

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



August 2019 Bulletin

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

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Hall Location:

Joe Kirwan Park
 Charles Street, KIRWAN

Annual Membership Fees are due **1st September** each year
 Family \$20.00
 Single \$15.00

Details for paying membership fees: BSB: - 064823
 Account Number: - 0009 0973
 Name of Account: Townsville Orchid Society Inc.
 Commonwealth Bank, Aitkenvale.

Are you currently un-financial? To remain a member of the Townsville Orchid Society Inc. and to continue to receive the TOS Bulletin, you MUST pay your annual membership.

Judges for August 2019:

Open
 Alison/ Warren

Novice/Species
 Charlie/Marie

AUGUST

Diane Laun	1
Daniel Flynn	2
Linda Daveson	3
Pamela Allan	3
Maureen Draper	3
Robert Rasmussen	4
Joanne Drew	5
Stacey Cairns	6
Malcolm Triebel	7
Roslyn Tappenden	9
Issi O'Kane	12
Grant Christophers	16
Joan MacIntyre	17
Aidan Skinner	18
Clara Sewell	19



SEPTEMBER

Lucy Joynson	1
Julie Horn	1
Ron Scott	2
John Bewert	8
Peter Valmadre	9
Bill Howell	9
Marie Bloom	10
William Hughes	10
Jean Nicholson	11
Stephen Fay	12
Joanne Lucke	15
Linda Feldt	16
Katy Taggart	17
Karen Thomas	19
Muriel Soden	19
Hung Ta	19
Ted Boon	20
Allan Hutchens	21
Alex Williams	24
Jenny Goadby	26
Cecil Garrard	27
Valerie Withers	29

The President's Comments

I think that the new format of the longer afternoon tea which replaced 'Christmas in July' was very successful. All members were positive about the change of format where we had nearly an hour's break for the afternoon tea. For most of that time, members were eating and chatting with other members. The only minor problem is that we may have over-catered - as many members took a plate of food home with them. Thanks to all who helped in the preparation and tabling of the food. Well Done.

At the moment, I am suffering from an orchid grower's biggest problem - no room left in the greenhouse. I have finished repotting my Cattleyas and have moved trays around trying to make room for five flasks that I have coming in September. I cannot cancel these as they are crosses that I have made myself. I guess I will have to shuffle some more.

Our final show of the year, the Spring Show, is fast approaching, as it will be on from Friday 6th September to Sunday 8th September. I hope it goes close to the popularity of the Winter Show. By the way, we still need boxes for the sales area. Please assist by donating any you can.

I will be absent from the August Committee and General meetings as I will be on a long-planned holiday. I found only three tours to Singapore available this winter and each of them necessitated missing both a

Committee Meeting and a General Meeting. I am looking forward to the day we are spending at the Singapore Gardens. We might see some orchids and I may even buy one or two.

Good growing.

Greg Kelly

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held Friday 26th July, 2019

Meeting opened: 7:30 pm by President Greg Kelly

Present: Greg Kelly, Maureen Draper, John Draper, Terry Ruxton, Robyn Dundas, Rob Rasmussen, Charles Lee, Ted Boon and Noel Grant.

Apologies: Leonie Johnson, June Cairns, Peter Lucke, Ruth Whiting and Lyn Ryan.

Visitors Nil

Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and correct record

M: G. Kelly S: M. Draper Carried

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence: Nil Business arising: Nil

New Member Applications:

- Tania & Malcolm Brown, Tammy & Parris Munn, Daphne Higginson, Ian & Katrina Jeffery, Lily Gathercole (Junior)

Treasurer's Report

TOS available funds are healthy. Details are available at monthly meetings.

Motion: That the treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payment

M: T Ruxton S: C Lee Carried

Show

- Spring Show Rosters is ready to be filled
- Street Signs done
- Spring Show Schedule ratified at meeting and approved (minor amendments to be made by the Secretary)

Motion that the Spring Show Schedule be accepted.

M: Ted Boon S: C Lee Carried

- Entering Sales for the Show – Maureen Draper will organise a roster.
- Possible Dates for the Shows for 2020 (including setup) were put forward as follows:
 - Autumn Show – 16-19 April 2020
 - Winter Show - 9-12 July 2020
 - Spring Show – 10-13 September 2020
 - TOS Field Day – 11 October 2020

Hospitality:

- Motion: That the club cater for afternoon tea at the meeting on Sunday 28th July, 2019.
M: G. Kelly S: R. Rasmussen Carried

General Business:

- Members Fees for 2019/2020 will be \$20 per Family
- \$15 Single.
- Motion: That the fees be accepted.
Moved: G Kelly Seconded: T Boon Carried

Meeting Closed: 9:05 pm

Greg Kelly - President

Maureen Draper - Secretary

Minutes of General Meeting held on Sunday 28th July, 2019

Meeting opened: 1:00 pm President Greg Kelly in the chair.

Present as per attendance book. **Apologies** as per attendance book. **Visitors** as per attendance book.
Minutes Business arising: NIL

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: W. Howell Seconded: Ron Scott Carried

New Correspondence:

- Email from a visitor from Proserpine who attended the TOS Winter Show. They drove 600 klms to see our show and commented that it was well worth the trip.

Treasurer's Report

TOS available funds are healthy. Details are available at monthly meetings.

Motion: That the treasurer's report be accepted

Moved: G Kelley Seconded: M Draper Carried

Show Report

- Need boxes for our Spring Show
- Robyn Dundas reminded everyone that it is imperative that all plants you want to put into the Orchid Shows are checked thoroughly and cleaned prior to dropping at the Show.
- As soon as the Schedule for the Spring Show is ready it will be uploaded onto the Townsville Orchid Society website. townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au

General Business

- Members Fees for 2019/2020 will be: \$20 Family, \$15 Single.

Motion: That the fees be accepted.

Moved: J Cairns Seconded: R Dundas Carried

- Revised Constitution
 - The revised Constitution was emailed or posted to all members for their review and comment 2 months prior to this meeting.
 - The revised Constitution needs to be sent to Brisbane first for approval before it can be voted on formally by members.
 - G Kelly asked if anyone had any objection to it or if they wished to raise any matters. There were none voiced at the meeting.
 - This was followed by a show of hands of those in favour of proceeding with the revised constitution which resulted in overwhelming support.
- Field Day – 6th October, 2019:
 - Robyn Dundas is organising. If any member would like to open their bush house on the day please contact Robyn on (07) 4751 6675 or email: robyn.ericdundas@hotmail.com
 - Quotes for the bus are being obtained and will be advised once decision has been made.
 - Plants Donated by Vana Aimee: Members were invited to help themselves to a plant.

Meeting Closed: 1:19 pm

The meeting was followed by a talk on Oncidiums by Ted Boon, then afternoon tea.
Thank you to all who brought something along.

Greg Kelly - President

Maureen Draper - Secretary

Tabled Plants for July 2019

Bold Type indicates a correction using Orchidwiz.

Section			TOS No.
CATTLEYA 115mm and over	1st 2nd 3rd	Rlc Chincogan Rlc Burdekin Dream 'Luis' Rlc Burdekin Dream 'DJ'	C Truscott C Truscott T&P Jochheim
CATTLEYA 74mm to 114 mm	1st 2 nd 3rd	Rth Dal's Success Ctt Netrasiri Starbright (Kauai Starbright x Gold Nugget) Rth Chief Sweet Orange	G&S Kelly R Whiting R Whiting
CATTLEYA Miniature	1st 2nd 3rd	C Lyn Udris C Emotional Demotion C Elusive Dream 'Ruby Lips'	G&S Kelly G&S Kelly G&S Kelly
CATTLEYA Cluster	1st 2nd 3rd	Ctt Kauai Starbright x Rth Pokai Tangerine C Orange Delight Rth Yarot Starbright 'Chien Ya'	W&C Sewell N&M Grant R&E Dundas
CATTLEYA Nodosa Influence	1st 2nd 3rd	Pcv Golden Peacock Rlc Rustic Spots Bc Copper Queen	N&M Grant W&C Sewell Berzinski/Mutch
CATTLEYA Broughtonia Influence	1st 2nd 3rd	Ctna Topaz Raspberry Ctna Why Not Walk Gct Barrel of Brandy	G&S Kelly K Owens G&S Kelly
VANDACEOUS Intergeneric over 40mm	1st 2nd 3rd	V Pakchong Blue V Kulwadee Fragrance V Pakchong Blue	N&M Grant B Hughes N&M Grant
VANDACEOUS Intergeneric to 40mm	1st 2nd 3rd	V Yip Sum Wah V Su Fun Beauty V Udom Chai	N&M Grant W&C Sewell G&S Kelly
VANDA Any other hybrid	1st 2nd 3rd	Prra Bangkok Sunset x V Mahogany Gem Rhrds Mem. Suranaree Rhy Chang Piei	F Parker N&M Grant W&C Sewell
DENDROBIUM Phalaenanthe	1st 2nd 3rd	D Red Dragon x D Sally Alley D Malila D Supernova Red	T&P Jochheim R Scott T&P Jochheim
DENDROBIUM Intermediate	1st 2nd 3rd	D Candy Cane D Genting Red D Petete Bouquet	R Scott T&P Jochheim R Scott
DENDROBIUM Spathulata	1st 2nd 3rd	D Egret Gold D Mem. Kip McKillop x D Mighty Mite	B Figuera R Scott
PHALAENOPSIS Large – Any Colour	1st 2nd 3rd	Dtps Agnes Suzuki x Sharon Truscott Phal Karisma Cavalier Dtps Charlie Truscott	T&P Jochheim T&P Jochheim T&P Jochheim
ONCIDIUM Varicosa type	1st 2nd 3rd	Onc Robson Gold Onc Unknown Bllra Peggy Ruth Carpenter	T&P Jochheim T&P Jochheim T&P Jochheim
ONCIDIUM Any Other Hybrid	1st 2nd 3rd	Onc. Twinkle Specialty Onc Twinkle 'White' Onc Twinkle	D Dattinger D Dattinger D Dattinger
NOVICE CATTLEYA Medium	1st 2nd 3rd	Rth Fuchs Orange Nuggett Rth Johnny Letcher (Not Fletcher) Rth Shin Shiang Diamond	C Gibson R Tappenden R Tappenden

PHALAENOPSIS Large	1st 2nd 3rd	Phal Pinlong Cheris x Phal Strawberry Gem Phal Unknown Phal Brother Sophia	R Tappenden W& L Howell J&A Draper
<u>SPECIES</u> CATTLEYA ALLIANCE	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>L undulata</i> <i>L rubescens</i> <i>L rubescens</i>	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
CATTLEYA	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>C nobilior var amaliae</i> <i>C nobilior var amaliae</i> <i>Ang leonis</i>	N&M Grant N&M Grant C. Lee
DENDROBIUM	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>D clavator</i> <i>D clavator</i>	N&M Grant F Parker
VANDACEOUS	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Rhy gigantea</i> 'Red' <i>Rhy gigantea</i> 'Fancy' <i>Rhy gigantea</i> 'Spots'	R&E Dundas B Fighera R&E Dundas
MISCELLANEOUS	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Bulb longiflorum</i> <i>Bulb unknown</i> <i>Spath paulineae</i>	J Johnson J Johnson J Johnson
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES Dendrobium	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>D rigidum</i>	F Parker
<u>POPULAR VOTE</u> OPEN	1 st	D Egret Gold	B Fighera
NOVICE	1st	Rth Johnny Letcher	R Tappenden
SPECIES	1st	<i>C nobilior var amaliae</i>	N&M Grant
FIRST FLOWERING	1st	Ctt Varut Startrack 'Chien Ya'	T&P Jochheim

Points for Tabled Plants after July 2019

Name	Open	Novice	Species	Aggregate
Berzinski C/Mutch L	25			25
Blanchard D			2	2
Bloom M	12		27	37
Boon T	18		3	21
Bowler N		1		1
Boyd D		3		2
Cairns Family	2		4	6
Cooper P&M	44		6	50
Dattinger D	46			46
Day K		90	16	106
Draper J&M		42	8	50
Dundas R&E	160		31	191
Fighera B	95		15	110
Gibson C			4	4
Grant N&M	173		131	304
Hardwick N	1			1
Hardy A	4		6	10
Howell B&L		14	2	16
Hughes B	100		9	109
Jochheim T	159			159
Johnson J	10		33	43
Johnson L	44		9	45

Kelly G&S	76		2	78
Knowles A&J	26		53	79
Lee C	67		16	83
Lewis P&L	3		1	4
Liang E			1	1
Lucke P&J	4		7	15
Nicholson J	50		18	68
Nuss J			5	5
Owens K	57		8	65
Parker F	8		7	15
Phillips T	11		8	19
Punchard A		4		4
Rasmussen R	12			12
Ruxton T&S	10		3	13
Ryan L		21	5	26
Sanim M	4		4	8
Scott R	35			35
Serra P			4	
Sewell W&C	52		14	66
Tappenden R			9	9
Triebell M&M		3		3
Truscott C	14			14
Watt G		9	5	14
Whiting R	68		5	73
Woods S		2		2



Registrar's Choice
July 2019 -
Novice 79 points

RLC Fuchs Orange
Nugget

C. Gibson

ONCIDIUMS by Ted Boon, August 2019

Dancing ladies, Ballerinas, Golden Shower Orchids, or as florists refer to them, spray orchids, Oncidiums are the 3rd largest group of orchid hybrids and species grown, after Cattleya and Dendrobium. I have grown many Oncidium species and hybrids throughout my 60 odd years orchid career, not always successfully. The odd Oncidium species was a disaster. It was the colourful hybrids where I failed badly - some I chose did not suit this area or my bush house, yet lately, I find other growers have tried and succeeded with them. My thoughts cannot cover all of this fascinating group of plants in a short time.

Oncidium was first described by Olaf Swartz in 1800 with *Oncidium altissimum* becoming the type species on which this group is founded. Its name is derived from o'ykos, "onkos", meaning swelling and refers to the callus on the lower labellum. The family group of Oncidium (abbreviated to Onc.) contains 330 species from the subtribe Oncidiinae of the orchid family Orchidaceae.

This group of Orchids comes from a wide range of 'new world' countries and climates, from Central and South America through to Mexico, West Indies and into Florida, where we find *Onc ensatum* aka *Onc floridanum*. There are numerous Oncidium Alliance members - Odontoglossum, Gomesia, Tolumnia (formerly known as Variegata- or Equitant- or Mini- Oncidiums), Miltonias (both warm and cold growing), Trichopilia, Trichocentrum, Aspasia, Psychopsis and Cyrtochilum, just to name a few. A lot of these have been renamed with their species transferred to other genera. An example is *Oncidium varicosum*, on which the Varicosum group was founded, which was transferred to Coppensia as *Cop. varicosa* and has since been changed to *Gomesia varicosa*. When they are all used in hybrids, they create a wonderful array of brightly coloured hybrids.

Genera in this group come from varied climates – from seasonal dry areas to rainforests, roadside banks, rain forests to cold high mountain areas where afternoon fogs and mist swirl through and around, leaving plants saturated.

Plants grow mainly as **epiphytic**, on shrubs, tree trunks, bases of trees, on high branches with lots of bright light or on mossy branches in high mountain areas. In the West Indies, Tolumnias are known as twig epiphytes as they prefer twiggy shrubs, though a few inhabit trees. A number of Oncidiums are **terrestrial**, growing on road embankments or seasonally dry rocky hill areas amongst grasses and sedges, or near small shrubs where they receive scant shading but very bright light and can be completely overlooked unless they are in flower. There are a few **lithophytic**, growing on and amongst rocks, amid small shrubs. Yet other species can have all three growing styles. When this happens, inflorescences become varied, where those in open areas becoming tall while those shaded will be much shorter and not as rigid.

According to growth patterns, Oncidiums can be separated into 19 sections. Most have varying sized flattish oval pseudobulbs wider at the base, tapering towards the apex of the growth and carrying 2-3 thin v-shaped leaves with flowering inflorescences arising from the bracts at the base of pseudobulbs (very few will produce inflorescences from the top of growths). These have smallish flowers ranging in colour from golden yellow with or without reddish brown barring, some are brown or yellowing brown while other can be white red or pink. Some of these may at times throw aerial growths (pups) from the top of the pseudobulbs.

Another group has small to large squat pseudobulbs with a single stiff erect leaf which acts as a water reserve. Flowers are carried on small branched inflorescences to tall erect racemes and are yellow or fawn in colour - these are commonly called Mule ear Oncidiums but have since been transferred to Trichocentrum.

Another genus in this group has small squat pseudobulbs, single mottled leaves with a longish wavy inflorescence with brightly coloured yellow labellum with reddish wavy markings on the petals, they bear single flowers and are continuous flowerers. There are at least 3 species in this group with a small number of hybrids. Commonly called butterfly or flamenco orchid, these include papillio and kramerianum, and are best kept a little dry. The third in this small group is liminghii, a very difficult plant to grow which will not tolerate dividing, it is also little seen these days. It has a single small flower on a short stem. All the above plants were transferred from Oncidium to Psychopsis.

A group with no pseudobulbs at all was originally the Variegata or Equitant group, recently transferred to the Tolumnia genus. All species inhabit the West Indies islands, plants are small in growth, are fan-shaped with triangular section leaves, the oval broad spongy leaves acting as storage organs. Up to 3 Inflorescences arise from the base of the leaves although I prefer to leave 2 if they are on a strong health plant able to carry this number.

Cyrtochilum is another genus allied to Oncidiums, each species has long rhizomes between each growth and wanders through shrubs and trees in the cold mountainous areas with inflorescences to over 7 metres. Their blooms are large and spectacular, white with red spotting and blotches, wine red, yellow with brown labellums or pink. These flowers are in contrast to the main run of Oncidiums, as they have single inflorescences with medium to large sized flowers where the labellum is the smallest part of the flower - the sepal, dorsal and lateral petals are dominant.

The most dominant feature of the Oncidium group and Alliance is the large labellum, while the dorsals, sepals and lateral petals are small yet balance the flower. A dominant feature of labellums is the mask which sits in the middle and can flare out or remain as a blotch. Inside this sits the crown which can have small to large protrusions.

The most spectacular of this feature comes with the cool to cold growing Miltonia (many now transferred to Oncidium or Miltoniopsis) where the mask is an elaborate feature where 'waterfall' patterns feature. Colours in this group range from white, pink, yellow purple to deep reds.

Most of the lower elevation plants' colours are yellow or barred brown, white or pink tones. The more brightly coloured flowers are from much colder growing plants, which can be very spectacular and desirable, so if you are like me, you will just have to drool as they will not live on the tropical coast. However, all is not lost, all this group of orchids are compatible with each other somewhere along the line, even some of the cold growers will hybridise with their warmer cousins and can produce some spectacular hybrids.

There are various methods of potting Oncidiums. For most growers, pots are the main method, but they are adaptable to growing on slabs of hard wood, callistemon, cork or tree fern or in wooden or wire baskets. Those a little hardier will adapt to growing on various trees (callistemon etc or palms) or at the base in full sun and in garden beds. The 'Kandyan Dancer Oncidium' or as we know it, *Onc sphacelatum* is ideal to grow in Townsville and can produce strong healthy plants with huge inflorescences.

My method with these plants is to use clay pots, for a couple of reasons - clay pots are porous and allow air to move through and because I had so many unused. As the drainage hole can be large, I use a small piece of gauze to stop mixes falling through, I then add a small amount of gravel mix, some sphagnum strands, add the plant, position it and then fill with gravel, bark, charcoal and sphagnum, and top with a layer of gravel. They are then hung together in a brightly lit area unless I suspect they have a need for a slightly cooler spot in the bush house. I repot when and if necessary, and once I start, I usually repot the lot. If I divide, I divide into a 3-4 bulb division, if the plant is large.

I treat Tolumnias pretty much the same, however I pot according to plant size, in small clay to larger. I try never to overpot them as I have found they prefer to be under-potted. When I repot and plants come out of pots without loss of materials, I transfer them straight to a slightly bigger pot.

Tolumnias are one group of plants which will throw aerial growths along the flowering stem once finished flowering - some plants can be very productive, and you end up with plants to sell or exchange. Where possible I leave plants to divide themselves, unless it is necessary to take action to try and save a plant with problems.

While insect problems can be few, with Tolumnias the worst I have found is white scale and spider mite/red spider. I prefer to use a systemic spray; this kills from inside and outside the plant. The spray I use is Rogor 40 which I believe is no longer available, but I have enough to get me through for a few years. If anyone is interested Bunnings stock a systemic spray put out, I think, by Hortico.

Another problem I have with Tolumnias, not so much with Oncids in general, is anthracnose which tends to dry out growths and continues through the plant. If you suspect this problem, cut off the growth in question. If you see a reddish circle at the base, you must keep cutting until the red no longer shows. You may end up with only 1 growth and you generally lose the plant anyway. I have no solution to this problem and have found the only way to get rid of it is by cutting it out. I did use various fungicides but it persisted. I believe this problem is caused by mango trees. My next-door neighbour has recently had their trees taken out, which may help my orchid problems.

A few of the Oncids will get scale infestation, though it is strange to see one plant with scale yet the plant/s either side are free of it. The same treatment applies; as above however, you will have to manually remove the scale as it will not fall off.

Fungal problems will do some damage, black rot in pseudobulbs I find is my main problem, for this I use Captan or Mancozeb, the only problem with these is trying to dissolve the powder. Years ago, a number of growers used Benlate which is very good, but human health problems arose, and it was no longer available, although you can still buy it from suppliers in the south (quite expensive, but I do know a number of growers there who still swear by it).

It is important to know where your plants come from, particularly if you are growing species, as anything growing from sea level to around 2000 meters will do well here, while plants from intermediate conditions may struggle. It depends on your bush house conditions. Trying to grow plants from higher, colder altitudes is just out of the question.

With hybrids it is a different ball game, excluding the warm zone species, as hybrids created using warm parents crossed with temperate growers may be fine - or they could require a cooler area in your collection and would do better a little further south. An intermediate zone parent crossed with a cold or higher zone plant would be a waste of plants here on the tropical north coast but may suit cooler Tableland areas or much further south than Townsville where the conditions are better suited.

For all my disasters and failures, I will forever find this group of orchid plants fascinating and very desirable.

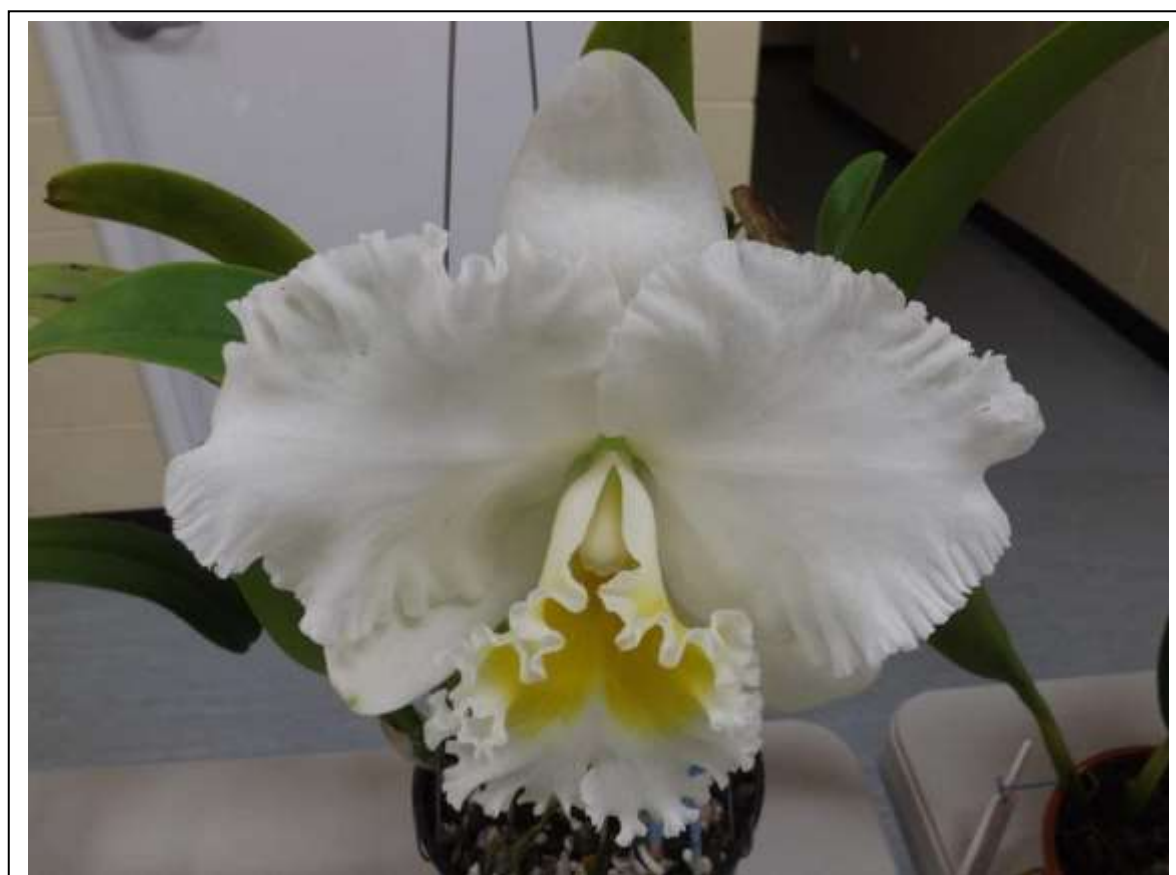


**Registrar's
Choice
July 2019 -**

Species 81 points

*Rhynchosstylis
gigantea 'Red'*

R & E Dundas



**Registrar's Choice July 2019 -
Open 83 points**

Rlc Chincogan 'CT' C Truscott

Winners from the Townsville Orchid Society Winter Show 2019

Please note these photos have been sent to email recipients only



Grand Champion Orchid and Champion Dendrobium

Den. Frosty Dawn
Pearl

P & L Lewis



Reserve Champion Orchid and Champion Australiana

Den. Hilda
Poxon

T. Zierk



Champion
Novice

Paph.
venustum

Huong Dao
& Hung Ta



Reserve
Champion
Novice

Paph. exul
x Paph.
niveum

Huong Dao
& Hung Ta



**Champion
Oncidiinae
Hybrid**

Onc. Tsiku
Marguerite

D & E
Penningh



**Champion
Vandaeae
Hybrid**

Vanda
Leamy "Red
Gem"

P & M
Cooper



**Champion
Exotic
Species**

*Rhynchostylis
gigantea*
'Peach'

R & E Dundas



**Champion
Any Other
Genera
Hybrid**

Clow. Abigail
Parsons

T. Zierk