

## TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



### May 2024 Bulletin

Full contact details are on our website

<http://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au>

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Patron: Mr. Russ Cook

President: Troy McGill Ph. 0474 305 864

Secretary: Greg Kelly

Treasurer: Lisa McCulloch

Bulletin Editor: Noel Grant Email: [grantnml@bigpond.com](mailto:grantnml@bigpond.com)

Hall Location:

Joe Kirwan Park

Charles Street, KIRWAN

Annual Membership Fees are due **1<sup>st</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> May.  
The May General Meeting will be held from 1pm Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May.**

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 May 2024:

Novice/Species

Alison, Marie

Open

Reg, Charlie

## President's Report

Hi Everyone,

It was great to see so many new faces at the April Sunday meeting. I hope everyone went home with some extra knowledge on orchid culture. Thanks to Reg, Noel and Charles who gave presentations on different topics – snow mould in Kiwi bark; pollinating orchids and cultural notes for May.

I'd also like to thank Noel Grundon for his generosity in allowing me to present one of his PowerPoints. I thought it was particularly relevant to us as *Phalaenopsis rosenstromii* is the Society's emblem and we were able to see the distinctive features of this Australian native, comparing it to the Indonesian *Phalaenopsis amabilis*.

As I mentioned last month, the Committee is keen to participate in events that will encourage new members to the club. As we grow in membership, it is important to remember that a Code of Conduct is written into our By-laws to ensure a culture of friendship and mutual respect are fostered within the TOS.

We have two upcoming events that we hope members will embrace. Our first is the Eco-Fiesta, which is a free Council-run community event which will help give us some welcomed exposure. We would appreciate help on the day.

We have also been invited to host the June Garden Corner at the Domain. Already customers have expressed interest. More information will be given at the May meeting.

We knew the moment was coming but hoped it wouldn't. Unfortunately, we are losing one of our Life members, judges and overall knowledgeable orchid grower, Charlie Truscott. Our loss is the Sunshine coast's gain. Best wishes on your new venture, Charlie.

Important dates coming soon to the club:

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1 pm, Monthly General Meeting

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 9am – 3pm. Eco-Fiesta Stall, Anderson Gardens

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 10am – 11am, Bunnings Garden Centre, Domain – focus: repotting.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1pm Monthly General Meeting

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 10am - set up for the Winter Show.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Townsville Orchid Society Winter Show

Cheers,  
Troy

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### **Minutes from the Management Committee Meeting held Friday, 26 April, 2024.**

Meeting opened: at 7.25pm by President Troy McGill

**Present:** Troy McGill, Samantha McGill, Lisa McCulloch, Jan Allen, and Lyn Johnson, Noel Grant, Carolyn Gibson, Joseph Walker, Robert Rasmussen, Robyn Dundas

**Apologies:** Wally Brooker, Jeff Knowles

President Troy thanked Jan Allen for stepping into the Secretary Position. He welcomed Robyn Dundas who has temporarily joined the Committee as Winter Show Vice President.

#### **Minutes:**

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

M :Jan Allen

S. L. McCulloch

**Carried**

#### **Business arising: Nil**

#### **Correspondence In:**

Eftpos training time notification; Request for sales tables; Eftpos and cash register usage – J. Knowles; Apologies – M. &M. Triebel; Community Information Centre Townsville; Returned mail - Melissa Thomson; NQIB; Google storage; Ergon; TQOC – x4; Greg Kelly; Ergon; My Gov - ?message; Ingham Field Day payments @ 30/3/24; Hall hire enquiry; C Mobile A/c; HR Orchid & Allied Plants – re buses; American Orchid Society x2; Bunnings; List of Officials invited to Show – Caroline; Fernland Invoice; Apology – K.Hamilton; Plumber to the Door Invoice; Bar Code Order from – Eve Penningh; Query re participation in Bunnings and Eco Fiesta; Phone Call – T. & S. Ruxton; Norm Hyatt – Yearly Safe Service; DG Brown ; Query Bus trip – L Genrich; Hall repairs – Wally; Sport & Active Lifestyle Workshop; Confirmation of Coach hire; Invoice for Coach – Detours; Ingham Field Day Payments; Ergon Meter Change update; Fernland payment; Townsville OS Bulletin; Query re points from March meeting – L Johnson; Office of Fair Trading – changes; Rule changes – Troy; Commonwealth Bank – warning about QuickCash; Sport and Active Lifestyle follow-up; C Mobile plans; Concerning points – L Johnson; Financial Statements of club; Commbank – cyber security;

**Correspondence Out:** Melissa Thomson (Council) – re lease ; Detours -acceptance and invoice; Show rosters and reminders; Bus trip reminders;

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

M: Jan.

S: Joseph

**Carried**

#### **Business arising:**

1. Need to re-contact Melissa Thomson (or Council) re lease as email bounced.
2. Jan to ring Bunnings re invitation to May Garden Corner. Committee agreed to participate.
3. Troy and Jan attended Sport & Active Lifestyle Workshop. Found out more about grants available.
4. Jan asked what the problem with the Commonwealth Bank was regarding Quick Cash. Treasurer Lisa will enquire.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Lisa provided separate information relating to the profit and loss of the Autumn Show. She noted that we had approximately 898 paying guests through the door.

**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: L Johnson **Carried**

The largest expenses were \$3,612.00 for roofing repairs which was covered by insurance except for a \$500.00 excess and \$1,540 for bus hire for the Ingham Field Trip.

**Business arising:** Joseph queried about investing some of our money – Lisa is looking into investing in a Gold Saver account which does not tie up our money.

### **Vice President Reports:**

**Show** (Robyn Dundas) – temporarily filling in for Winter Show

- Rosters will go out to the members at the Sunday meeting.
- Lisa added that we will definitely be using the EFTPOS machine at that show.

**Hospitality** Samantha McGill

- Samantha will hand out the food donations list at the Sunday meeting.

**Building Report** (Troy, in Wally Brooker's absence)

- Troy advised that we needed to get an electrician in during the Autumn Show. His inspection of our power box brought some unexpected surprises and although he fixed the immediate problem, we need to have work done to have our circuit breakers adjusted.

### **General Business:**

- Troy reported that an Ingham official approached him regarding the behaviour of one of our members. He asked that members be reminded of our By-laws regarding our Code of Conduct.
- Troy asked if we were interested in participating in the Bunnings Mother's Day Event in May. Jan indicated that she was not aware of that but had seen an email inviting us to host the May Garden Centre workshop. Jan will follow up both those invitations.
- Troy indicated that he had been approached by members re selling plants at the Sunday meetings that are not in flower. Discussion was had, and it was decided that people who have non-flowering plants have the opportunity to sell their plants at the Member's Table at each of our Shows.
- Troy suggested that By-law 18 Shows needs to be clearer as to when plants may be benched. Jan agreed that we have some 'unwritten rules' about benching of plants that probably need to be made official. Committee will look into it further.
- Jan reported that 7 people pulled out of the Ingham Field Day due to illness or other circumstances. Are we prepared to refund their bus fare? The Committee decided that our commitment to a bus was based on the numbers, so this would not be refunded but absentee's lunches were not paid for, so each person is entitled to a refund of \$12. Jan will give out a reimbursement form to those people at the Sunday meeting.
- TQOC meeting (Zoom meeting). A couple of issues arose from this meeting. Firstly, the President of the TQOC expressed an opinion that Townsville Orchid Society was not pulling our weight as our committee had decided not to hold the Orchid Fair. He commented that he would try to force us into assisting by possibly preventing judges from judging our Shows. Troy pointed out that the judges are under the control of the Australian Orchid Council, not TQOC. Troy has since confirmed with the judges that he was correct.
  - The Committee supported Troy's stance. Our decision not to run the Orchid Fair was our concern for the nucleus of members who already help extensively at the three Shows we run.

Secondly, President Troy has concerns regarding the disrespectful behaviour and personal attack he received from one of the Society members who he invited to the TQOC meeting as an observer. During the meeting, the TOS member verbally attacked Troy's personal integrity, calling him a racist several times and criticising the committee's decision not to run the Orchid Fair. The member was invited by Troy to attend the next committee meeting to raise concerns, but once again Troy was verbally attacked.

We have worked hard to foster a culture of friendship and mutual respect within the TOS and this kind of behaviour cannot be tolerated. After explaining the situation, President Troy and Vice President Sam stepped aside to allow the rest of the committee to consider what actions should be taken.

- **Motion:** The Management Committee of the Townsville Orchid Society Inc moved that we send a letter to a member of our Club regarding a breach of the Code of Conduct, according to our by-laws.

M L McCulloch

S J Walker

**Carried.**

#### **Around the table**

- Noel Grant informed the Society that he has acquired website domains that we need, which will ensure people don't trade online using our name.

**New Member Applications accepted:** Nil

Meeting Closed at 9.25pm

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Troy McGill – President

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Jan Allen – Secretary

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### **Minutes from the General Meeting held Sunday 28 April 2024**

Meeting opened at 1pm by President Troy who welcomed all attendees.

**Present:** As per registration book.

**Visitors:** Christene Kelly, Stephanie Baker,

Troy McGill introduced and welcomed visitors to the Society and presented a plant to the new members who were present.

**President's Report:**

President McGill thanked all the volunteers who made the Autumn Show a great success.

**Minutes:** Jan Allen presented an addendum to the March minutes published in the April newsletter.

**An addendum to the March minutes:**

**Minutes from the Special Management Committee Meeting held Sunday, 24 March, 2024**

After the March General Meeting, President Troy McGill called Committee Members together for a Special Committee Meeting regarding the replacement of Secretary, as Greg Kelly had resigned as of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Present: Troy McGill, Greg Kelly, Jan Allen, Carolyn Gibson, Joseph Walker, Jeff Knowles, Samantha McGill, Lyn Johnson, Lisa McCulloch

**Motion:** That Jan Allen be nominated as Secretary to the Townsville Orchid Society as of the 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

Moved: T. McGill

Seconded: L. McCulloch

**Carried**

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

Moved: J. Allen

Seconded L. Johnson

**Carried**

**Business out of Minutes:** Nil

**Correspondence:** New correspondence tabled at Committee meeting.

**Business Arising from Correspondence:**

Correspondence in: Bunnings has asked Townsville Orchid Society to host the May Garden Corner. Jan will ring them to see what date they have in mind and inform members. Help will be appreciated.

Help will be required on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June as we intend to hold a stall at the Eco-Fiesta. Jan will contact Council to check on registration.

The Floriculture section of the Townsville Show includes a section for orchids. Members are encouraged to exhibit their orchids at the Show. We need to support this section or it will disappear. Jan will forward literature to members via email.

Correspondence out: Tabled at Committee 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. Insurance and bus hire were the largest costs.

Treasurer Lisa provided separate details relating to the profit and loss of the Autumn Show. Income, to date, from the Show is \$6 517.77. A couple of minor invoices are yet to come. She noted that we had approximately 898 paying guests through the door.

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

Moved Lisa McCulloch

Seconded B. Hughes

**Carried**

**Vice President Reports:**

**Show:** Robyn Dundas (temporary)

- Robyn has rosters ready for the next show to be held from July 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Hospitality:** Samantha McGill

- Samantha thanked members for their contribution to the supply of cakes and slices etc, for the Autumn Show and also thanked the volunteers who worked in the kitchen.
- A clipboard will be passed around for people to put in what food donations they can make for the Winter Show.
- Samantha requested that some different people help in the kitchen during as the Sunday meetings as current people would like to have a break and participate more in the meetings.

**Hall:**

- In Wally's absence Troy McGill reported that the damage to the rear of the hall has been fixed by insurance.
- We encountered problems with our fuse box during the Autumn Show. The electrician fixed that problem but has found other problems that need to be dealt with.

**Publicity Officer:** Carolyn Gibson supported by Joseph Walker

- Joseph has been talking to TV channels and radio stations regarding getting more exposure. They are a great source of getting information out about the Society.
- TOS invited to have a section on 4TTT. Joseph to organise this. Speakers will be required.
- Joseph is also looking into getting a spot on the ABC radio gardening hour.

**General Business:**

- Townsville City Council held a 'Working with Council' workshop last Tuesday. Jan and Troy attended, interested in finding out more about grants and how to go about applying for them. Troy asked if there was anyone in the Club who had experience in apply for grants. We would appreciate volunteers to help.
- A lot of name tags have not been claimed. Please check at the front door.
- We have a Bunnings Garden centre event and the Council run Eco-Fiesta coming up some time soon. We will need volunteers for these events. More information to come.
- The Committee has decided that a refund for the Ingham Field Day bus will not be given as we had 7 people who were unable to attend. Lunch refunds are available however as Jan only paid for the people who attended. Jan will be around to give those people a form to fill in for their refund.
- Reg explained that Charlie Truscott was not able to be at the meeting and would probably not get to another meeting before he leaves town. Appreciation of the many years Charlie has been a member was expressed.

**Judges Choice:**

Reg presented the Judge's Choice Winners for the Month of April. He complimented the owner of the Open Plant on a well presented orchid and suggested that the dead racemes needed to be cut off.

**Open Section:** V. Twinkle M&N Grant 77 points

**Novice Section** Phal. Unknown M&M Triebel 70 points

**Species Section:** *Paph spicerianum* H. Cooper 73 points.

**Technical Report:**

- Advice on Snow Mould in Kiwi Bark. Found in bark not treated. Soak in water with 4g per L Alginox (available from Woolworths) and 2 g per L sodium nitrate. Rinse before using.

**Presentation – Noel Grant.**

- Noel presented his *Vanda sanderiana var alba* on which two flowers had been pollinated. He explained that the flowers have turned into seed pods. Pollination is the easy part of getting new orchids. Germination of the seeds is the harder part of growing a new plant. Noel explained how he had pollinated it.

**Presentation – Charles Lee**

- Charles presented his cultural notes for May. He has updated Orchids Australia magazine information relevant to our area and modern times. The complete notes will be sent out to members.
  - As we approach cooler weather – plants will not grow as fast and do not need as much water.

- Grasshoppers are around at the moment – use pyrethrum.
- Spider mite are going to be more prevalent now because of less humidity.
- Cattleya Alliance – prefer cooler weather
- Catasetum Alliance – important to cease watering when leaves have dropped.
- Phalaenanthe Dendrobium – cease watering when flowering is finished. Morning misting to maintain canes.
- Canaliculatum dendrobium - ‘Wet’ season is over. Reduce water. Just enough to maintain canes. Minimum fertiliser. Low nitrogen.

### Presentation – Troy McGill

- Troy presented a lecture compiled by Noel Grundon, which posed the question: ***Phalaenopsis amabilis* – Where are you?** This was of particular interest to the Society as *Phalaenopsis amabilis var rosenstromii* is a local species and the floral emblem of the Society.
- The PowerPoint explained how judges/experts can tell the local subsp. *rosenstromii* from the Indonesian *amabilis*. For the answer he presented diagrams and close-up photographs which compared:
  1. The shape of the labellum, and
  2. The number of teeth on the posterior edge of the callus in the throat of the labellum (ie the edge at the back of the labellum.)

Meeting Closed at 3.10 pm

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Troy McGill - President

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Jan Allen – Secretary

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## TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC AUTUMN SHOW.

Despite the unseasonal weather for this time of the year – heavy rain followed by oppressive heat – members of the Townsville Orchid Society Inc managed to put together an impressive display of colour and shape at the Autumn Show. This was held at our regular venue – our own Orchid Hall – from Friday 5<sup>th</sup>- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Fortunately, there was a welcome break from the rain and the weekend turned out to be perfect for the public, who made the most of the ideal conditions.



*Figure 1 Autumn Show Champions table.*



The Champion Dendrobium Hybrid and consequent Champion of the Show was **Dendrobium Sally Koh Siew Aye**, grown by Doug & Eve Penningh, regional members who kept it intact as they travelled over 400km to get to the Show. This well-presented orchid, with one erect inflorescence, boasted over 40 delicate flowers.

Figure 2 (Right) *Dendrobium Sally Koh Siew Aye*, grown by D. & E. Penningh, was Grand Champion



Reserve Champion and Champion Laeliinae Hybrid was a beautifully grown **Rlc. Island Charm 'Carmela' x Rlc Dr John Baker 'DJ'**, exhibited by Charlie Truscott.

Figure 3 *Rlc. Island Charm 'Carmela' x Rlc. Dr John Baker 'DJ'* grown by Charlie Truscott.

Leanne Genrich, a relatively new member of the Society, was thrilled to be announced as Champion Novice with her ***Encyclia unknown***. This beautiful, delicate *Encyclia* displayed the typical characteristic of the genus, with its 'upside-down' bloom.



Figure 4 *Encyclia unknown* was flowered by new member, L. Genrich

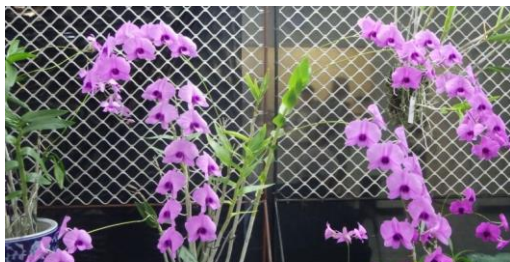


Figure 5 *Den. bigibbum* grown by D. & E. Penningh received two Champion awards.

The Champion Australian Native and Best Specimen went to local favourite, ***Dendrobium bigibbum***, known as the Cooktown orchid. It consisted of seven arching flowering stems, each with up to twelve lilac-purple flowers. This plant was grown by Doug & Eve Penningh.

Other Champion plants were: Champion Vandae Hybrid - **Rhdrs. Mem Suranaree**, grown by Greg Kelly; Champion Oncidiinae Hybrid – **Onc. Wildcat 'Bob'**, grown by Lynette Johnson; Champion Any other Genera – **Habenaria Arbor Vitae** grown by Dough & Eve Penningh; and Champion Exotic Species – ***Gomesa radicans*** grown by Doug & Eve Penningh.

The vendors had a very successful weekend, with the Sales area overflowing with orchids and foliage plants. The success of the Autumn Show can be put down to the help from a strong Committee and membership. Our Winter Show will be held on July 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.



Figure 6 Setting up the Champions table, with the Sales plants in the background.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE MONTH OF April 2024

**Bold Type** indicates a correction using Orchidwiz.

Section			TOS No.
<b>OPEN</b> CATTLEYA 110mm and over	1st 2nd 3rd	Thw Burdekin Passion 'Miya' C. Orchid Affair 'Flirt' <b>Rlc</b> Gerard Scalia 'New Era'	B Figuera D Boyd R&R Layton
CATTLEYA 75mm to 109 mm	1st 2nd 3rd	Ctna Dal's Strike 'DJ' <b>Bct</b> Little Mermaid 'Janet' <b>Bct</b> Little Mermaid 'Janet'	L&G Johnson L&G Johnson R Whiting
CATTLEYA Miniature under 75mm	1st 2nd 3rd	Gct Barrel of Brandy Rlc Glenlee Mikayla x C Angel Love Rly Swan's Shy	G&S Kelly R Whiting G&S Kelly
CATTLEYA Cluster	1st 2nd 3rd	<b>Bct</b> Little Mermaid 'Janet' Bc Little Stars Bsn Mayumi 'Maiki'	B Figuera G&S Kelly D Blanchard
DENDROBIUM Phalaenanthe	1st 2nd 3rd	Den Yaya Victoria Den Crimson Red <i>Den densiflorum x griffithianum</i>	J Cairns W Hughes W Hughes
DENDROBIUM Spatulata	1st 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3rd	Den Kwan Sam Hoi Den Ray Twist x Adrian Lonnie x <i>canaliculatum</i> Den Golden Rod x Tan Khen Lian	K Owens K Owens R Whiting
VANDA Over 65 mm	1st 2nd 3rd	V Kultana Gold x <i>V sanderiana alba</i> V Kulwadee Fragrance 'Black Spot' V Somjit x <b>Pda</b> Mano	J Cairns H&M Barlow H&M Barlow
VANDA 40mm to 65mm	1st 2nd 3rd	V Roslyn's Best 'Brighton' V Super Cooper 'Ellen Schneekloth' V Viboon Velvet	N&M Grant J Cairns N&M Grant
VANDA Under 40mm	1st 2nd 3rd	V Twinkle V Ispbell's Burnished Gold V Kultana Indian Incense x V Kultana Oriental Aroma	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
VANDA Any Other Hybrid	1st 2nd 3rd	Van Mem. Suranaree 'Blue' Van Luke Thai x <i>Aer maculosum</i> Aer Mirabeau	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
ONCIDIUM Starry Shaped	1st 2nd 3rd	Brassia Rex 'M' Onc Jairak Fragrance 'Bordeaux' <b>Rrm</b> Capalaba Primrose x Tolu Far Beach	McCulloch/Weaver McCulloch/Weaver McCulloch/Weaver
PAPHIOPEDILUM Multi Floral	1st 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3rd	<i>Paph praestans x parishii</i> Paph (St Swithins x <i>rothschildiana</i> ) x Pinocchio Paph Coos	L&G Johnson McCulloch/Weaver L&G Johnson
BULBOPHYLLUM	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Bulb lasiochilum x frostii</i> Bulb Fascination	M Bloom L&G Johnson
ANY OTHER ORCHID Under 75mm	1st 2nd 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mom Painted Desert x Ctsm Louise Clark	B Figuera
<b>NOVICE</b> PHALAENOPSIS	1st 2nd 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Phal Unknown	M&M Triebel
<b>SPECIES</b> AUSTRALIAN NATIVE	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Den johannis</i> <i>Den bigibbum var superbum</i> <i>Den bigibbum var compactum</i>	P&J Serra P&J Serra P&J Serra



CATTLEYA	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>C walkeriana</i> 'Puanani' <i>C luteola</i>	G&S Kelly N&M Grant
VANDA	1st	<i>V sanderiana</i>	N&M Grant
PAPHIOPEDILUM	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Paph spicerianum</i> <i>Paph primulinum</i> var <i>purpurescens</i> Paph Pinnocchio	H Cooper L&G Johnson S Fidler
BULBOPHYLLUM	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Bulb brevistylidium</i> <i>Bulb makayanum</i> <i>Bulb sanguineopunctatum</i>	M Bloom M Bloom R Whiting
ANY OTHER	1st 2nd 3rd	<b>Pyp</b> Mendenhall <i>Lockhardtia lunifera</i> <i>Coel. trinervis</i>	J Cairns M Bloom M Bloom

## Points Tables after March 2024

Name	Open	Novice	Species	Aggregate
Barlow H&M	11			11
Blanchard D	13			21
Cooper H	5			5
Dundas R&E	6			6
Fidler S	4		6	10
Fighera B	3			3
Grant N&M	29		37	66
Gibson C	6			6
Hilder G&R	4		2	6
Horn J	12			12
Hughes W	4		21	25
Johnson L&G	62		24	86
Kelly G&S	60			60
Knowles A&J	5		8	13
McCulloch/Weaver	43		7	50
Nicholson J	2			2
Owens K	37		8	45
Serra P&J			4	4
Sewell C&W	4			4
Triebel M&M		4		4
Watt G	9		5	14
Whiting R	63		15	78

# Cultural Notes May

## General observations

We are now in the European season of Mid Autumn.

For the Kakadu mob, the season is 'Yekke'. The weather is cooler but still humid.

Temperatures for May to mid-June. 21°C – 33°C

This is a relatively cool time with less humidity. Early-morning mists hang low over the plains and the shallow wetlands and billabongs are carpeted with water lilies.

Dry winds and flowering Darwin woollybutt tell local Aboriginal people that it's time to start to 'clean the Country' and encourage new growth. <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/discover/culture/country/>

As we head toward winter, reduce water to all the plants native to the tropics.

## Pests and Diseases

Look for chewing insects. Spray if found – pyrethrum, 'Success', 'Mavrik', 'Diazamin 200', 'Ficam W'

Look for spider mites. They should not be a problem until the humidity drops. Rotate miticides on a 7day interval with at least 3 treatments. 'Supracide' is a good miticide.

Spray preventative fungicide. Triforine, Alginox are systemic fungicides, Mancozeb is a surface fungicide. As the humidity drops, the threat of fungal problems should reduce. Good air circulation is a good fungicide.

**Safety First!!** Remember that all horticultural poisons are poisonous to humans if mistreated.

## The Cattleya Alliance

Reduce watering. Water only once or twice a week depending on the weather and your potting mix.

Fertilise weakly, weekly. Alternate between Hi N and Lo N fertilisers.

Check new leads for damp off. Treat with a systemic fungicide and increase air flow in your orchid house.

Check for Dendrobium beetle and spider mites. Refer to notes in 'Pests and Diseases' above.

## Catasetum Alliance

The flowering season is almost over. Soon the plants will drop their leaves. When that happens, cease watering and move the plants to a section of the orchid house that does not get wet.

## Oncidium Alliance

The "Wet" Season is over – Reduce water but do not allow to dry out. Keep moist. Water early mornings.

Alternate fertilisers. Use Weakly, Weekly. Hi N/ Lo N. Spray Mancozeb to shield against fungus.

## Phaphiopedilum

The "Wet" Season is over– Keep moist but not wet. Water/mist daily. Avoid wetting flowers & buds.

Fertilise with weak Campbells Yellow every 2<sup>nd</sup> water. Lo N, Hi PK. Check for mealy bug & anthracnose.

## Phalaenopsis

The "Wet" Season is over. Water / mist daily, with Mornings the best time.

Early flower spikes might appear. Stake early. Bloom booster fertiliser, weakly, weekly. (Lo N, Hi PK fertiliser).

Check for cockroaches, mealy bug, spider mites & anthracnose. Beware of crown rot.

## Vandaceous

The "Wet" Season may be over, but many Vandas originate from areas with regular rain. Water daily.

Hi N / Balanced fertiliser, weakly, weekly.

Be aware of crown rot & Thai disease. Watch for grasshoppers.

## Phalaenanthe Dendrobium

Cease watering if flowering finished. Morning misting to maintain canes. Cold will cause leaf drop. Do not water if cool.

These plants will soon be entering their hibernation period.

Stake new flower spikes if they appear. Check for Dendrobium beetle, Spider mites.

## Intermediate Dendrobium

As these types are a hybrid between the Phalaenanthe and Ceratobium species, be guided by the parentage of your particular plant. Thankfully, they are usually more forgiving than the species.

## Canaliculatum Dendrobium (Our local orchid)

The "Wet" Season is over. Reduce water - just enough to maintain canes. Mist whenever you have a heavy dew.

Minimum fertiliser. Weakly, Weekly, Lo N.

Check new leads for damp off. Fungicide when misting.

Check for Dendrobium beetle, red spider mite.

## Soft Cane Dendrobium

These plants are native to deciduous rainforests on mountains in SE Asia. Their culture can be counter intuitive.

They require a good cold snap to trigger spring flowering. They can also tolerate full winter sun.

Move these plants out of your orchid house to a spot that gets cold and has little shade.