

## TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



### February 2026 Bulletin

Full contact details are on our website

<https://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au>

Postal Address:

PO Box 836 D.C.

AITKENVALE QLD 4814

Email: [townsvilleorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:townsvilleorchidsociety@gmail.com)

Patron: Mr. Warren Sewell

President: Troy McGill Ph. 0474 305 864

Secretary: Jan Allen

Treasurer: Leeann O'Neil

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

Technical Officer: Reg Dix Email: [regdix509@bigpond.com](mailto:regdix509@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.

Please advise your name and membership number.

*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 1pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February.  
The February General Meeting will be held from 1pm Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February,**

where 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 February 2026:

Novice/Species

Reg, Stacey

Open

Marie, Lisa

### Presidents Report February 2026

You wouldn't believe it – again, just like the last couple of years, it's been pouring with rain. Hopefully we have all learnt a few lessons on how to protect and treat our orchids. This is why your potting mix is important, as it needs to drain well. Please keep an eye on your plants for any fungal diseases. Treatment may include repotting, cleaning your plants and treating them with mancozeb, with anti-rot and/or a systemic fungicide. A quick trip to Project Plants (one of our sponsors) will help as they have a variety of these treatments. Again, this year we will be trying to maintain the hall and improve things. I think the stands we've made for the shows have been a success. Ray has been making some orchid hangers that will also improve the displays, and Carolyn is busy at the moment making covers for the styrofoam boxes for show displays. Just little things but hopefully making the show a better attraction.

As always, we are looking for members to give presentations. A big thank you to Greg Kelly who has already put up his hand for March. Greg always gives an excellent presentation and has the ability to make it easy to understand. If you think you're comfortable giving a presentation, please let us know. On the other hand, if there's something you would like discussed – again, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

As I was away last month, the People's Choice didn't start. This month I will be there to ensure it happens. An important request - can we please ask - if you have plants to display, please bring them in at least 10 minutes prior to the 1pm start. Can all members try to have a look at the plants on display as well, prior to the commencement of the meeting. Discuss the plants with other members.

So, the format of the day will only change slightly. We will start with the usual committee meeting points and questions from the members. Please note that the financial and correspondence can be found on the notice board in the hallway near the toilets. While this is happening, the judges will be concurrently doing the plant judging. We will then pause and commence the presentation for this month. After the presentation, we will ask all members to get up and choose the plants that they think are the best in certain sections. This will be explained better on the day how we will accomplish this, don't worry, we are going to try and make this as

simple as possible. We will then pause for afternoon tea, during which the votes will be counted. After afternoon tea, we will inform the members first of the People's Choice, followed by the Judges Choices and finally the Registrar's Choice. Here we as members get to see how good we are at appreciating the best display plant. Finally, after all this we will call the continuous raffle. Then pack up and go home.

Can I please ask if you have flowering orchids, to bring them in, and if you have concerns, there will be people there to help you. Also, can you bring in a plate of something for afternoon tea.

Thanks, Troy

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### **Minutes from the Management Committee Meeting held Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

Meeting opened: at 1.00pm by President Troy McGill

**Present:** Troy McGill (phone), Leann O'Neill, Lynette Johnson, Joseph Walker, Noel Grant, Jan Allen, Janelle Stevens, Judith Thomson, Robert Rasmussen.

**Apologies:** Samantha McGill, Ruth Whiting, Tony Kapcelovich

**President report:** President McGill apologised for not being able to be present at the meeting as he has been called away to help care for his father who has had heart problems. He will be absent from the meeting on Sunday and since Reg is also unable to make it to the meeting, he has decided to delay "People's Choice" until next month. Any concerns, Troy is reachable on his phone. He will be back on Wednesday.

Troy acknowledged the passing of Ruth Whiting's mother and expressed his condolences to Ruth and her family.

**Secretary: Jan Allen**

**Minutes:** Everyone was sent via email the most recent minutes from the November meetings.

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

M: Jan Allen

S: Lynette Johnson

**Carried**

**Business arising:** Nil.

**Correspondence In:** Ergon Energy; Sunnyview Orchids – receipt for \$500 orchid purchase; Copy of nomination form for Ira Butler trophy; Membership application – new member; Ivy Nott trophy; Joining enquiry; Live radio talk commitment; Tweed District Orchid Society email; Newsletter – 4TTT; National e-deposit; Incorrect spelling on trophy; Invoices for Hall Hire; C-mobile account; AOS Corner; Rasmussen State School invitation; Rentokil – advice; Query about C. Margaret Hort; Apology re Kitchen roster; NQOS Newsletter; Neutrog speaker – follow up; Notice of AOC BOM meeting; Acknowledgement of Invoice; Neutrog speaker – organisation; 2025 Christmas Break closure – Fernland; Invoice – Glenn Reeves; Neutrog Garden Club update; Christmas greetings – Show ribbons; HROP December Newsletter; CBA monthly safe payment due; CIDOS December newsletter; TRIPLE T wrap up; Invoice for Tokelau; Enquiry re use of Hall – Warhammer; Microsoft 365 options; Request for Christmas Party photos; Ergon energy invoice; Proof of White Tickets; Invoice for cleaning; MDOS Newsletter; Neutrog speaker form; Trend expiry; Neutrog confirming arrangements; Response re C. Margaret Hort; Information sent regarding query; AOS Corner; Plumber to your door – invoice; C-mobile invoice; Triple T newsletter; DMC Tax Invoice; DMC – quote; DMC – tax invoice; Rockhampton Orchid Society Newsletter; EDOS Inc Show details; Regional Locksmith invoice; AOC Club dates request; 2026 dates request; NQOS Newsletter; Manolis Carpentry invoice; Triple T – welcome to 2026; Response re Minutes; DMC payment receipt; Rentokil – advice; President's report; Pest Management reminder; Reimbursement; January Bulletin; Payment receipt DMC; CIC Project Officer: Poster request; Apology Andrew Young; Ergon Energy.

**Correspondence Out:** Acknowledgement of membership application; Pictures for Ivy Nott award; Publicity for plant sale – Townsville Bulletin; Invoices to be sent; Response regarding trophies; Invoice for Hall Hire – Tokelau; Orchid and Plant Market reminder; Request Garden Club email address; Invoice for use of Hall – Garden Club; Bulletins x 6; Neutrog – organising times x2; ; Garden Club – forwarding invitation; Computer security Trend; Invoice for Hall Hire – Tokelau; Neutrog – organising pick-up of samples; Garden Club receipt; Follow-up email; Request for confirmation of invoice x3; Sample of 2024-2026 Excel Operating form; 2026 dates; AOC – Show dates; Receipt and new invoice – Tokelau; Receipt for Garden Club; Receipt to Church of Living God; TOS January 2026 Bulletin; Bulletins x 6.

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

M: Jan Allen

S: Janelle Stevens

**Carried**

**Business arising:** Cairns has contacted Troy for a copy of our Calendar.

## **Treasurer: Leann O'Neill**

Major income for the month came from the proceeds of our meetings, in particular the Christmas Luncheon raffle in November. Major expenses this month was for the Christmas lunch (both 2024 and 2025) as well as Hall maintenance.

## **Funds available to TOS as at 23/01/26:**

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

Accounts to be paid: Reimbursements for Facebook boost and fabric for Show tables; purchase of hand towels; Ergon; TOS Bulletin expenses.

**Motion:** That the Treasurer's reports be accepted, and accounts be passed for payment

**M:** Leann O'Neill

**S:** Janelle Stevens

**Carried**

## **Vice President Reports: Show/Building/Hospitality**

As Tony and Samantha were absent, Troy presented details forwarded to him.

- Confirm the events Calendar has been sent to the vendors – send to all members, vendors, especially Cairns, Innisfail, Mackay, Ingham, Bowen, Proserpine clubs so they know our dates.
- Show schedule – still to be updated and put on website.
- Cleaning lady - \$300 a visit. 12/1, 19/3, 16/4, 14/5 and 11/6. Tony is trying to get it down to \$250 a month. Tony to monitor.
- Fire alarms etc have been checked.
- Locks to doors serviced.
- Purchase of sashes still needs to be done asap. Need to look at schedule to ensure we have the same sections.
- Key register of all keyholders required according to lease. Troy doing a spreadsheet for that.
- Jan please do up roster sheets for next meeting.
- Sam won't be at the meeting tomorrow. Everything is there. Judith has agreed to step in and help run the kitchen for the meeting.

## **Publicity – Joseph**

- The subject of the cost of advertising in the Townsville Bulletin for the Shows was brought up. Is it value for money? What would be the impact if we didn't advertise in the Bulletin? Would we get the free feature article on Friday if we don't advertise with them? The possibility of changing it to one quarter page advertisement was suggested. Is Saturday necessary, considering the show already started on the Friday?
- Could we have details available before the next meeting e.g. costs of different days/Joseph and Troy to look into the most popular day of purchase, costs etc.
- Suggestion made that we do a survey about how guests heard about the show. We have done this before but don't know where the data is. Door volunteers can ask and do a tick and flick. Come up with a possible form.
- Judith asked if we advertise in Townsville events – Joseph to look into that.

## **General Business –**

- Paperwork for Judges and Registrars choice has been done.
- People choice will be postponed until Troy returns – start next month.
- Reg away on Sunday – Peter Lucke filling in.
- Jan, Fair Trade paperwork has been submitted and receipt for payment was received. Will make sure our details are updated – check website or phone call.
- We need more people to give presentations. It would be good if members of the committee could do a talk or demonstration. We have a Neutrog representative doing a short presentation in March.
- It was suggested that we look at the cost of the Christmas party and compare prices of other companies as White's seems to be getting quite expensive – especially if we are subsidizing the same number of members attending as we did last year. Janelle is prepared to look into costs and availability of other companies. We will review quotes at the next committee meeting. Concern was expressed about increasing the amount members would need to pay for the Luncheon if we increased it.



- The cleaning lady has been in - \$300 first visit. She really scrubbed the place up. She has given Tony dates for the next 6 months and they don't clash with any other dates. Tony trying to get it down to \$250 a month eventually.
- Locks needed to be repaired in the storeroom as did one of the padlocks for the sign.
- Having trouble with water coming over the downpipe so need to get plumber in to check the roof. Seems like something is stuck in the pipe.
- Big clean-up of the Hall is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am. We will be cleaning tables, chairs, storeroom etc.

### Shows: Tony Kapcelovich

- Jan will do the show rosters up for the next meeting.
- Keep bringing boxes in, even though there are lots there.
- At the last Show, a member of the public commented on the state of the green boxes. After looking at some photographs, Tony understood the criticism. They did look ugly. We considered repainting them but there are 60+ boxes. It was decided to cover them with green cloths. Measurements have been done and Carolyn has purchased material that she will sew up.

### General Business:

- Lots of plastic containers on the bench – left over from cakes and slices donations. Some have names on but some don't. Please see if they are yours.
- Club shirts are available at the shop for \$30.
- Peter Serra has brought in some tubs of molasses for those who want to take some home. It is in the back room.
- Troy was going to explain how we are going to run the 'People's Choice' section of the Plant Competition but he is not here today, so it will be postponed until next month.
- Reg, our Technical Officer is away today, so Peter Lucke will fill in, and talk about some of the winning plants.
- New members who had not received their Welcome Pack were called up to receive their plant and book.

### Judges Choice: Peter Lucke

<b>Open Section:</b>	Van. Alices Anie	G&S Kelly	80 points
<b>Novice Section:</b>	Milt. Shelob	L. Craill & J. Dow	74 points
<b>Species Section:</b>	<i>Vanda roeblingiana</i>	N. & M Grant	76 points

Meeting closed at 2.39 pm

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Tony Kapcelovich Vice - President

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Jan Allen – Secretary

## PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2026

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

Section		Name of Plant	TOS No.
LAELIINAE 75mm to 109mm <b>A2</b>	1st 2nd	Rth Rosella's Golden Emperor Rlc Amazing Thailand	Kelly G&S G&L Johnson
LAELIINAE Miniature under 75mm <b>A3</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	Gct Remar's Red Mini Ctna Dal's Toy 'Bob' Rly Swan's Shy	Kelly G&S Kelly G&S Kelly G&S
LAELIINAE Cluster <b>A4</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	Gct Barrel of Brandy Clt Ploenpit Crown x Sierra Belle Epc El Hatilla X <i>Epi cordigera</i>	Kelly G&S K Owens G&L Johnson
LAELIINAE Any Other Hybrid <b>A5</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	Bc Hippodamia 'Francois Pequegnot' Rth Nobile's Bruno Bruno 'Big Red' Rlc Deception Penny	D Blanchard N&M Grant D Blanchard
DENDROBIUM Spatulata <b>B2</b>	1st 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Den Fraser's Mosaic Spiral x Fraser's Red Dragon Den Magic 'Kuranda' x (Lady Kiesal x Peter Peterson)	K Owens P Slatter

DENDROBIUM Any Other Hybrid <b>B5</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Den convolutum x Den bigibbum</i> Den Black Pearl	P&J Serra G&L Johnson
VANDA Under 40mm <b>C3</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	Van Alice's Anie Van Janice Alison 'Candy' Van Alice's Anie	Kelly G&S N&M Grant N&M Grant
VANDA Any Other Hybrid <b>C4</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	Pda Ambrosian Twinkle Van Blue Star 'Royal Blue'	N&M Grant N&M Grant
PAPHIOPEDILUM Any Other Hybrid <b>F4</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	Paph Ecithise <i>Paph kolopakingii</i> (note: species) Paph unknown	G&L Johnson G&L Johnson G&L Johnson
CATASETUM <b>G2</b>	1st	Ctsm Orchidglade 'Davie Ranches'	K Kybus
Any Other Hybrid <b>G5</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	Sarcochilus Velvet Phal Tying Shin Beagle Spath Mellow	G&L Johnson G&L Johnson G&L Johnson
ONCIDIUM Any Other E4	1st 2nd 3rd	Mtssa Shelob 'Tolten' Milt Sandy's Cove Onc Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'	K Kybus G&L Johnson D Blanchard

#### NOVICE SECTION

Section		Name of Plant	TOS No.
ONCIDIUM E5	1st	Milt Shelob 'McA'	L Craill/ J Dow

#### SPECIES SECTION

Section		Name of Plant	TOS No.
EXOTIC SPECIES			
PHALAENOPSIS <b>I4</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Phal pulcherrima var champornense</i> <i>Phal cornu cervi var red</i> <i>Phal pulcherrima var buysonniana</i>	N&M Grant N&M Grant G&L Johnson
ANY OTHER <b>I8</b>	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Vanda roeblingiana</i> <i>Onc. lanceanum</i> <i>Enc ceratistes</i>	N&M Grant G&L Johnson N&M Grant

#### Points Table after January 2026

Number	Name	Open	Species	Novice	Aggregate
221	Blanchard D	5			5
337	L Craill & J Dow			3	3
213	Grant N&M	10	9		19
240	Johnson L&G	19	3		22
116	Kelly G&S	15			15
368	Kybus K	6			6
63	Owens K	5			5
233	Serra P&J	3			3
378	Slatter P	2			2

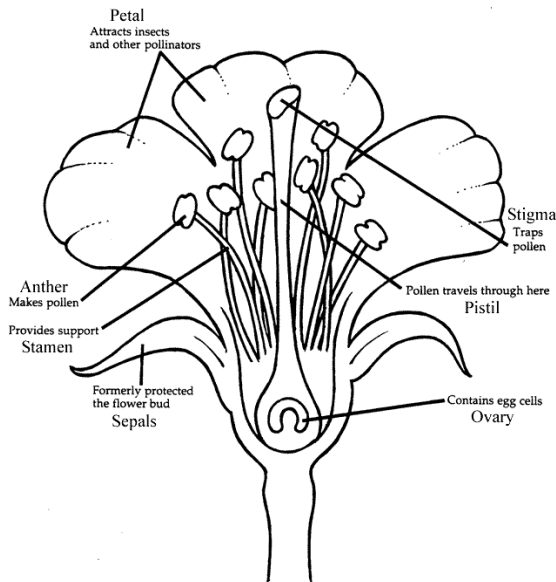
## Why is this flower an Orchid?

Orchids belong to the smaller of the two great groups of flowering plants - the monocotyledons (or monocots), which include lilies, orchids, palms and grasses. The larger group contains the dicotyledons (the dicots). The majority of common garden plants, most trees and broad-leaved flowering plants, such as roses and geraniums, are dicots.

Monocots are distinguished by having only one seed leaf in the embryo contained in the seed (dicots have two). Most of you will have grown peas or beans (which are dicots) at some time, and I am sure you all remember those two leaves breaking the ground surface as the young plants sprouted.

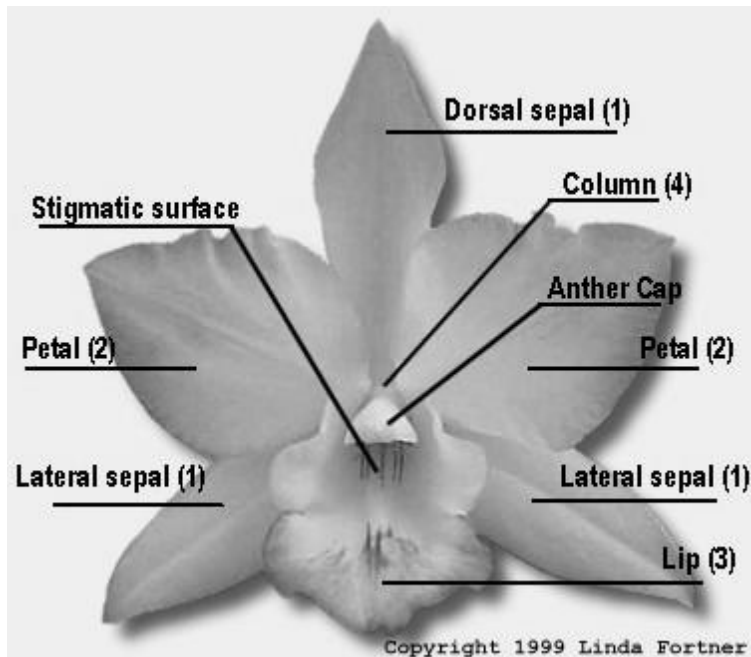
Monocots typically also have flower parts, such as sepals and petals, based on a plan of three (imagine a typical orchid flower), whereas dicots have parts based on a plan of four or five (or multiples thereof). Most monocots have leaves with parallel veins, while dicots usually have a meshlike pattern. The stems of monocots do not have a continuous cambium layer, or region of new growth, so they do not increase in stem thickness, produce annual growth rings or have woody stems, as do typical trees, which are dicots.

The primary characters that distinguish the orchids as a group are found in the flower.



At the bottom of an unspecialized **non-orchid flower** is the stem that supports it, called the **pedicel**. Directly above, and at the base of the flower itself, is a whorl of green, leaflike organs called **sepals**. Above and inside the sepals is a second whorl of coloured **petals**. These are the asexual parts (“asexual” means NOT sexual) and they are developed to protect the flower or to attract a pollinator. Inside (also arranged in whorls) are the sexual portions of the flower. First are the male **stamens**, which consist of a **filament** (the slender stalk that supports the anther) and an **anther** (usually an arrangement of four sacs filled with loose pollen grains). There may be several whorls of stamens. In the centre of the flower is the female **pistil**, which is composed of an enlarged portion (the **ovary**) topped by a stalklike **style** with a **stigma** at its

apex. The **pollen** in the anther is powdery and is usually carried from the anther of one flower to the stigma of another flower by a pollinating agent (moth, fly, bird etc).



The usual **orchid flower** is also supported on a pedicel. The ovary, however, with its ovules, seems to be an integral part of the pedicel because it is embedded within the upper portion of the pedicel below the attachments of the petals. The orchid flower is thus said to have an inferior ovary. The sepals and petals are usually similar, often highly coloured, and in sets of three. One petal is developed as a landing platform for the pollinator and is called the **lip** (or **labellum**). Most orchids can be divided by a line from the top of the dorsal sepal to the centre of the lip, where the portion of the flower on the left side of the line can be seen as a mirror image of the right side. This is described as making the flower bilaterally symmetrical.

The sexual portions of the orchid flower are quite different from other generalized flowers. All of the male organs and the female organs (the filaments, anthers, style, and stigma) are reduced in number and are usually fused into a single structure called the **column**. Most orchids have a single anther at the apex of the column. The pollen grains are bound together with a sticky substance in masses called **pollinia**. As a visiting insect backs out of the flower, the pollinia are picked up from the anther and stick to the body of the insect.

One of the characteristic differences between the orchid family and other advanced monocots is that the fertile stamen or stamens are all on one side of the flower opposite the lip. The lip is oriented upward in the bud, but as it later develops, twisting takes place in the pedicel or ovary so that the lip is usually oriented downward by the time the flower opens, a process called resupination. The lip becomes a handy landing platform for pollinators.

Orchid seeds are extremely small and contain an embryo that lacks endosperm (starchy nutrient tissue). In nature, orchid seeds need the presence of a fungal mat called mycorrhiza in order to germinate. Happily, a method has been found in the laboratory where seeds can be germinated without the fungus, which is why so many orchid seedlings are now available.

It is interesting that all the special characters of orchid flowers, such as the joining of the male and female organs to form the column, the masses of pollen called pollinia, and the tiny seeds without endosperm, are found individually in other groups of flowering plants. However, it is through the combination of all of these characters that we now know the family of flowering plants called the Orchidaceae.

Noel Grant

This is a reprint of an article first published in the TOS Bulletin in February 2010