

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



June 2020 Bulletin

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

Postal Address:

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Patron: Jean Nicholson

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.

I hope that you are all surviving the crisis as we have been free of any virus in the north for some time. Having said that, there is little excuse if your plants have not been pampered over the past couple of months.

The Management Committee met last Friday night and agreed that the club should progress to the holding of a General Meeting at the Hall on Sunday the 26th July 2020. Lengthy discussion took place about what we should and should not do for the meeting, as we must comply with the current Covid-19 regulations about gatherings. There have been a number of changes settled on by the Committee to facilitate this meeting. Things will revert back to nearer normal when conditions permit. The changes include:

- The hall can only hold 60 persons for this meeting. The meeting will be limited to that number.
- Tables and chairs used will be cleaned with disinfectant prior to the meeting.
- Hand Sanitiser and disinfectant will be available at all times.
- You will be requested to sanitise your hands as you enter the meeting.
- There will be no visitors at meetings until the situation improves to permit this.
- The raffle tables and the shop will operate out of the back room for this meeting. Please bring change for the raffle and smaller notes for the shop to minimise money handling.
- You will enter by the front door and exit from the door in the back room. One-way traffic only.
- Plant competitions have been suspended for this meeting with the exception of Registrar's Choice.
- There will be one row of tables across the front of the hall for people to bring in plants to allow others to see them. It is requested that you bring no more than ten plants.
- There will be no afternoon tea – there will be a break in the meeting, so bring your own food and drink if you need to.
- **No member is obliged to attend this meeting. If you are not well or have a pre-existing condition that may place you or others in harm, it is preferred that you do not attend.**

At the meeting, the Autumn Show will be discussed. If the show is to proceed, there will be changes from the normal show. The committee will advise if the show will proceed or not at the July meeting. Membership fees for the next financial year will also be discussed at the July Meeting.

Good growing.

Greg Kelly

Minutes from the Zoom Management Committee Meeting held Friday 26th June 2020

Meeting opened: 7.34pm by President Greg Kelly

Present: Greg Kelly, Jeff Knowles, Noel Grant, Lynne Ryan, June Cairns, Robyn Dundas, Robert Rasmussen, Terry Ruxton, Troy McGill, Peter Lucke, Jan Allen, Ted Boon

Apologies: Ruth Whiting, Samantha McGill

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: Nil

Correspondence:

Newsletters/Catalogues: Combined Newsletter No 5; Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society Inc; EDOS Inc Newsletter May 2020; Ipswich Orchid Society Inc.; The Pooh Bah Times - June 2020; NOS Coronamagazine for June; Newsletter No 6; NMQOC Newsletter; MDOS Newsletter; Maclean & Dist Orchid Society Bulletin June 2020; Orchids Australia; Gardener's Gazette; American Orchid Society Magazine;

Cancellations: Proserpine Orchid Foliage Plant Society - Field Day; Maroochydore Orchid Society August Show;

Mail Inwards: Zoom Payment Processed Account 124140331; Lesley Verran - death notice in newspaper; Judging at the Townsville Orchid Society's on-line orchid chat this Sunday 31st May, 2020; QG Roadmap to recovery; Renewal Review - Townsville Orchid Society Incorporated - Policy Due 21/06/2020; Upcoming deadline for Agenda items and nominations - Orchids Qld Inc; Re: Townsville Orchid Society Invitation to Zoom meeting - response to invitation; Apology, Joy Raines - Zoom meeting; Eileen Cameron - Proserpine Orchid and Foliage Plant Society Inc. re Zoom meeting thanks; Cloud recording available - Zoom; Roadmap to recovery; C-Mobile Account - \$45.80; Asia Pacific Orchid Conference 2022 | Singapore from Greg; 2020 American Orchid Society Inc. Election of Trustees and Officers and Notice of Bylaw Amendment; Hall enquiry; e-Bill from Ergon Energy Retail; Orchids Queensland Inc Member Application/ Renewal; Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Inc - Club Membership and Insurance; Taiwan Flask List x 2; Buying an orchid - request; Registration of Amendment of Rules from Fair Trading - letter confirming; Searching for Myrmecatanavola (Mcv.) Frances Fox 'Sun Spots'.

Mail Outwards: TOS - information for June Management Committee meeting; Townsville Orchid Society May 2020 Bulletin; TOS reminder - Sunday's meeting on 31 May 2020; Re: New Area Manager for WW North Qld; TOS - reminder for members and visitors for this Sunday's meeting

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

M: Jan Allen

S: Robert Rasmussen

Carried

Business arising: Registration of the Amendment to our Constitution has been fully accepted. We must now operate by the new Constitution.

New Member Applications: Nil

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: Peter Lucke

Carried

Vice President Reports

Show (R Dundas): Spring Show -

Is there going to be a July meeting? Need two months to fill the roster - should we send the rosters out?

Discussion to follow about July meeting. Greg to contact Robyn to discuss Spring Show.

Editorial - (N. Grant) Will put together a short Bulletin. Looking for contributions.

Property (R Rasmussen): Church was hoping to re-commence on Sunday. Products have been supplied for them to sanitise the furniture etc. They have been informed that they are required to follow cleaning rules.

General Business:

1. Jeff Knowles informed the meeting that the wife of one of our members, Ron Scott, died recently. Condolences will be sent to Ron.

2. Jeff Knowles – planned the Orchid Chat through until the 12th July. Need to decide about whether it continues or not. One suggestion was that maybe it could be geared towards new growers once a month on the alternate fortnight to the Monthly meeting. Jeff expressed the concern that he would not like it to become just a repetition of the Monthly meeting guest speakers.
3. Committee members fully agreed that we should try to have our July meeting in the Hall. Garden Club are starting up at the beginning of August. Jan will send out a survey to see how many people would like to attend in July. This will help us with our planning.
4. Some of the restrictions we might have to impose if we have a meeting -
 - Hall can only hold 60 if we still must go by the 4m² rule
 - Registration of participants must be filled in on entry – one person to fill in names as members arrive.
 - Members only, no visitors at this stage.
 - Sanitise hands on entry.
 - Limit of 5 plants per person – up to owner to place plants on table
 - No popular vote of plants – registrar's choice only.
 - Wear gloves when accepting money for raffles and shop– ask members to bring small change to minimise the handling of money.
 - Afternoon tea? Decision to be made – possibly 'bring your own' may have to apply.
5. Consider bringing committee meeting a week earlier – 17th July, so that we can organise arrangements. All agreed. Face to face meeting, at the TOS Hall.
6. People who are not well should not attend meetings.
7. At the next General meeting we need to move our fees for next year. One suggestion- all current members being given an extra 12-month membership.
8. We will need to have a working bee before we return.

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm

Greg Kelly - President

Jan Allen - Secretary

Fortnightly Zoom Meeting for all members

A virtual meeting was held on Sunday 28th June, when we were entertained with a talk from a representative of Neutrog, a well-known fertiliser company, and members of the Australian Orchid Council, who gave a presentation about the AOC Conference, to be held in Brisbane in September, 2021. Various members displayed flowering orchids for our pleasure and questions about orchid problems were answered.

A video recording of this 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 which is 3T*RCH7D.

During the Zoom meeting on Sunday 31 May, a member enquired if anybody knew how to kill military fern in their bush house. Thanks to Noel Grundon for this article in the February 2020 newsletter of the North Queensland Orchid Society Inc, Cairns:

Control of Military Fern

In the December 2019 newsletter of NQOS-Cairns, I wrote an article on controlling a weed I have great problems in killing – military fern (*Pilea mcirphylla*) that is not a fern. Although the article listed a weedicide that would kill this weed, I did not know where to buy small quantities of it. I have now found a source.

But first a summary of the previous article. Military fern is also known as artillery weed, rockweed, or gun-powder plant. It is a common weed in my bush-house and is very difficult to remove from potted orchids. Hand weeding often leaves small pieces of rhizome behind that quickly re-sprout. It produces large amounts of fine seed that seem to explosively spread throughout the growing area – into pots and under benches. Some people grow it as a groundcover under their benches but it can quickly spread into pots.

While I have been able to control all other major weeds in my orchid pots by spraying or painting the weed with Roundup (Active Ingredient = Glyphosate) at the recommended strength, I have found that Roundup does not kill military fern (nor for that matter does it kill mature plants of the many orchid genera I grow). Roundup generally sets military fern plants back with yellowing and a slowdown of growth, however it is usually a short-term set-back and the plant resumes growth after a while.

Conover and Stamps¹ found that the herbicide Ronstar 50 WP (Active Ingredient = Oxadiazon) gave complete control for up to 8 weeks after application of foliar sprays at the recommended rates on the packet. I have not been able to find small quantities of a weedicide that contains Ronstar but I have been able to kill military fern using Brunnings (note not Bunnings) Path Weeder that contains Simazine (36.9 g/L), Amitrole (20.5 g/L) and Ammonium Thiocyanate (18.0 g/L) obtained from Big W Atherton.

Recommendations:

The take-home message would seem to be that if you wish to remove military fern from potted orchids, hand weeding is the safest method that may cause the least damage to your orchids. If you wish to kill military fern under your benches, Brunnings Path Weeder will kill this weed and every other weed under your benches. **Do not apply this weedicide to your potted orchids. My bet is that it will kill the orchid also.**



Note from the Editor: I found some at Big W, Castletown and have since seen it at Bunnings. Please use with great caution in your bush house! I trimmed all vanda roots and took all pots from the floor. You will need to be patient, as it took several weeks for any results to be seen, but now my bush house floor has no military fern! Noel Grant.



22nd AOC Conference and Show - For the Love of Orchids

1 - 5 September 2021, South East Queensland: at the Logan Metro Sports & Events Centre, about 30 minutes by road south of the Brisbane CBD and airport.

AOC (The Australian Orchid Council Inc.) is the national body representing Australia's orchid clubs and growers and coordinates and administers a national judging system for orchids. Their magazine, 'Orchids Australia' has been published every two months since February 1989. Previous issues are available from the Library of Townsville Orchid Society (see Noel).

The next AOC Conference and Show (AOCC 2021) is being staged as a joint venture by orchid societies of South East Queensland at the modern Logan Metro Sports and Event Centre in Crestmead, around 30 mins south of the Brisbane CBD and airport.

AOCC 2021 will begin for registrants with the Thursday (2 Sept. 2021) evening Opening Ceremony. Show patrons will be able to admire orchid displays and benched exhibits from the Friday through to the Sunday. Orchid enthusiasts wishing to add to their collection will be able to purchase orchids from the many Australian and international vendors.

All activities, including the Conference Dinner, are planned to be held at the Crestmead venue.

The show schedule, conference program and registrant application forms should be on the orchidsaustralia.com.au website soon.

It is anticipated that early-bird registrations will be available from 1 September 2019.

To receive For the Love of Orchids - AOCC 2021 updates, please provide your name and email address to: info@aocc2021.org The Conference website is: <https://www.aocc2021.org>

A range of accommodation types is available at nearby Springwood, Browns Plains and Calamvale.

Spending some time at the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, their delightful hinterlands, the Scenic Rim region, Tamborine and Toowoomba would make great AOCC 2021 add-ons.