

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



January 2024 Bulletin

Full contact details are on our website

<http://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au>

Postal Address:

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Patron: Cr. Russ Cook

President: Troy McGill Ph. 0474 305 864

Secretary: Greg Kelly

Treasurer: Lisa McCulloch

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 26th January.
The January General Meeting will be held from 1pm Sunday 28th January.**

It would be appreciated if members would donate food items for the **afternoon tea**.
It would also be appreciated if members would donate some items for the **raffle table**.
Quality items appreciated!

Judges for January 2024:

Novice/Species

Alison, Marie

Open

Reg, Charlie

President's Report

G'day Everyone,

Welcome to another year. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas Holiday and New Year.

Again, this year, there's been some heavy rain and hot weather over the holiday period. Hopefully this hasn't had any ill effects on anybody or their orchids and bush houses.

I hope everyone has a copy of the events for this year - as usual, we will be busy. There will be Management Committee meetings on the fourth Friday of the month, with General Meetings every fourth Sunday of the month, commencing at 1pm. We will be looking for people to give a presentation each meeting, so if you feel comfortable and would like to give a presentation, please come forward and see me. I would also ask that people suggest topics that they would like. Just remember that the people who volunteer put their time and effort into the presentations, so could we please respect this and quietly appreciate their presentations.

The first presentation of the year will be given by Reg. The presentation will be on judging. Hopefully this may encourage some members to look at becoming an Australian Orchid Council qualified judge in the future. If you think this is relevant to

you, please speak with Reg. As a club, we need to support our local judges and provide them with what we can, including future trainee judges. Otherwise, we will have no judges for our Shows in the future.

The Tropical Queensland Orchid Council is still looking for support for the Orchid fairs in 2024 and 2025 and Conference 2026. Would you like to join the sub-committee and represent the Townsville Orchid Society? More information about this hopefully will come out soon.

Our next General Meeting is on Sunday 28th January, commencing at 1pm. I hope to see you all there. Please do not forget to bring a plate for afternoon tea, and something for the raffle table.

Cheers, Troy

Minutes from the Management Committee Meeting held Friday, 24th November 2023

Meeting opened: at 7.30pm by President Troy McGill

Present: Troy McGill., Lisa McCulloch, Greg Kelly, Wally Brooker, Noel Grant, Robert Rasmussen and Lyn Johnson.

Apologies: Samantha McGill, Jan Allen, Joe Walker and Carolyn Gibson.

Minutes:

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

M: G Kelly S. L McCulloch **Carried**

Business arising:

- Re Hall Lease. Resolved that the club has no other option other than to sign whatever Council requires. Request to be made asking for TCC procedures when not renewing a lease including reparation as the clubhouse has been paid for by the members not the TCC. This to be included in new lease if possible.
- Re Eftpos Machine. Greg advises that only two responses from vendors re this. Neither negative. Resolved that Lisa would work on the procedures for such payments and a decision to be made early next year.

Correspondence: Inward

Townsville City Council, Complete Tag Solutions, C Mobile, Sunbus, Orchid Conservation Alliance Symposium, Email Orchid Society and TQOC

Correspondence Outward

Maroochydore Orchid Society.

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

M: G Kelly S: R Rasmussen **Carried**

Business arising: Nil.

Treasurer's Report:

Funds available to TOS: 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: L McCulloch S: G Kelly **Carried**

Business arising:

- Lisa advised that when all the payments had been made, a decision will be made if there is money to transfer to the savings account from the cheque account.

Vice President Reports:**Show Jan Allen**

- Jan is unable to attend due to illness but advised she had nothing to raise at this meeting.

Hospitality Samantha McGill

- Samantha is unable to attend due to illness.
- Troy advised that 82 members were attending on Sunday and a couple would pay on that day.

Building Report Wally Brooker

- Wally advised that the toilet in the disability toilet had a broken outlet that had been fixed. A light is also out in the Men's Toilet.

General Business:

- TQOC issues. President Troy advised that he attended the TQOC meeting on 18 November. 2023. Ayr will host the TQOC conference in 2026. The TQOC is asking for members from all the TQOC clubs to assist in running two Orchid Fairs. These will be held in Townsville as Townsville provides the best financial return for these days. Members to be asked if they want to perform this role.
- TQOC also wants list of Orchid Nurseries and growers that sell to the public.
- TQOC also requesting names of people willing to travel and provide presentations to other clubs.
- Membership - Troy raised the issue of membership. A number of issues was discussed. Amongst these was the idea of holding a beginner's group activity separate from the general meetings. Talks at these activities would relate to basic growing of orchids at a reasonably low level.
- The concept of a buddy system could be implemented whereby new members are given a senior member to liaise with until they are more comfortable in the society. Senior member would be first point of call for advice etc.
- Troy advised that Mackay Orchid Society is to run a judging course. As the president of the Mackay club is also the State President for OCQ, Troy intends to monitor how this is run.
- Troy advised that when trying to contact some members regarding the Christmas Party their contact details were not correct. He intends to pass around pieces of paper and pencils at Christmas Party as people will have time to update their particulars. Perhaps included in the next newsletter for those who did not attend.

Around the table - Nil issues by any member.**New Member Applications accepted:**

Rob MeHarry Open Section No.341

Meeting Closed at 8.45pm

Troy McGill - President

Greg Kelly – Secretary

Minutes from the General Meeting held Sunday 26 November, 2023

Meeting opened at 12 Noon by President Troy who welcomed all attendees.

Present: As per registration book.

Death of Member Noel Hardwick. Jan Allen spoke briefly about the life of former member Noel Hardwick who died recently. A minute's silence was then held for Noel.

Visitors: Nil.

Minutes:

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

Moved: Greg Kelly Seconded T Kapcelovich **Carried**

Business out of Minutes: Nil

Correspondence: Nil new correspondence relevant to this meeting

Treasurer's Report: Lisa McCulloch

The treasurer provided her report as to the state of the society funds. Spreadsheets are available from the Treasurer if anyone would like to look.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payments.

Moved Lisa McCulloch Seconded K Turner **Carried**

General Business

- President Troy spoke of the recent TQOC meeting and advised that Ayr had decided to host the TQOC conference in 2026. In addition to this, TQOC are asking each club to support the formation of a committee to run two Orchid Fairs in Townsville which would support the Ayr Club in running the TQOC conference. The Townsville Orchid Society is asking for anyone who wishes to be part of that committee to advise the President.
- President requested that all members present complete the form available to update personal particulars on our database.

Presentation of Trophies:

Winners of the Points Competition (Most points for plants at monthly meetings for 2023).

Novice : Lisa McCulloch Open: Robyn Dundas Species: Noel Grant.

Judges Choice. (Highest points for individual plant for the year)

Novice : Julie Horn 75 Points, Open: Noel Grant 81 Points, Species: Lisa McCulloch 78 Points.

Ted Boon Trophy (Awarded for the highest points for a plant for the year)

Noel Grant with 81 points.

Ivy Nott Trophy. Awarded to the winner of *Dendrobium discolor* Section at Spring Show.

Allison and Jeff Knowles.

Meeting Closed at 12.20pm, when the Christmas Lunch commenced.

T McGill - President

Greg Kelly – Secretary

Please note: Due to the Christmas Lunch, no orchids were exhibited at this meeting.

In Noel's Bush House – republished

The following article was published in the February 2013 issue of the Townsville Orchid Society Bulletin, as Issue 11 of a series of 56 articles I have written about flowering orchids in my bush house over the years. Other articles in this series can be found by opening the TOS website <http://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au/> and perusing the Newsletters (usually near the last pages). "In Noel's Bush House No. 1" was published in the January 2012 issue.

I decided to re-publish this article because the plant was so splendid in bloom recently, and because this orchid flowers between December and January, when I cannot exhibit plants at any TOS meeting.

(And because this Bulletin would otherwise be disturbingly short).

Noel Grant
January 2024

In Noel's Bush House 11

Rhynchostylis coelestis Rchb. f. ex Veitch 1891

The natural home of this hugely popular orchid is Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, but it can be found in bush houses and heated glass houses across the world. It is noted for its readiness to regularly flower with spikes laden with multiple medium-sized colourful (and fragrant) blooms.

"Rhynchostylis" means "beaked column" and refers to the beaklike viscidium. "Coelestis" means "blue" in reference to the usual colour of the labellum, which may be a misnomer, as the colour can vary from a pale lavender shade to a very dark violet/blue. Usually, the petals and sepals are suffused with the lip colour, deepening at the tips. The plant is a relatively small, monopodial epiphyte.

Rhynchostylis coelestis can be found in three colour forms: the so-called "blue", an albino form which has all-white colouration, and a sought-after "pink" form. I find that I now have 9 plants (Editor: 6 in 2024), because so many that I purchased were labelled either "pink" or "alba", but flowered as "blue". Happily, I have now flowered a "pink" (Editor: sadly, it died some years ago), but the "alba" form continues to elude me. 9 plants may seem a lot, but they flower in a staggered manner, so I have a display from late November through to February.

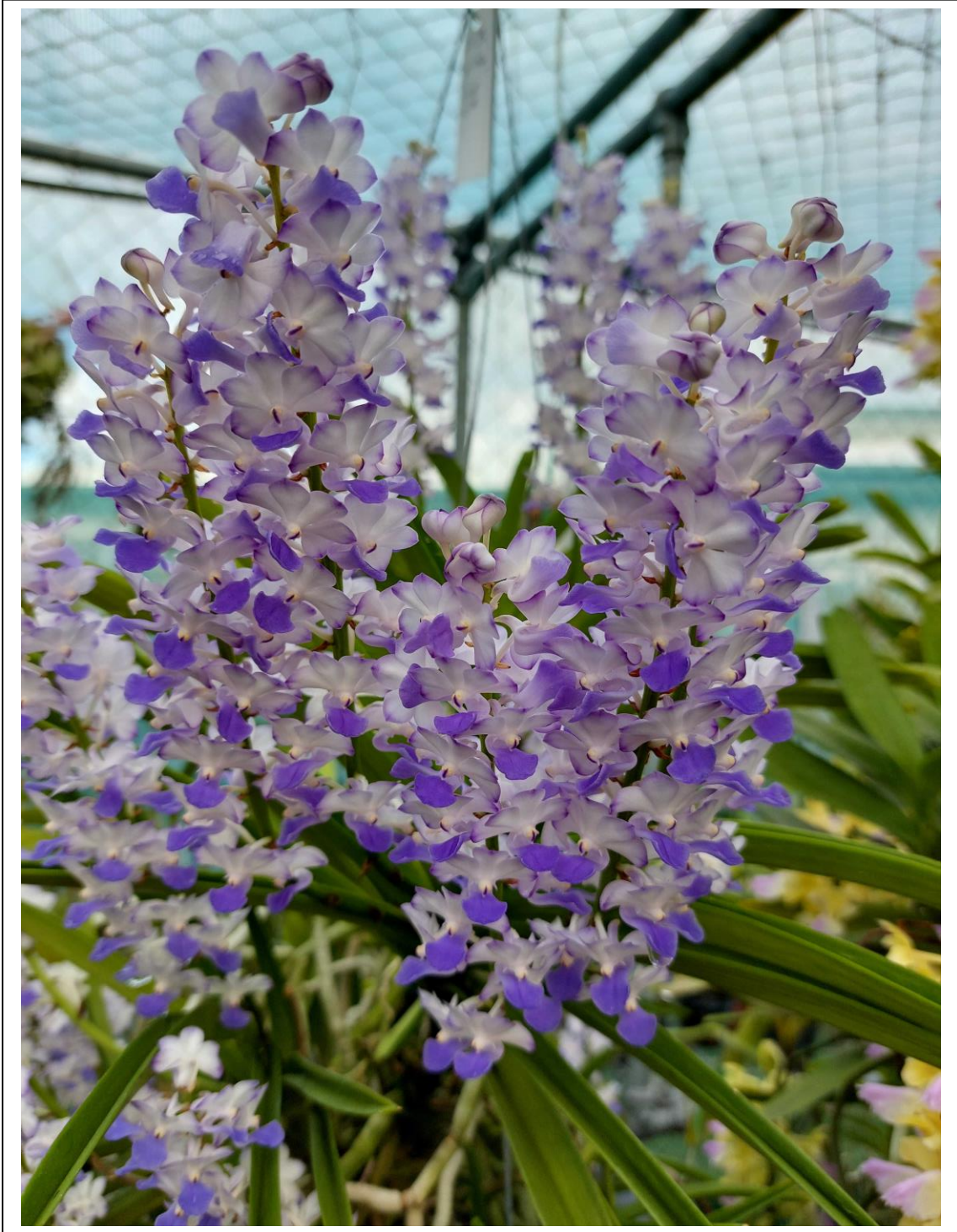
Plants should be grown in a basket with minimum material, so as to give fast drying after watering. I grow mine with a layer of either Quinkan gravel or river rocks. The roots tend to grow out of the basket very quickly and can grow very long. They are intolerant of rough handling and breakages, so the plants are best hung, rather than grown on a bench. A mature plant will readily grow "pups" which are quick to grow to flowering size, so a large plant will have multiple flower spikes. One of my plants recently had six spikes in flower (Editor: 12 in 2024), which was a spectacular sight. Frequent applications of "flowering" fertilizer in spring will reward you.

Rhynchostylis coelestis is a member of the Vanda family and readily hybridizes with a large number of other genera. One of the most popular hybrids is *Vandachostylis* (x *Vanda*) where it tends to be dominant; giving flower spikes with multiple, medium-sized, startlingly colourful blooms. *Vandachostylis* (Van.) flowering plants are often seen at our meetings.

Noel Grant February 2013

References:

- 'OrchidWiz' computer program.
- 'The New Encyclopaedia of Orchids' by Isobyl la Croix 2008
- 'Botanica's Pocket Orchids' Random House 2002
- 'Orchid Growing in the Tropics' by the Orchid Society of South East Asia 1994
- The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopaedia <http://www.orchidspecies.com/>



Rhynchosstylis coelestis