

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



May 2020 Bulletin

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

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President: Greg Kelly Ph. 0474 305 864

Secretary: Jan Allen

Treasurer: Terry Ruxton

Bulletin Editor: Noel Grant Email: grantnml@bigpond.com

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.](#)

The President's Comments

Welcome to all.

Gradually the isolation is lifting as weeks go by. I know that I have had enough of the incessant reporting on Television. As soon as they commence a segment on the virus, I switch stations. Usually the same story is running on the second channel. Such is life.

The Management Committee held their May meeting on Friday 22nd May. The Winter Show was formally cancelled. Most of us had hoped that it would proceed but it was obvious with the time frame that cancelling was the only option.

Prior to the meeting, I asked the Committee to consider the situation of a July General Meeting and the requirements to conduct such a meeting, and to put their views forward at the Committee Meeting. Much discussion took place as to necessary actions, such as Social Distancing, that would be required if the meeting proceeded. It was clear that there would be no consensus from the meeting as to the holding of a July General Meeting. Among the concerns raised, the safety of our members was the key factor considered. The numbers permitted to gather may be raised to 100 in early July. The TOS hall cannot hold that many people and comply with an area of 4 square metres for each person.

Due to the lack of consensus I made the decision to defer this topic to the June Committee Meeting for further discussion. That will give the Committee another four weeks or so to see how the easing of restrictions in Townsville has affected the city.

I thought that the last social Zoom meeting was the best that had been conducted to date. Jeff is working hard to run these social interactions and I am sure that most growers would take some information away after each event. The Zoom meetings are run every second Sunday, with the next on Sunday 31 May, then 14 June.

I walked through the greenhouse this morning after the rain of the last couple of days. I was reasonably happy in what I found. Yes, I am sure that with the week of cold weather, there will be more leaves being dropped by some plants. That occurs each year but I think this week's predicted minimum temperatures will ensure the leaf dropping will accelerate shortly.

I found that I had about five vandaceous plants opening flowers. I also found a number of new spikes starting on other plants including two plants of *Rhynchostylis gigantea*. I also found a number of Tolumnias throwing up spikes. I have about seventy of these seedlings that I have not flowered to date. These have grown larger since last flowering time. Previously, I had a few of these plants flower on small plants. That just whetted my appetite and I am very keen to see how these plants flower this year.

Good growing.

Greg Kelly

Minutes from the Zoom Management Committee Meeting held Friday 22nd May 2020

Meeting opened: 7.30pm by President Greg Kelly

Present: Troy McGill, Samantha McGill, Lynne Ryan, June Cairns, Robyn Dundas, Noel Grant, Greg Kelly, Ruth Whiting, Robert Rasmussen, Jeff Knowles, Terry Ruxton, Leonie Johnson, Peter Lucke, Jan Allen

Apologies:

Visitors

Minutes

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

M: Lynne Ryan

S: Robyn Dundas

Carried

Business arising:

Correspondence.

Newsletters/Catalogues: EDOS Inc Newsletter; NQOS- Cairns and TTOS - Combined newsletter x 2; Coronamagazine; MACLEAN & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY; AOCC Update; MDOS Orchidwise; Murray Bridge and District Orchid Club Inc.

Mail Inwards: Response - TOS request for feedback re. On-Line orchid chat on Sunday 19th April x2; Pricing for Orchid Nuggets bags - Biogro x 2; Follow-up regards to postpone WW hire of your hall; RHSV's Great Victorian Hanging Basket Competition Challenges COVID-19; MHC & ME Mentally Healthy Townsville City; Agenda for TOS Online Orchid Chat; Request to join Zoom meeting - Kevin Owens; Agenda for TOS Online Orchid Chat; Request to locate a particular orchid - Dendrobium Agerethim (Aggregatum?); Committee Meeting Friday night; Report to Committee Members regarding Orchid Chat and presentations – Jeff; Zoom - exceeded storage space; Request for refund WW; TripleT Community notices – cc'd to Leonie; Celebrating National Volunteering Week 2020; DMC Electrical & Air Cooling Pty Ltd; Zoom - update information

Mail Outwards: Invitation to speak at Townsville Orchid Society's On-Line Orchid Chat - Peter Parsons (Fernland); Invitation to Townsville Orchid Society On-Line Orchid Chat on Sunday 3rd May 2020; Information re: Zoom meeting 3rd May; Invitation to Zoom meetings - 17th and future; Zoom meeting recording – sent to members

New Member Applications: Nil

Motion: That the inwards correspondence be accepted and the outward adopted.

M: Troy McGill

S: Robert Rasmussen

Carried

Business arising: With regards to WW, who have been enquiring about a refund on rent on the Hall, Robert will contact them again. He has replied to them before, explaining that we will recalculate their rent once everything resumes.

Treasurer's Report

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

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

M: Terry Ruxton

S: Robyn Dundas

Carried

Business arising: Terry has done a projected revenue/expenses spreadsheet based on past expenses, considering that we have had no income from Hall hire or Shows. We should be able to expect a reduction in some expenses since we are not operating. It shows we probably have two years of operating funds available without any income.

Vice President Reports

Show (R Dundas): Robyn questioned how many people we can have in the hall at one time. If we cannot have a meeting in June, there is no way we can have a July show. Also, restrictions limit the number of people in the hall. All agreed – Autumn Show cancelled.

Field Day still going ahead but with distancing rules we won't be able to hire a bus. Committee will make a final decision about that at the end of July. Hopefully by October, restrictions may be lifted.

Should we have a one-day sale for orchid growers some time later in the year? Food for thought.

Property (R Rasmussen): Fire extinguishers serviced - 6 monthly obligation. Hall not being cleaned but Robert has been ensuring that the toilets are flushed and no odours are occurring in the Hall.

T Ruxton questioned as to whether we are required to pay for the sanitary containers for the whole year when we haven't been using the Hall for half of the year. Contract is to be renewed in the next couple of months so Terry thinks that we should be renegotiating the contract.

Hospitality (R Whiting): Shirts have arrived.

Editorial – (N. Grant): Bulletin will be put out again this month. Need to inform members that the July show will be cancelled.

General Business:

1. We will aim to have a July meeting. Look into what we need to do to cover all conditions. Consider not having afternoon tea. Pre-packed or people bring own snacks and drinks. Running the shop may be difficult. Will need people to register so that numbers are not exceeded. Possibly we could do a live feed for those who cannot make it. Final decision will be made at next month's committee meeting.
2. Leonie reminded Committee that every club is in the same situation so we must be realistic and we should continue with what we are currently doing until everything is ok.
3. Possible plant sale in the future.
4. Greg has been informed that judges will not be available until the end of July.
5. Jeff reported on the Zoom meeting on Sunday. He thanked the presenters who did a great job. Feedback has been excellent. We had three different types of presentations. At the next meeting on Sunday 31 May, Gary Yong Gee from Brisbane www.yonggee.name is happy to do a presentation on orchid photography.
6. A decision was made that the next Management Committee Meeting will remain a Zoom meeting.
7. Leonie is doing a daily post on Facebook where people are putting photos of their orchids. Will continue as there is enough interest.

Meeting Closed at 8.17pm

Greg Kelly - President

Jan Allen - Secretary

On-Line Orchid Chats.

Jeff Knowles

Yes indeed. Our regular on-line orchid chats are continuing, with our next one being on Sunday 14th June, 2020 beginning at 1:30pm. Everyone is invited to join in. In case your logon details have gone missing, here they are again.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84688630914?pwd=UjZHTIBBdE1TRGh0S1ByMDdOYnBoZz09>

OR use

Meeting ID: 846 8863 0914

Password: 869584

A video recording of each meeting is available via the LINK section on the Townsville Orchid Society's web page. (www.townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au) for a very limited time. Take special care when you type in the password.

Many thanks to our guest speakers without whom we would be looking at a blank screen. Which reminds me - if you would like to talk about something, or you know someone who would like to speak, then please, please let me know.

Our lead off speaker at the next meeting (Sunday 14th June, 2020) will be Tony from Yandina who will take us on a journey through the world of fertilisers.

A session sure not to be missed.



Remember to stay safe, social distance, wash your hands and download the app. And before too long we can all get back having face-to-face orchid meetings in The Orchid Hall.

Death Notice

It is with regret that we announce the recent death of Mrs Lesley Verran, wife of the late Tom Verran. Lesley and Tom were members of the Townsville Orchid Society since 1952, with Tom heavily involved with the Judges and judging for many years.

Sun Orchids

Along the edges of the track, standing tall and graceful, the blue, lavender blue and violet blue ***Thelymitra*** sun orchids raised their faces to the sun.

Nine miles from the turnoff, Billy Gray told me, and nine miles and 35 years down the track they still stood there, gems in the peaceful bush.



And as exquisite, were the gems that Bill cut, by hand and eye, from the rough stones of Agate Creek, amethyst from the Don River, topaz from Camel Creek, sapphires from Tomahook, and a myriad of others from Australian gemfields. His was a love of the hidden gems of the bush, the native orchids and later the crystalline gems cut from rough stones.

Further along the track, where the country was more open, more sandy, there grew Bill's "double tails", the little yellow ***Diuris aurea***, its petals erect, like ears, the Donkey Orchid. A single grass like leaf with an erect spike of half a dozen yellow flowers spotted brown, dotted through the short grass along the sides of the track.



An old time Cape York prospector, living off the land, collecting Cooktown orchids on horseback, "a shilling a dozen", when prospecting was poor. A bush carpenter, a sawmill hand, Bill grew orchids and nurtured a fledgling Townsville Orchid Society, a studious Technical Adviser with the progenitors of the T.O.S.

Along the track of Bill's "nine miles", growing in the shelter of large rocks, were the little "pink fingers", the delicate ***Caladenia carnea***, with its single flower of bright pink purple, the sepals and petals fanned out like fingers.

Another single grass like leaf, an orchid invisible except in flower.

Cryptostylis subulatus grew in a small creek, wide leaves in the grass, its green and yellow orange and red brown flowers bewitching amorous male wasps into pollinating the flowers, imitators of female ichneumen wasps. They flowered in October, while the sun orchids, double tails and pink fingers flowered in August, after winter rains.



In the rough barked, bull oak casuarina trees grew plants of **Dendrobium ruppianum**, (photo **D. fusiforme** as it was then), **Cymbidium madidum**, and rarely seen plants of **Dendrobium bairdianum**, and up on the rocky ridge, out of reach of fire, the rock lily, king orchid, **Dendrobium speciosum** clung to the rock crevices.

Along the track, nine miles from the turnoff, the sun orchids, the double tails and the pink fingers grow and flower, always to bring to mind the memory of a longtime friend, orchid grower, rock hound, and past T.O.S. member.

Ian Walters, Burleigh Park Orchid Nursery, 54 Hammond Way, Thuringowa. 4815.

<http://www.speciesorchids.com>



A thought for today:

There are two kinds of people in the world:

- 1) Those who can extrapolate from incomplete data