



## TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

### AUGUST 2013 BULLETIN

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

**TOS Members:** To print, put in envelopes, put on stamps, and then post copies of the Bulletin, costs time and money. 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). You will then receive the Bulletin in colour, with the occasional attachment.

#### TOS Inc. Directory of useful information:

Postal Address:	Hall Location:	Meetings are held 8pm
PO Box 836 D.C	Joe Kirwan Park	on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of each
AITKENVALE QLD 4814	Charles Street	month except December
Ph: 07 4773420	KIRWAN QLD	in the Townsville Orchid
		Society Inc. Hall
General Meeting	Novice/New Growers'	Next Management
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	Committee Meeting:
at 8.00 pm	at 1.00pm	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 pm

Patron:	Phyllis Merritt	
President:	Wal Nicholson	Ph: 07 47734208
Secretary:	Jean Nicholson	Ph: 07 47734208
		Email: <a href="mailto:walandjean@bigpond.com">walandjean@bigpond.com</a>

Assistant Treasurer:	Charles Lee	Ph: 07 4778 4815
VP Show:	Marie Bloom	Home: 07 47783497
VP Bulletin:	Alis Siarni	Mobile: 0406548057

#### TOS CALENDAR 2013

<b>August 2013</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> – General Meeting – 8.00 pm
	25 <sup>th</sup> – Novice /New Growers' Meeting – 1.00pm
	30 <sup>th</sup> - Management Committee Meeting – 7.30pm
<b>October 2013</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> - TOS Inc. Field Day

#### New Annual Membership Fees (commencing 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013)

City Family	\$20.00	Pensioner Family	\$10.00
City Single	\$15.00	Pensioner Single/Junior	\$7.50
Country Family	\$10.00		

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.**

#### JUDGES FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

##### AUGUST

<u>MASTERS/OPEN</u>	D. BENSON, R. DAVESON
<u>NOVICE/SPECIES</u>	E. BOON, C. TRUSCOTT

##### SEPTEMBER

<u>MASTERS/OPEN</u>	O. KROCH, E. BOON
<u>NOVICE/SPECIES</u>	D. BENSON, A. HUGHES

#### TOS - 2013 SHOW DATES

Spring 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>  
September

#### TOS - 2014 SHOW DATES

Autumn Show 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>  
& 13<sup>th</sup> April  
Winter Show 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>  
& 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Spring Show 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> &  
21<sup>st</sup> September

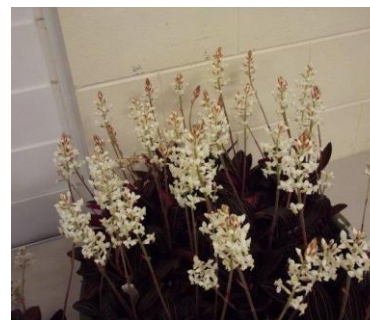
**Registrar's Choice: Hybrid:** Rlc.  
Burdekin Bells gained 81 Points for  
Warren & Clara Sewell.



**Registrar's Choice Species:** Rhy.  
*gigantea* gained 79 Points for Ross &  
Joan MacIntyre.



**Specimen Plant:**  
*Ludisia discolor* owned by W&J  
Nicholson.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Annual July dinner (Christmas in July) attracted a huge attendance, and it seemed to be enjoyed by all. Thank you to the workers and to the donors of raffle prizes etc.

It is unfortunate, but a modest increase in our annual subscription was approved because we were not even covering the cost of printing and posting our monthly newsletter. We are very well off financially, due to the work involved in hiring out our hall, and our successful shows. However, these circumstances are generated by a very small number of our members who cannot be relied (imposed) upon to do this forever. Increases range from \$2 annually for a full family membership, down to 50c annually for a single aged Centrelink pensioner, not really bad is it?

Our next major event is the Spring Show in just a month's time, followed a month later by our Annual Field Day – Sunday 13 October. Please, if you wish to open your shade house for the Field Day, as others would like you to, then let me know soon. Last year we were short on, so I opened both of my places to the delight of many, but the disgust of a small minority. I'll do it again if we don't have enough others to visit. Volunteers are required to assist at the hall etc and also we require volunteers for the Spring Show. Costs for the Field Day are ten dollars for a full day on the bus, plus ten dollars for lunch.

While you are running all of this around in your head, think also of the Annual General Meeting in late October, and what job you wish to do to assist our present hard working few.

Just to give you an idea of current arrangements I list below our present Committee:-

<u>Position</u>	<u>Encumbent</u>	<u>Actual</u>
President	Wal Nicholson	Wal Nicholson
Vice Presidents		
Chairman Show Committee	Marie Bloom	Marie Bloom with assistance Wal, Warren, Jean
Chairman Finance & Building	Nil	Wal Nicholson
Chairman Hospitality	Nil	Joan MacIntyre (non Committee) with assistance From Warren
Chairman Editorial	Alis Siarni	Alis with several advisers helping
Secretary	Jean Nicholson	Jean Nicholson
Assistant Secretary	Nil	All on Jean's shoulders
Treasurer	Nil	Nil
Assistant Treasurer	Charles Lee	assisted by Lynne White & Lyn Mutch and Jean & Wal Nicholson
Publicity	Stacey Cairns	Stacey Cairns assisted by Wal & Jean Nicholson Stacey assists with writing up Tabled Plants & Points
Technical Adviser	Nil	Ted Boon (non Committee)
Librarian	Noel Grant	Noel Grant who also assists with writing up Tabled Plants and is responsible for running OrchidWiz.
Committee Member	Jean White	Jean White
Committee Member	Warren Sewell	Warren Sewell takes responsibility for the Novice Group
Committee Member	Brendon Blanchard	Brendon Blanchard
Committee Member	Lynnette White	Lynne White
Committee Member	Grant Christophers	Grant Christophers

Please, seriously, we need your help to avoid losing valuable workers due to overwork. As you can see a number of those holding down positions are themselves still learning. Consider nominating. I am open to discuss responsibilities of any of these jobs.

In the meantime "keep'em growing." The coolish nights, followed by our N.Q. warm days, have produced some lush green growth, which we trust will turn to beautiful flowers in six weeks' time.

Late news – installation of air-conditioning is about to start as I write this, so should be up and going by the time you read it (hopefully).

Wal Nicholson

## NOVICE/NEW GROWERS' REPORT

On the 28<sup>th</sup> July, 62 members and visitors met at the Townsville Orchid Society Inc. hall, Charles Street, Kirwan for their monthly meeting. As our afternoon's meeting centred mainly on fertilization of orchids and water testing exercise, it was rewarding to see so many members bring along small bottles water and fertilizer mixtures to have them tested for a pH., and TSD reading of their sample products. Jeff was also kind enough to formulate a Power Point programme to help and explain to them why it is so important, as the better parenting they receive ( fertilizer, water and care), the better they perform. We hope this programme will also help you better understand the meaning of the 'N.P.K' ratio in relation of the fertilizer that we use to grow your orchids in the future. We have to thank Jeff and Stevie for the time to research and put together this programme and printed material they gave out to the members on this subject

We have to congratulate all the members for the wonderful display of flowers presented for the Popular Vote Competition at our last meeting and the winners were in the Novice Section Eric & Robin Dundas was 1<sup>st</sup>, Johanna Tracy & Eric & Robin tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Allan Morris 3<sup>rd</sup>. Open Section winners were Max Rutherford 1<sup>st</sup>, Peter &

Janne Lucke 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wal & Lyn Carlill 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Spring Show is coming up in the near future, so now is the time we need to look at our plants for better presentation at the show, and also we will need your help on the Show Roster. Our Spring Show is on 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> - 15th September.

T.O.S Field Day is on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, so we will need everybody's help on this day to run this event, plus donations of scones, sandwiches and cakes for our morning and afternoon teas, to entertain our visitors from the various outer town clubs and societies around North Queensland, plus items of gifts for the Multi Raffle Tables. A lunch of Chicken, Corn Meat and Salad and fruit ( \$10.0) will be available, and plus a Bus (\$10.00) to tour around some of our members' shade houses, so come along and enjoy the company of our visitors and fellow members on this day.

Once again we have to thank everybody for the cakes and sandwiches you give to the afternoon's tea table and your donation of gifts on the Multi raffle table and purchasing of Raffle Tickets. Warren Sewell.

### MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING HELD FRIDAY 26 JULY 2013

**Meeting Opened:** 6.45pm by W Nicholson who welcomed members and visitors to our Christmas in July Dinner and explained our meeting would be as short as possible.

**Minutes:** of previous meeting Moved a True Record by b Blanchard. Seconded by T Phillips. Carried.

**Correspondence: Inward:** Chef On Call/A/c paid; NQIB Insurance/A/c paid; ANOS Conference/request logo from local ANOS Inc. Group; TQOC/J Batey/confirming answer from Fair Trading re Constitution; Orchid Societies Council Victoria/Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 2013 Speakers List; Proserpine OS/Thanks for good wishes on 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Florian Berner JCU/ query on high humidity in shade house – forwarded to C Lee; Orchid Wiz/new CD arrived; B Blanchard & L White & N Grant/answers cost of membership email; Hall Hire/several emails.

**Held Over:** Innisfail OS/Field Day; PROPA OS Field Day Reminder/18.08.13/numbers 12.08.13; 7<sup>th</sup> ANOS Conference Reminder; T'ville & District Garden Club Friendship Weekend 17/18.08.13/numbers required; Other Society Bulletins; AOS Magazine.

**Outward:** Email/committee members/cost of membership; Too Cool PTY Ltd/ Acceptance Quote; Chef On Call/email numbers for dinner; Weight Watchers/Notice 2014 Show Dates; J Knowles/keys & bark; Proserpine OS/no numbers/congratulations on 50 years' TNQ Events Calendar/dates 2014 shows/J Batey/Details from Fair Trading re Constitution; Hall Hire/several emails.

J Nicholson Moved Receipt of Inward Correspondence and Confirmation of Outward Correspondence. Seconded by J Cairns. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** given by C Lee who Moved his Report be Accepted and Cheques Passed for Payment. Seconded by Fred Marnock. Carried.

**General Business:** Anyone interested in attending Townsville & District Garden Club Inc. Friendship Weekend 17/18 August see Secretary.

W Nicholson spoke on recommendation due at July meeting regarding membership fees. Two arguments were put forward. 1. That fees stay same. 2. That fees rise to \$20 for Double and \$15 for Single with Pensioners Double \$10 and Single \$7.50. Country & Junior Members \$10 & \$7.50. Vote was taken by show of hands which decided that the second argument won.

Show Roster circulated. Foam boxes available – see E Boon.

J Knowles spoke on list of flasks circulating. Add name if interested – due back by 30 July. If interested in 500g packs of MycoApply MAXX which P Lucke spoke about recently, speak to Jeff.

Donation of three Orchid books by Henry Chyba handed in by K Greenway

**Novice New Growers Report:** Bring sample of fertilising water on Sunday to have Ph. tested.

W Sewell asked that people remember the space kept for disabled people is left free for that purpose as we do have members who use the spot.

**Registrar's Choice: Hybrid:** Rlc. Burdekin Bells gained 81 Points for Warren & Clara Sewell.

**Species:** *Rhy. gigantea* gained 79 Points for Ross & Joan MacIntyre. **Specimen:** *Ludisia discolor* owned by W&J Nicholson.

**Meeting Closed:** As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 7.45pm so all present could partake of the "Christmas in July" Dinner. Prizes from a large Raffle table, with some special prizes, were drawn throughout the evening, which was enjoyed by all present.

## Points 26.07.2013

No.	Name	Veterans	Open	Novice	Species	Aggregate
163	Allison - Allan		3			3
135	Blanchard - Brendan & White Lynne				7	7
118	Bloom - Marie		15		29	44
84	Berzinski - Col & Mutch - Lyn		14			14
68	Cairns - June & Stacey		39			39
85	Christophers - Grant & Siarni - Alis		13		1	14
59	Fay - Stephen	4				4
190	Fighera - Bruno		53		2	55
213	Grant - Noel & Maureen	125			124	249
58	Googh - Stephen & Fran			12		12
106	Hardwick - Noel		6			6
117	Keith - Mick	9				9
116	Kelly - Greg & Santina	79				79
65	Kennedy - Les & Ames - Fran	4				4
193	Knowles - Jeff & Alison	14			15	29
81	Lee - Charles	33			23	56
149	Lewis - Peter & Luz		25			25
71	Lucke - Peter & Joanne		80		3	83
167	MacIntyre - Ross & Joan		48		13	61
77	Marnock - Fred & Donna		69		8	77
147	Nicholson - Wal & Jean	463			195	658
66	Osbourne - Carl		3			3
96	Phillips - Tina			27	3	30
128	Rasmussen - Robert		4			4
172	Sewell - Warren & Clara	96			23	119
216	Steel - Alf	2			9	11
61	Tracey - Jo			9		9
82	Truscott - Charlie	8				8

## EDITOR'S NOTES

A very warm welcome to a TOS Inc. **new members**: Allan Morris; Graham & Kay Worth; Susan Mahoney; Bruce & Karen Donnell; Gilliam Rutherford.

A very happy **August birthday** to the following members: Robert Rasmussen - 4<sup>th</sup>; Keith Chambers - 5<sup>th</sup>; Stacey Cairns - 6<sup>th</sup>; Wal Nicholson - 7<sup>th</sup>; Jo-Anne Wilson - 11<sup>th</sup>; Donna Garbutt 0 15<sup>th</sup>; Grant Christophers - 16<sup>th</sup>; Joan MacIntyre - 17<sup>th</sup>; Clara Sewell - 19<sup>th</sup>; Michelle Carrol - 24<sup>th</sup>; Bruce Donnell - 28<sup>th</sup>.

### CONFERENCES:

**7th Australasian Native Orchid Society Conference & Show** hosted by Kabi Group Inc. 22 - 25 August 2013 [www.ourshopfront.com/kabi](http://www.ourshopfront.com/kabi)

**Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. Annual Spring Orchid & Bromelaid Show** 20 - 25 September 2013 (Carnival of Flowers Time)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date of the AOC Conference in Darwin in 2015 has been changed to **1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015**. The Conference Committee Chairperson, Wendy Edison, has advised us that the dates are now set, with the contract having been drawn up with the Darwin Convention Centre. She says that it is a great venue with accommodation close handy, and for those who do not mind walking, the CBD is within walking distance.

**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.

**Pricing of plants at TOS Inc. Shows:** If you are placing plants at a show for sale, please make sure that there is a price tag sticker on the pot, as well as a tag, to ensure there is no confusion as to the ownership of the plants, and the price of the plants.

## TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC. SHOW DUTY ROSTER

Please add your name to the roster. If you are unable to attend as shown below <b>PLEASE</b> Advise Secretary Thank you		TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC. SHOW DUTY ROSTER: <b>SPRING SHOW</b> <u>13 – 14 – 15 September 2013</u>			Please see the kitchen staff to order sandwiches which are available each shift. Tea & Coffee also available through your shift.		
DATE & TIME	DOOR 1	RAFFLE 1	SHOW SECURITY & ENQUIRIES 2	CASHIER 1	ASSISTANT CASHIER 1	SALES SECURITY & ENQUIRIES 2	
<b>Friday 13 September</b> 9am – 12 noon	John Johnson	Ron Scott		Neita Coulson		Stacey Cairns	
						Tina Phillips	
<b>Friday 13 September</b> 12 noon – 3pm	Grant Christophers	L Duffey	Alison Knowles			Jeff Knowles	
			Warren Sewell				
<b>Friday 13 September</b> 3pm – 5pm	Alison Corrie	Wal Carlill		Marie-France Mack	Peter Cooper		
<b>Saturday 14 September</b> 9am – 12 noon	Margaret Lock	Alan Morris	Ray Robinson	Marie Bloom	Keith Chambers	Barbara Robinson	
			Jo Tracy			Tina Phillips	
<b>Saturday 14 September</b> 12 noon – 3pm	Dorothy Dehaan	Jan Allen	Peter Lucke	Marie Bloom	Keith Chambers	Jeff Knowles	
			Alison Knowles				
<b>Saturday 14 September</b> 3pm – 5pm	Robert Rasmussen			Marie Bloom	Neita Coulson		
			Noel Hardwick				
<b>Sunday 15 September</b> 9am – 11.30am	Brendon Blanchard			Marie Bloom	Lynne White	Tina Phillips	
<b>Sunday 15 September</b> 11.30am – 2pm	Margaret Lock	Dorothy Dehaan	Bruno Figuera	Marie Bloom		Jo Tracy	
						Tom Hobden	
						Allan Hughes	

**Add name if sales table required. A refundable booking fee of \$5 must be paid to Treasurer before meeting prior to show: T.O.S. Inc.; W&J Nicholson; A Hughes, J&A Knowles; P Valmadre;**

**Volunteers to install and dismantle show signs – front of building fence; Former Aitkenvale Special School fence and Anderson Park fence.**

**Sunday/Monday Prior to Show** **Sunday following Show**

**TABLED PLANTS AT GENERAL MEETING 26.07.2013**  
**(Some names may have been changed)**

**VETERANS**

**Vandaceous**

- 1) **Apnst. Jittima** x *Rhy. gigantea* 'Spots' W&J Nicholson  
2) Prra. Merinda Princess W&J Nicholson  
3) *V. houlettianum* x *V. flabellata*  
= **V. Pramote** W&J Nicholson

**Dendrobium**

- 1) Den. Island Fantasy W&J Nicholson  
2) Den. Mem. **Kip** McKillop x *helix* W&J Nicholson  
3) Den. *taurinum* x Den Dark Dame W&J Nicholson

**Dendrobium**

- 1) Den. Aussie's Mystic W&J Nicholson  
2) Den. Lustrous x Den. Candice 'Ace'  
= **Den. Candy** L Kennedy & F Ames  
3) Den. Andree Millar W&J Nicholson

**Dendrobium**

- 1) Den. Miracle Brown W&J Nicholson  
2) Den. Spellbound x *Den. canaliculatum*  
W&J Nicholson  
3) Den. Chao Praya 'Moonlight' x *Den. tangerinum*  
W&J Nicholson

**Dendrobium**

- 1) Den. Superbiens W&J Nicholson  
2) Den. Superbiens W&J Nicholson

**Cattleva**

- 1) Ctt. Merinda Lust x Ctt. Gold Nugget W&C Sewell  
2) Ctt. (Hawaiian Lustre x C. Little Leopard) x Ctt. Gold  
Nugget = **Ctt. Merinda Lust** x **Ctt. Gold Nugget**  
W&J Nicholson

**Cattleva**

- 1) C. Fitz Eugene Dixon W&C Sewell  
2) Rlc. Burdekin Storm 'Midnight' W&C Sewell  
3) Rlc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' x Rth. Free Spirit  
'Lea' = **Rth. Dal's Success** W&J Nicholson

**Cattleva**

- 1) Rlc. Burdekin Bells 'Burdekin' W&C Sewell  
2) Blc. Big Green Iguana W&J Nicholson

**Paphiopedilum/Phragmipedium**

- 1) Phrag. Brysa W&J Nicholson  
2) Paph. Redstart 'Land Ends' x *maudiae*  
= **Paph. Myitkyin** L Kennedy & F Ames  
3) Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice W&J Nicholson

**Miscellaneous**

- 1) Phaiocalanthe **Kryptonite** 'Chariot of Fire'  
W&J Nicholson  
2) Cym. Green Mist 'Mini Mint' W&J Nicholson

**OPEN**

**Dendrobium**

- 1) Den. Salaya Lotus R&J MacIntyre  
2) **Trt.** Penang Batik x Onc. Moonbeem B Fighera  
3) Den. Peewee 'Keith' x Den. (Ray's Dream x Aussie  
Victory) = **Den. Vung-Tau** B Fighera

**Vandaceous**

- 1) V. Pachara Delight J&S Cairns  
2) V. Alices Annie F&D Marnock  
3) V. Rasari Golden 'Green' C Berzinski & L Mutch

**Cattleva – 125mm**

- 1) **Rlc.** Burdekin Jewel B Fighera  
2) **Rlc.** Mem. Helen Brown B Fighera  
3) **Rlc.** Port of Paradise 'Emerald Isle'  
C Berzinski & L Mutch

**Cattleva**

- 1) **Rth.** Momilani Rainbow 'Buttercup' B Fighera  
2) **Rth.** Shin Shiang Diamond R&J MacIntyre  
3) **Rth.** Momilani Rainbow 'The Gypsy' P&J Lucke

**Cattleva**

- 1) **Rth.** Orange Show 'Cloud Forest' B Fighera  
2) **Rth.** Denis Kone B Fighera  
3) **Rth.** *C. loddigesii* Alba x C.Lana Coryell  
= **C. Orchidom Ladylike** R&J MacIntyre

**Paphiopedilum**

- 1) Paph Gold Dollar P&J Lucke  
2) Paph. Praestans x *concolor*  
= **Paph. Oklahoma** F&D Marnock

**Phalaenopsis**

- 1) Phal. Mount Lip F&D Marnock  
2) **Phal.** Taiwan Diamond 'Orchis' m/c F&D Marnock  
3) **Phal.** Sun Prince x **Phal.** Mount Lip  
= **Phal. Shi Hua Smile** F&D Marnock

**NOVICE**

**Phalaenopsis**

- 1) Phal. Pinlong Christmas J Tracy

**SPECIES**

**Vandaceous**

- 1) *Rhyn. gigantea* 'Illustre' x *Rhyn. gigantea* 'Peachey'  
R&J MacIntyre  
2) *Rhyn. gigantea* 'Red' x *Rhyn. gigantea* 'Red' W&C Sewell 3)  
*Rhyn. gigantea* 'Alba' R&J MacIntyre  
**ALL Rhy. gigantea**

**Dendrobium**

- 1) *Den. bigibbum* W&S Sewell  
2) *Den. discolor* B Blanchard & L White  
3) *Den. monophyllum* W&J Nicholson

**Dendrobium**

- 1) *Den. clavator* M Bloom  
2) *Den. wenzelii* W&J Nicholson  
3) *Den. wenzelii* W&J Nicholson

**Paphiopedilum/Phragmipedium**

- 1) *Paph. primulinum* W&J Nicholson  
2) *Paph. spicerianum* P&J Lucke  
3) *Phrag. sargentianum* W&J Nicholson

**Ludisia (Haemaria)**

- 1) *Ludisia (Haemaria) discolor* var. Dawsoniana W&J Nicholson  
2) *Ludisia (Haemaria) discolor* var. Dawsoniana W&J Nicholson  
3) *Ludisia (Haemaria) discolor* var. Dawsoniana W&J Nicholson

# Shop and Grow.

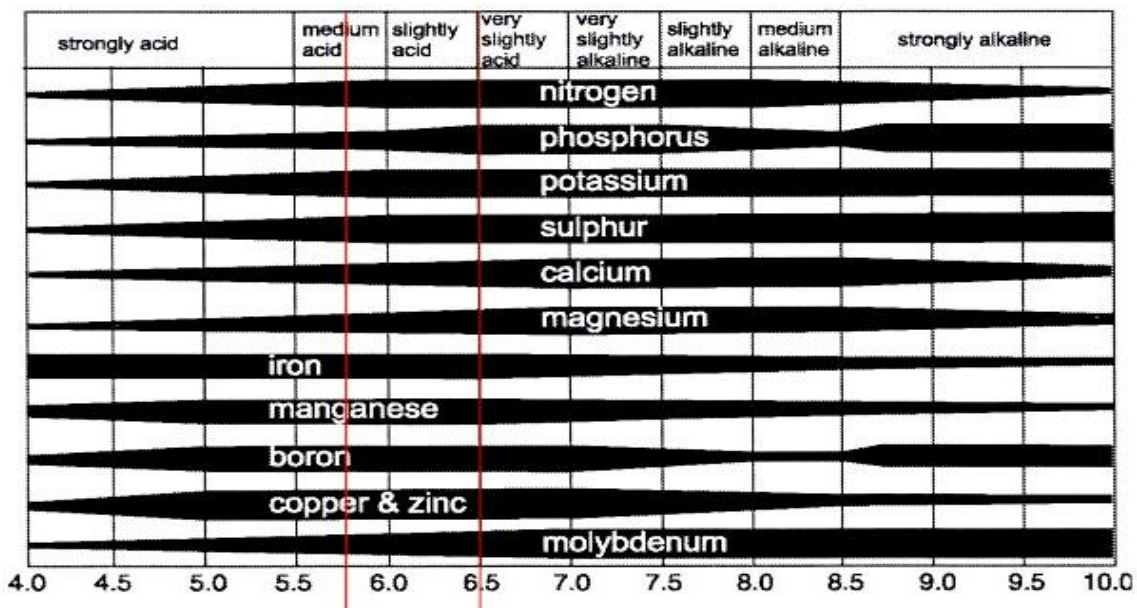
By Jeff Knowles

## Water, pH and fertilising.

If you missed my presentation and discussions at the July Novice meeting then here are a few quick notes.

1. Orchids need many nutrients to grow including:
  - a. Macro nutrients – Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K),
  - b. Minor nutrients – Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) and Sulfur (S), and,
  - c. Micro nutrients (trace elements) - Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Boron (B), Molybdenum (Mo), some Sodium (Na), Chlorine (Cl), Nickel (Ni) and maybe even some Silicon (Si) and Cobalt (Co).
2. Does your fertiliser programme supply all these?
3. Orchids grow better with fertiliser than without fertiliser.
4. Any fertiliser is better than none.
5. Fertilise as often as you can.
6. Work on 60-250 ppm Nitrogen, or as a rough guide use 1g fertiliser per L.
7. Flush plants with plain water once a month.
8. A pH of about 6 is good.
9. Nitrogen for plants comes in three forms, namely nitrate, ammonium and urea. Current consensus (?) is that as urea needs to be broken down to be used by a plant, which takes time, by the enzyme urease (this is the correct enzyme) produced by different bacteria, it is of little use to orchids grown in a freely draining mix. Urea will not harm your orchids when sprayed in normal concentrations.
10. Yes, you can spray other chemicals on your orchids, such as growth promoting fertilisers.
11. Another version of the nutrient uptake table (not specifically for orchids, but useful just the same) is reproduced here (remember that a pH of 7 is neutral i.e. just plain pure water).

Chart of the Effect of Soil pH on Nutrient Availability



For members who brought their water and fertiliser samples to be tested for pH and ion concentrations, I hope you found your results useful.

**Flasks.** The order for 60 flasks has been placed and by the time you read this they should be safely in Townsville. Orders can be paid for and picked up from the members' shop.

**MycoApply MAXX.** This has also arrived and orders may also be paid for and picked up from the members' shop.

**Growing Competition.** Robert Rasmussen leads the pack with his *Phalaenopsis* already having a nice flower spike.

**Taiwan International Orchid Show 2014.** The dates I have are 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.

**Singapore Orchid Show 2014.** This show is presented as part of the Singapore Garden Festival and is currently set for 16<sup>th</sup> to 24 August, 2014.



## In Noel's Bush House 17



*Angraecum leonis*.

## In Noel's Bush House 17

*Angraecum leonis* var. *comorense*  
(Reichenbach f.) André 1885

The genus *Angraecum* (pronounced "An-greek-um") is found mostly on the island of Madagascar, with a few species scattered from Africa through the Seychelles and Maldives to Sri Lanka. It was established in 1804 by the French explorer Bory de St Vincent, when he discovered *Angraecum eburneum* in Madagascar. He based his new name on a word he had heard in Southeast Asia to describe various epiphytic orchids, the Malay word "angrek" (or "anggurek").

*Angraecum* flowers are noted for their long spur (or nectary) which grows from the rear of the flower, which is pollinated by a night-flying moth, attracted by the bright, white flowers, usually strongly perfumed at night. The moth inserts a long proboscis into the nectary, while simultaneously receiving the pollen on its head or back.

*Angraecum leonis* was named by Reichenbach after his friend, Léon Humblot, a French collector who made great contributions to the knowledge of orchids in Madagascar. This larger-flowered variety is found on the Comoro Islands, which are near Madagascar. The plant has a very short stem and fleshy leaves in a fan shape, bearing narrow, wiry roots. It is not a large plant, being only about 20cm wide, with a similar height. Mine is in a pot, but I hear it will grow more happily on a slab or in a basket, which may explain why my plant is often reluctant to flower. It should be grown in part shade, with even watering, less in the winter.

Take a little care when *Angraecum leonis* flowers, as the nearly transparent flowers are easily damaged.

Noel Grant August 2013

**\*ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY\***

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