piping frame, galvanised mesh benches. Approximately 6 Metres x 12 Metres and 3/4Metres tall Overgrown - not mine.

No price quoted. Well worth inspection and offer by serious grower. Contact Wal so that he can arrange. 47734208

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

**For Friday night's meeting we have acquired the presence of Chris Cobb as our Guest Speaker on the subject of his wanderings in the Cape York area.**

**Chris has vast knowledge of the many North Queensland Native Orchids and has spoken at many International, as well as Australian Conferences. Unfortunately he cannot stay for Sunday, but he is bringing plants for display and for sale.**

**Editor'sNotes:**

1. Welcome to a new TOS member Paul O'Byrne.
2. The NQ (Cairns) Orchid Society Inc. has extended the Registration time for the T.Q.O.C. Inc Conference & Show to the 31st March 2013 from 28 February. This Conference will be held in Cairns Showground on 3 – 5 May 2013. Registration Form and Accommodation list for Cairns available from Secretary Jean.
3. Herbert River Orchid & Allied Plant Soc. Inc Field Day is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – meet at Conroy Hall, McIlwraith Street, Ingham Bus for day \$10. Lunch (chicken & Salads) \$10. Attendance numbers by 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013.
4. Queensland International Orchid Fair Beenleigh Showground, James Street Beenleigh. Leading Queensland, Interstate and International Nurseries, Specialist Plant Sellers, Books, Collectables... Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 from 8am each day.  
Visit website: [www.orchidfair.com.au](http://www.orchidfair.com.au)

**TABLED PLANTS 25 JANUARY 2013**

**Section: Veterans**

**Type: Phragmipedium**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Phrag.* Green Hornet W&J Nicholson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Phrag.* Praying Mantis W&J Nicholson

**Type: Paphiopedilum**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Paph. concolor* x *primulinum* C Lee  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Paph.* Clifton Booth W&J Nicholson  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Paph. primulinum* 'Steve' x *philippinense*  
 'Doll Honey' W&J Nicholson

**Type: Cattleya Misc.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Pot.* Hoku Gem 'Freckles' N&M Grant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *B. nodosa* x C. Unknown W&J Nicholson

**Type: Cattleya Miniatures**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Slc.* Jungle Gem x Precious Jewel G&S Kelly  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Slc.* Jungle Gem G&S Kelly  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Slc.* Dal's Rage 'Maria' G&S Kelly

**Type: Cattleya**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Blc.* Dal's Kew 'Drummer Boy' x  
*Blc.* Dal's Charm J&A Knowles  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Lc.* Sagarik Wax G&S Kelly  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Lc.* Wrigleyi W&J Nicholson

**Type: Oncidium**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Milt.* Sandy's Cove x Same W&J Nicholson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Brs.* Starex 'Chiapis' AM/AOS W&J Nicholson  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Milt. festiva* x *regnellii* W&J Nicholson

**Type: Dendrobium**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Den.* Liberty White W&J Nicholson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Den.* Burana Emerald A Allison

**Type: Vandaceous large**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Vanda.* Robert's Delight 'Ink Blue' N&M Grant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Ascda.* Tubtim Velvet x Fuch's Gold G&S Kelly

**Type: Vascostylis**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Vasco.* Prapin x *Vanda luzonica* N&M Grant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Vasco.* Alice's Anie G&S Kelly  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Vasco.* Alice's Anie N&M Grant

**Type: Vandaceous misc.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Rnya.* Brighton's Magic N&M Grant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Hmra.* Brighton's Friendship N&M Grant  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Csn.* Chao Praya Emerald x  
*Vasco.* Five Friendships N&M Grant

**Section: Open:**

**Type: Cattleya**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Slc.* Tiny Titan R&J MacIntyre  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Thw.* Johnny Letcher J&S Cairns

**Type: Oncidium**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Tol.* Yellow  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Mtssa.* Aztec 'Toni' R&J MacIntyre  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Onc.* Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'  
 R&J MacIntyre

**Section: Novice**

**Type: Misc.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Paph.* Prim-n-proper P&J Lucke  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *C.* Shinfong Gold Gem 'Golden Jewel' P&J Lucke

**Section: Species**

**Type: Vandaceous Misc.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Rhy. coelestis* 'Pink' N&M Grant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Aer. arachnitis* W&J Nicholson  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Pom. marsupiale* N&M Grant

**Type: Various**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Gram. Scriptum* var *citrinum* 'Hihimanu'  
 W&J Nicholson

**Type: Phalaenopsis/Doritis**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Dor. pulcherrima* var *chumpornensis* N&M Grant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Phal. violacea* (Blue) 'Wan Chiao' R&J MacIntyre  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *Phal. cornu-cervi* R&J MacIntyre

**Type: Oncidium Family**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Psyg. pusilla* C Lee  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *Psyg. pusilla* C Lee

**Type: Cattleya**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *C. violacea* N&M Grant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> *En. ciliare* C Lee  
 3<sup>rd</sup> *C. intermedia* var *amethystina* 'Aranbeem'  
 W&J Nicholson

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**GROWING EPIDENDRUMS**

**Temperature & Light:** These orchids will grow in full sun in planter beds or pots with good drainage. Some hybrids need partial shade, especially during the hottest part of the day.

**Humidity & Air Movement:** Most orchids benefit during the growing season from good humidity. Watering the area around the plants both morning and night is the best method to achieve this. Good air movement is very beneficial to most orchids, including Epi's.

**Nutrition & Watering:** All orchids will thrive and grow far more rapidly if fertiliser applied, both to the leaves as well as the roots. Using water soluble fertilizers, such as Flowerfeed, Peters or both Orchid fertilizers at least twice a month will produce some remarkable plants and flowers. Slow release fertilizers can be used in the media around the roots. Water orchids heavy and let it dry considerably before watering again. Never let orchids stand in a container of water in winter. Orchids are air plants and do not like to have their roots kept in water. It is better to keep it on the dry side

**Media & Compost:**

Epidendrums are relatively not fussy plants and will tolerate a wide variety of growing media. They like a mixture of bark, perlite, fine charcoal chunks, and compost, creating a very porous medium. Some growers may use only a mixture of bark and perlite, a good Cymbidium mix will also suit Epi's.

**Pests & Disease:** Healthy orchids are far more resistant to pests and diseases than weak plants. Therefore, good cultivation methods are essential if such problems are to be kept to a minimum. Epi's, like other orchids, are susceptible to a variety of pests, such as aphids, mealybugs and scale. Epidendrum is a wide-spread genus of about one thousand species. They are easy to grow, and flower profusely, with many brightly coloured flowers all year round. The flowers can vary in size greatly as can plant size. They grow wild in tropical and subtropical America, from Florida to Brazil. These little jewels can be some of the most rewarding of all orchids. The genus is closely related to the Cattleya. Some Epidendrum Potting Mixes.

4 parts Perlite and 1 part peat. 4 parts small bark and 1 part peat  
 4 parts small coir and 1 part coarse perlite.

Any good Cymbidium mix.

**With Thanks to the West Moreton Orchid Group Inc.**

## In Noel's Bush House 11



*Rhynchostylis coelestis* Rchb. f. ex Veitch 1891

The natural home of this hugely popular orchid is Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, but it can be found in bush houses and heated glass houses across the world. It is noted for its readiness to regularly flower with spikes laden with multiple medium-sized colourful (and fragrant) blooms.

“Rhynchostylis” means “beaked column” and refers to the beaklike viscidium. “Coelestis” means “blue” in reference to the usual colour of the labellum, which may be a misnomer, as the colour can

vary from a pale lavender shade to a very dark violet/blue. Usually, the petals and sepals are suffused with the lip colour, deepening at the tips. The plant is a relatively small, monopodial epiphyte. *Rhynchostylis coelestis* can be found in three colour forms: the so-called “blue”, an albino form which has all-white colouration, and a sought-after “pink” form. I find that I now have 9 plants, because so many that I purchased were labelled either “pink” or “alba”, but flowered as “blue”. Happily, I have now flowered a “pink”, but the “alba” form continues to elude me. 9 plants may seem a lot, but they flower in a staggered manner, so I have a display from late November through to February.

Plants should be grown in a basket with minimum material, so as to give fast drying after watering. I grow mine with a layer of either Quincan gravel or river rocks. The roots tend to grow out of the basket very quickly and can grow very long. They are intolerant of rough handling and breakages, so the plants are best hung, rather than grown on a bench. A mature plant will readily grow “pups” which are quick to grow to flowering size, so a large plant will have multiple flower spikes. One of my plants recently had six spikes in flower, which was a spectacular sight. Frequent applications of “flowering” fertilizer in spring will reward you.

*Rhynchostylis coelestis* is a member of the Vanda family and readily hybridizes with a large number of other genera. One of the most popular hybrids is *Vascostylis* (*x Ascocenda*) where it tends to be dominant; giving flower spikes with multiple, medium-sized, startlingly colourful blooms. Noel Grant February 2013

References:

‘OrchidWiz’ computer program.

‘The New Encyclopaedia of Orchids’ by Isobyl la Croix 2008

‘Botanica’s Pocket Orchids’ Random House 2002

‘Orchid Growing in the Tropics’ by the Orchid Society of South East Asia 1994

The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopaedia <http://www.orchidspecies.com/>

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. All photographs are by J Nicholson unless indicated otherwise.

**\*ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY\***

**SEASOL – Planting Gel**

Improves plant establishment.

**DAY DAWN**   
N U R S E R Y

Stores water & nutrients at root zone.

Contains Seasol & essential nutrients.