

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



June 2022 Bulletin

Full contact details are on our website

<http://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au>

Postal Address:

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AITKENVALE QLD 4814

Email: townsvilleorchidsociety@gmail.com

Patron: Jean Nicholson

President: Robyn Dundas Ph. 0474 305 864

Secretary: Helen Butler

Treasurer: Jeff Knowles

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 next Management Committee Meeting will be held from 7.30pm Friday 24th June.
The next General Meeting will be held from 1pm Sunday 26th June.**

It would be appreciated if members would donate food items for the afternoon tea.

Please also donate some items for the raffle table. Quality items appreciated!

Judges for June 2022:

Open
Alison Peter

Novice/Species
Marie Warren

The President's Comments

Hello everyone,

Well, the 75th Birthday Gala Orchid Show is only a matter of a few weeks away now, and preparations are well under way. Committee members are working very hard making sure that everything is finalised and that the show will be one to remember.

Due to a few personal issues, Stacey Fidler has had to resign from her position as Show Vice President. I would like to thank Stacey for all the hard work she put into setting things in motion for the upcoming Show and running the Autumn Show back in April. Jan Allen has been appointed Show Vice President and has taken over from Stacey. Jan has stepped up and is handling it very well. I would ask you all to assist Jan with help in setting up for the Show.

Help is required to collect and transport items from the Townsville Orchid Society Hall at **9am**, and to set up for the Show at the **Emmaus Hall, Morindo Drive, Kirwan from 10am, Thursday 7th July**. Many hands make light work, so please come along to help. As it is a bigger hall than usual with more vendors participating in the Show, it is too much work for the handful of committee members to handle.

We are also requesting help on the rosters for the Show weekend. Jan has sent out the rosters via email, for those who have not been able to attend the general meetings, so give her a call if you are able to help in any way. Donations of cakes, slices etc would be appreciated for the kitchen. I note the donations at the Autumn Show in April were fantastic, thank you all.

Please, please bring in your flowering orchids for the Show. You never know, you could be a champion winner! If not, we need everyone to bring in their plants for display to make it a special Show. Prize monies have increased enormously for this Show, as it is the club's milestone birthday. We would like to share the excitement with our members and reward them handsomely for their efforts.

In further celebrations, we are holding a Gala Dinner and Award Presentations on Saturday night **9th July** at **Mary McKillops Hall** {opposite Emmaus Hall} 28 Morindo Dr., Kirwan at **6.30pm**. A Lucky Door Prize will be drawn on the night. Please wear smart casual dress and BYO drinks. Seats are still available, so please put your

name down at the June meeting and come along. The **cost for the Dinner and Presentation is \$25 per person for Members and \$50 non-members.**

Please RSVP before 1st July. Payment can be made at the shop at the next meeting or directly online to the Townsville Orchid Society bank account (see details at the top of Page one of this newsletter).

The monster raffle we are having for fundraising is a pull along cart donated by Bunnings North Shore. It is filling up nicely with donated items from club members and local businesses. Further donations would be greatly appreciated -non-perishable goods, please. Bring any donations to the June General Meeting.

Barcodes.. those wishing to acquire more barcodes for your saleable plants at the Gala Orchid Show, please email townsvilleorchidsociety@gmail.com and let Jeff know how many barcodes for each price you need.

If you have any questions in regards to the upcoming show or to help in any way, you can call me on 0413392048 or on the TOS phone 0474305864.

I would like to thank all the helpers I have had in the last couple weeks doing our Bunnings Demonstrations, and helping at the enormous day at the Eco Fiesta promoting the 75th Birthday Gala Orchid Show and Townsville Orchid Society.

I hope to see you at the next General Meeting on Sunday 26th June from 1pm, if not I will see you at the **75th Birthday Gala Show and Sales** in July!

Happy Growing and stay safe,
Robyn Dundas

TABLED PLANTS: PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022

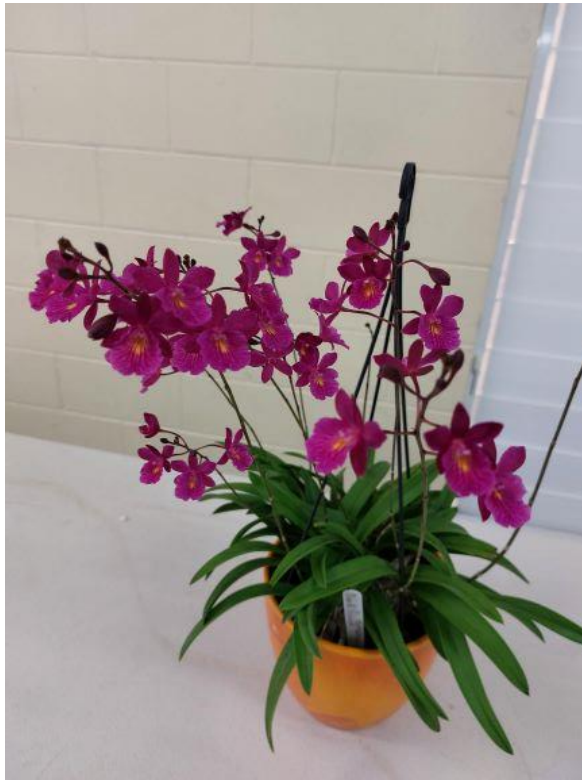
Bold Type indicates a correction using Orchidwiz.

Section			TOS No.
OPEN	1st	Rlc Thaksina Red	L&G Johnson
CATTLEYA	2nd	Rlc Home Hill 'Sunset'	B Figuera
110mm and over	3rd	Rlc Home Hill 'Burdekin'	B Figuera
CATTLEYA	1st	Bc Theresa Ricci (Hippodamia x	R&E Dundas
75mm to 109 mm	2nd	<i>C.aclandiae</i>)	B Figuera
	3rd	Rlc Yingluck Smile 'Redline'	R&E Dundas
CATTLEYA	1st	Rlc Jungle Queen 'Glenlee'	L&G Johnson
Miniature under 75mm	2nd	Rlc Robert Scalia 'Burdekin'	B Figuera
	3rd	Rlc Jungle Queen 'Glenlee'	G&S Kelly
CATTLEYA	1st	Rth Alyssa Valmadre 'Clifton'	B Figuera
Cluster	2nd	Ctt Merinda Lust	C&W Sewell
	3rd	Bsn Maikai 'Mayumi'	D Blanchard
CATTLEYA	1st	Bc Hippodamia 'Hanubu'	G&S Kelly
Any Other Hybrid	2nd	Bc Theresa Ricci	G&S Kelly
	3rd	<i>C tenebrosa</i>	W Hughes
DENDROBIUM	1st	Den John Hughes 'Carol Ann'	R Dix
Phalaenathe	2nd	Den Compact Pink	L&G Johnson
	3rd	Den Swan's Damsel (Burbank Queen x Chao Praya Candy)	L&G Johnson
DENDROBIUM	1st	Den Adrian Lonne 'Luis'	R Dix
Spatulata	2nd		
	3rd		
VANDA	1st	V Pachara Garnet Butterfly	N&M Grant
Over 65 mm	2nd	V Roberts Delight 'Blue'	G Watt
	3rd	V Rothschildiana 'Pink'	N&M Grant
VANDA	1st	Aerv Luang Prabang	N&M Grant
40mm to 65mm	2nd	Mok Jairak Blue	W Hughes
	3rd	Van Viboon Velvet	H Butler
VANDA	1st	Van Alice's Anie	N&M Grant
Under 40mm	2nd	Van Pine Rivers 'Highlander'	G&S Kelly
	3rd	Van Fiftieth State Beauty	G&S Kelly

VANDA Any Other Hybrid	1st 2nd 3rd	V Twinkle V Twinkle V Joe-David	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
PHALAENOPSIS Over 60mm	1st 2nd 3rd	Phal Vandita Dtps Chion Xen Mammon '1121'	R&E Dundas L&G Johnson
ONCIDIUM Starry Shaped	1st 2nd 3rd	Brdm Yoshiichi Nakagawa	R&E Dundas
TOLUMNIA	1st 2nd 3rd	Tolu John Thelander x Rrm David Butcher Tolu Capalaba Sun	G&S Kelly N&M Grant
PAPHIOPEDILUM Any Other Hybrid	1st 2nd 3rd	Paph Ecithis Paph Miss Faith Hanbury Paph Transvaal	L&G Johnson L&G Johnson W Hughes
ANY OTHER ORCHID Over 75mm	1st 2nd 3rd	Ctsm Isobel's Sunshine (Ctsm Portagee Star x <i>kleberianum</i>) Ctsm Unknown Cycd Wine Delight	L&G Johnson L&G Johnson R&E Dundas
<u>NOVICE</u> CATTLEYA	1st 2 nd 3 rd	Bsn Maikai C Rosellas's Double Flare (Inez Okimoto x Rosella's Royal Flare) Rlc Crystal Wall	M Boyd J Horn J Horn
DENDROBIUM	1st 2nd 3rd	D Unknown	J Horn
VANDA	1st 2nd 3rd	V Princess Mikasa 'alba'	M Boyd
ANY OTHER	1st 2nd 3rd	Ttna Dark Prince	J Horn
<u>SPECIES</u> CATTLEYA	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>C intermedia</i> <i>C forbesii</i> <i>Epi nocturnum</i>	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
PHALAENOPSIS	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Phal pulchra</i> <i>Phal cornu-cervi</i> var red	N&M Grant N&M Grant
PAPHIOPEDILUM	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Paph spicerianum</i> <i>Paph primulinum</i> <i>Paph liemianum</i>	L&G Johnson L&G Johnson L&G Johnson
BULBOPHYLLUM	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Bulb lasiochilum</i>	L&G Johnson
ANY OTHER	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Rhy coelestis</i> <i>Ang eberneum</i> <i>Ang eburneum</i>	N&M Grant R&E Dundas R&E Dundas

Points for Tabled Plants after May 2022

Name	Open	Novice	Species	Aggregate
Blackman K		3		3
Blanchard D	6			6
Boyd M		32		32
Butler H		5		5
Cairns J	18			18
Cooper P&M	2		4	6
Day K			4	4
Dix R	13		1	14
Dundas R&E	122		20	142
Eggins P	5			5
Fidler S	3		3	6
Fighera B	44			44
Grant N&M	96		101	197
Hamilton A		9		9
Hardy A	6			6
Horn J		26		26
Hughes W	38			38
Johnson L&G	92		39	131
Kelly G&S	66			66
Knowles A&J	4		40	44
Layton R			1	1
Melvin P		4		4
Nicholson J	12		8	20
Owens K	50		12	62
Rasmussen R	5			5
Richardson J&K	9			9
Sewell W&C	14			14
Stephens J		6	3	9
Truscott C	7			7
Turner K	4			4
Watt G	38		11	49
Whiting R	119		22	141



Judge's Choices May 2022

Above left:
Novice Section
Ttna Dark Prince, 76 points

Julie Horn

Above right:
Hybrid Section
RLC Thaksina Red, 77 points

L&G Johnson

Left:
Species Section
Paph. spicerianum, 74 points

L&G Johnson



Townsville Orchid Society Inc.



75th Birthday

Gala Orchid Show and sales

Gold coin admission

PRIZE MONEY

Grand Champion of Show

\$500

Reserve Champion of Show

\$300

**Novice
Champion
\$100**

**Champion of
each section
\$50**

**Novice
Reserve
Champion
\$50**

**Champion
Species
\$200**

Kindly donated by the
Stocker family in memory of
Geoff Stocker

Each Class

1st Place \$10

2nd Place \$5

3rd Place \$2

**Best
Specimen
\$200**

Kindly donated by
Cape Oasis in memory of
Robert Bisetto

Fri, Sat: 9am - 5pm

Sunday: 9am - 2pm

Phone: 0474 305 864

8-10 July @ Emmaus Hall, Morindo Dr Kirwan

Minutes from the Management Meeting held Friday, 20th May 2022

Meeting opened: 7.32 pm by President Robyn Dundas

Present: R Dundas, J Knowles, N Grant, R Rasmussen, T McGill, S Fielder, J Cairns, H Butler

Apologies: J Allen, R Whiting, L Johnson

Minutes: Corrections to previous minutes:

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

M: H Butler

S: T McGill

Carried

Business out of the Minutes:

- EcoFiesta, TOS involved, providing own tables, chairs etc.
- Cart donated from Bunnings North Shore has arrived, donations gratefully accepted, no live plants please

Correspondence In

Other Society Newsletters for May: TATOS, NQOS Cairns, EDOS, SCOCSA, AOC, NQ Herbs, HR Orchid and Allied Plants, Nightcliff OS, CIDOS, AOCC Flyer and permission to use photographs, ROSI, Maclean and District OS, AOS calendar of events,

Advertising: Website designers, ORO Patches Services, HotToner, Fernland, My Community Directory, Zoom Video, Rentokil

General: S Cairns (membership form updated, various posters), H Butler Management Meeting Minutes, New cost for OrchidWiz, L Johnson (free entry to gala for Russ Cook, Maurie Soars, Sue Blom, Liam Mooney, Neck Dametto), Invitation to Taiwan International Orchid Show, Wade Howlett re plant identification, Smarty Grants (lodgement date and confirmation of lodgement), ABC Radio segment with Michael Clark, Invoice from Campbells Coaches, Banking documents, OQI invoice, Payments for Bowen Trip (G Watt), Unable to attend Bowen Trip (J Tout), Unable to attend on 29 May (K Blackman, A Richards), Name on Birthday Dinner list (J Richardson, B Richardson, also willing to work on Cloak Room, Security or Greeter first up in mornings or late afternoons)

Correspondence Out

Answer to Wade Howlett re identifying plants, TOS Bulletin, request for information re Arthur Waddell Trophy

Business Out of Correspondence

- Rescheduled Bowen Trip, 29 May, 5.30 am depart carpark at the hall
- EcoFiesta to be held at Anderson Park. Vendor sites are free. Would need volunteers to man a stall and give out information. Plants could be available for sale.
- Nikki-Lee Calder Art requesting three White Cattleya orchids for a bride, please see Robyn if you can help out
- Council Grant, next date 22 June for verification.

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

M: H Butler

S: R Dundas

Carried

Treasurer's Report

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

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

M: J Knowles

S: R Rasmussen

Carried

Show Report (Stacey Fielder):

- Box Day was difficult, needed more helpers
- Some volunteers did not show for their time slots, makes it difficult for all

Building Report – Robert Rasmussen

- Air conditioning being looked at again on Tuesday.
- Light switch needs to be checked for safety
- Batteries for sensors, safety lights to be looked at
- Retractable signage, Stacey will investigate cost/quality etc

- Flags and signs to be taken to 75th Show
- Tablecloths, cash register, boxes etc to be taken to Show

Hospitality Report – Ruth Whiting

- Rosters organised
- \$25 for members, \$50 for non-members
- Menu – Mains: Normandy Chicken, Roast Eye fillet of Beef with a Mustard Crust, Penne pasta with roasted Pumpkin and Spinach in a cream sauce (V), Salad/vegetable accompaniments of Roasted Cocktail Potatoes, Buttered peas and broad beans, Roast Carrots, Asian Noodle Salad, Dinner Rolls and Peppe Sayer Butter. Desserts: Flourless Chocolate Torte with Berry Coulis and Chantilly Cream. Have asked for a second non-chocolate dessert option.
- Let caterers know of two possible locations depending on the grant

Advertising – L Johnson

- Grant will determine amount available for advertising in the Bulletin
- \$200 to be made available for Facebook advertising

Bowen Field Day 29 May

- \$1600 quote for 57 seater, \$1350 smaller bus
- 40 people at \$40 (members) covers costs, non members \$50
- Extra are bonus
- \$10 for lunch
- Robyn prepared forms for Sunday, emergency contact information for field trips, to be sealed into envelope on trip, will be returned to member at the end of the day, not being retained by TOS
- Cunggulla passengers to be picked up at Alligator Creek Roadhouse

General Business

- Potting demonstration Bunnings North Shore 18 June, 1.00 pm
- ABC radio on 16 June, 8.30 am in studio, Robyn to discuss and promote TOS and 75th Birthday Show.
- Discussion held around members plants and possible competitions
- Ordered new raffle ticket books
- Orchid books numbers running low

New members

- Jimmy Yeung and Fanny Yeung, entered into Novice category

Meeting closed 8.35 pm.

Robyn Dundas - President

Helen Butler – Secretary

Minutes from the General Meeting held Sunday, 22nd May 2022

Meeting opened: 1.03 pm by President Robyn Dundas

Present: As per attendance book

Apologies: J Allen, R Whiting, L Johnson, H Steel, J Richardson

Minutes:

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

M: H Butler

S. S Woods

Carried

Business out of the Minutes:

- EcoFiesta, TOS involved, providing own tables, chairs etc.
- Cart donated from Bunnings North Shore has arrived, all donations gratefully accepted. Please no living plants.

Correspondence In

Other Society Newsletters for May: TATOS, NQOS Cairns, EDOS, SCOCSA, AOC, NQ Herbs, HR Orchid and Allied Plants, Nightcliff OS, CIDOS, AOCC Flyer and permission to use photographs, ROSI, Maclean and District OS, AOS calendar of events,

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General: S Cairns (membership form updated, various posters), H Butler Management Meeting Minutes, New cost for OrchidWiz, L Johnson (free entry to gala for Russ Cook, Maurie Soars, Sue Blom, Liam Mooney, Neck Dametto), Invitation to Taiwan International Orchid Show, Wade Howlett re plant identification, Smarty Grants (lodgement date and confirmation of lodgement), ABC Radio segment with Michael Clark, Invoice from Campbells Coaches, Banking documents, OQI invoice, Payments for Bowen Trip (G Watt), Unable to attend Bowen Trip (J Tout), Unable to attend on 29 May (K Blackman, A Richards), Name on Birthday Dinner list (J Richardson, B Richardson, also willing to work on Cloak Room, Security or Greeter first up in mornings or late afternoons)

Correspondence Out

Answer to Wade Howlett re identifying plants, TOS Bulletin, request for information re Arthur Waddell Trophy

Business Out of Correspondence

- Rescheduled Bowen Trip, 29 May, 5.30 am depart carpark at the hall
- EcoFiesta to be held at Anderson Park. Vendor sites are free. Would need volunteers to man a stall and give out information. Plants could be available for sale.
- Nikki-Lee Calder Art requesting three White Cattleya orchids for a bride please see Robyn if you can help out
- Council Grant, next date 22 June for verification.

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

M: H Butler

S: R Dundas

Carried

Business arising:

Treasurer's Report

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

Autumn Show: 850 paying visitors, Vendor Sales a little over \$30 000, a large drop from last show

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

M: J Knowles

S: J Cairns

Carried

Show Report (*Stacey Fielder*):

- Thank you so very much to all volunteers for the Autumn Show
- Some show volunteers did not arrive for their time slots, makes it difficult for all, please either email or ring TOS phone if you are unable to attend
- 10 July, Winter Show, Rosters coming around
- Donations of cakes etc sheet coming around also
- Gala Dinner \$25 for members, \$50 for non-members, BYO alcohol
- Sales tables list coming around, please note no hanging spaces, if you wish to hang plants you will need to bring your own method to hang them
- Daily Raffles, Jeff has prepared books, please take some and sell, make sure you get the best contact for the purchaser, \$1.00 per ticket, fill out the stapled stub, only give out the actual ticket (third ticket), first and second to remain in the book
- Donations needed for addition to the cart please, no live plants
- Sponsors needed for the show, advertising will be put up recognising support
- Box Day was difficult, needed more helpers please

Bowen Field Day 29 May

- New list available for Bowen Field Day, Bus leaving from here at 5.30 am
- \$40 members, non members \$50, lunch \$10, Cungulla to be picked up at Alligator Creek Roadhouse

General Business

- Potting demonstration at Bunnings North Shore, 18 June, 1.00 pm
- ABC radio on 16 June, 8.30 am in studio, Robyn to discuss and promote TOS and 75th Birthday Show.

Judge's choice:

- Novice Section: Ttna Dark Prince owned by Julie Horn
- Hybrid Section: Rlc Thaksina Red owned by Lyn Johnson
- Species Section: *Paph spicerianum*, owned by Lyn Johnson

Technical Advisor: Charlie Truscott

- Mancozeb can leave white marks, when spraying add green food colouring
- Fungus is a problem after all this rain, Anti-Rot available from Bunnings active ingredient Phosphoric Acid, be careful, it can alter pH
- Vandas, "Thailand Rust" bottom leaves yellow and drop off, healthy plants will have all leaves, pathogen starts as purple spots which turn brown and then black, feels like sandpaper when you run your fingers along the leaves, fungicides include Triforine, Biophentaline Methanol (BanRot)

Presentation – Jeff Knowles, "Food"

- Just like people, plants love food
- Do you grow orchids for the flowers or for the prizes/ribbons?
- Will fertiliser make a difference? yes, photos of comparison of plants grown with and without fertilising
- Some research findings: plants had a wider leaf spread, produced more and larger leaves, and had a greater total leaf area in response to being fertilised, regardless of the fertiliser used
- Just water is ok, but with fertiliser is better
- Menu – main course: Macro, Minor, and Micro nutrients
- Macro: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K)
- 20:2:6 relates to percentage contained in the fertiliser
- Read labels with care. NPK 20:8.7:16.6 in Aus, 20:20:20 in the US (usually quoted as oxides which need to break down
- N available in three forms Nitrate ions, Ammonium ions, Urea
- Nitrate ions are immediately available for uptake by the roots
- Ammonium ions are immediately available for uptake
- Urea must be converted to ammonium ion by the enzyme urease (by living bacteria) in the orchid roots and microorganisms in the root zone
- Most orchid fertilisers will have nitrate ion and ammonium ion, and not urea because we don't have the bacteria readily available
- Ground orchids probably do have bacteria available in soil
- Minor nutrients: Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) and Sulphur (S)
- Many orchid fertilisers will not have Ca or Mg, but plants do need them
- To gain Ca, add Calcium nitrate, 1gm per L of water, don't mix with other items because it will often combine and form a solid and sink and not be found in the spray. Will absorb moisture from the air and turn into a liquid, need to reseal packet carefully after use, use once a month, again don't add it to anything else
- Epsom salts (Mg), this you can add to other sprays, put between half and a full teaspoon in
- Micro nutrients: TE (Trace elements): Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Boron (B), Molybdenum (Mo), many fertilisers will have trace elements
- Different orchids such as Vandas compared to Cattleya or Dendrobiums probably require some slight difference but anything you are using is better than not using it
- Growth hormones: NAA, IAA, B1 (Auxinone), Naphthalene acetic acid, Indole acetic acid and Vitamin B1 (Thiamine), 1 mg per L, often sold under a name like Growth Formula
- Use other goodies, Seaweed, Blood and bone, Fish emulsions, Worm wee, Molasses

- Molasses available from Lamberts, take care when using as it will stain flowers
- Growth promoter, Nutri-tech Black Gold, Seaweed Master, Seasol Plus, **no NPK**, need to do that separately, if it is not listed on the label it is probably not in there
- Use quite often, once a month add Seaweed Master and Molasses together
- Worm liquid, dilute to a weak tea colour
- Soluble Aspirin: Salicylic Acid is produced by injury to a plant and motivates it grow, add Solprin from chemist to assist in growth
- Plant growth laws, Liebig's Law of Minimum Growth is dictated by the amount of the scarcest nutrient, the amount available is a limiting factor. Jeff used the 'Barrel Analogy', where the barrel is constructed from slats of various heights. You can only fill the barrel to the top of the shortest slat, then the water will spill out, it will not get any fuller. So even though the plant could use more of the other nutrients, you need to increase the balance of nutrients, the lowest one, or the one missing, is the one that has greatest effect, give plants a bit of everything to try to obtain the balance
- The Three Bears Principle: not too little, not too much, just right, deficiency zone, adequate zone, toxic zone (concentration of nutrient in tissue), give it nothing and kill it, give it too much and kill it, need to be somewhere in between
- 50 to 250 ppm N most common
- Cattleyas 50 ppm N, Phalaenopsis 200 ppm N, learn to read the orchids, most use 80 ppm N to 100 ppm N
- 1g of solid fertiliser in 1L, add a zero to the N% to get the concentration of N in mixed up ready to use fertilisers eg 1gm in 1L is 100 ppm N, 2 gm in 1L is 200 ppm N, 10gm in 10L is 100 ppm
- Rule to remember 1gm in 1L
- Law 3 - Suck it up Baby: Phalaenopsis absorb 85% through their roots, 15% through their leaves, roots become saturated after 15-50 seconds. Need to consider the hydrophobic nature of the roots and media, if they are really dry, water will bead and run off, need to maintain moisture if you can, photos of very dry vanda roots and a series of four waterings to turn white roots green to show they are wet.
- Law 4: pH affects uptake of nutrients: optimal pH range for most plants 5.5 to 7.0, leaning to slightly acidic from neutral not alkaline, to adjust or not to adjust? Check bore water, some fertilisers will buffer pH
- Water soluble fertiliser, dampening roots first should make roots more likely to uptake fertiliser. Probably not during the middle of the day, arguments for and against morning or late afternoon, will make a difference what season it is and likelihood of night time rain...
- Slow release fertilisers, you cannot control how much or how often the plants will be able to access the food
- Solid stuff – flowering and fruiting compounds, not normally for orchids, tend to flush quickly and could be toxic levels
- Inorganic GF9 and/or organic eg Seasol, need to be broken down over time and require additional help to make nutrients available to plants ie bacteria
- Use a spreader? Helps to disperse water tension to allow even coverage rather than drops forming at the lower points
- Chelated nutrients have been processed to encapsulate the micro nutrient. This is then more readily available to the plant to uptake, they are more expensive, some would argue they are worth the extra cost, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid EDTA

Meeting closed 2.25 pm.

Robyn Dundas - President

Helen Butler – Secretary