

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



May 2026 Bulletin

Full contact details are on our website

<https://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au>

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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

Technical Officer: Reg Dix Email: regdix509@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.

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 23rd May.

The May General Meeting will be held from 1pm Sunday 24th May,

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 May 2026:

Novice/Species

Reg, Lisa

Open

Marie, Stacey

President's Thoughts

So, what's going on in the world of Orchids?

The weather has finally started to cool - lucky we live in North Queensland for the good growing conditions, unlike some of our fellow growers down south. But it is a time to consider - what are my orchids doing? It's important to know what your orchid should be doing. Some orchids can enter a period of partial dormancy or even full dormancy during Autumn. So, if you are losing leaves on your *Catasetums* or *Den. nobile*, it doesn't mean they are dying. But during winter, the daylight hours get shorter and the temperature drops, meaning these plants need less water, less fertilizer but still need care. But there are also some species and hybrids that grow and flower in winter like some Australian natives, *Oncidium*s and *Cymbidium*s for example. (Editor's note: and *Vandas*).

So, what's going on at the Society? By the time this newsletter comes out, we would have had the 'Ask the Experts' Day for members. I'm hoping to keep building on these events for our club members, with the more experienced growers helping novices and less confident growers improve their hands-on abilities. But to make these events better, we need feedback on what you want help with. So don't be shy to bring your enquiries forward.

I think we are finally getting our heads around the people's choice at our monthly meetings. It's important that we all get up and appreciate the orchids that come in and learn what makes this orchid better than that one. Along with learning how to compare orchids, the club needs to encourage members to become judges. Yes, it's a long commitment to become a judge, but each year, we find we have fewer and fewer qualified judges available to judge plants for awards.

We only have five months until our next Annual General Meeting. So, here is the point, there will be vacancies on the Committee, including the President and Secretary, as both Jan and I will have completed three years in our positions, and under the Constitution, we have to stand down. This means other club members must nominate for those and other positions. Please consider if you have the time, let's not leave it up to the last minute.

The shop has been re-stocked, so have a good look at the April meeting for your needs. If there's something you want that we haven't got in stock, please approach Ruth or myself and we will see what we can do. Just a reminder, we don't sell certain items like pesticides; you can get these from our sponsor Project Plants. Show them your membership card for a discount and advice on using these items, including PPE.

May General Meeting	Sunday 24th May at 1pm,
Townsville City Eco Festival	7 June,
June General Meeting	28th June at 1pm.

Thanks, Troy

Minutes from the Management Committee Meeting held Saturday 25th April 2026.

Meeting opened: at 1.06pm by President Troy McGill

Present: Troy McGill, Leann O'Neill, Tony Kapcelovich, Noel Grant, Jan Allen, Robert Rasmussen, Samantha McGill, Lynette Johnson

Apologies: Joseph Walker, Janelle Stevens.

President report: Troy presented four plaques, made by Barry O'Neill. Three of them will be for the Grand Champion Orchid at the annual three shows and one will be a new award for Club Member of the Year. This will be awarded to a member, other than Committee member, who in the opinion of the Committee, has contributed significantly to the club during the year. Troy and Jan will organise the wording for each plaque. They will be hung permanently on the wall. Troy also wished to thank one of our new members, Ken Booth, who donated about 25 orchid plants for our raffle table. Ken often travels with work and has difficulty attending our Sunday meetings.

Secretary: Jan Allen

Minutes: A copy of the minutes was in the April Bulletin. Committee members also received them by email.

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: Copies of emails to media outlets and councillors re Autumn Show. X 9; Acceptance from Cr Vera Dirou; Comments – People's Choice; A O. S. Last recurring payment failed; AOS Corner; Request barcodes; HROAP Field Day advice; HROAP -email problems x 2; Reply to concerns about quote – KwikCopy; Insurance request for information; Request to hire hall; Reply from Shell Club re hall hire cost increase; Request to hire hall; Mayor of Townsville acceptance of invitation; PC Medico – paid invoice; C-mobile account; Manolis Carpentry invoice; Tweed District Orchid Society; Copy of email to Bulletin photographer; AOS; JB HiFi Business Telco - New data plan; Ausnorth response to request; Fernland information; MDOS newsletter; AOFoundation April Newsletter; ROSI April Newsletter; Request for sponsorship for Townsville Show; CIDOS April Newsletter; Kwikcopy query; Manolis Carpentry Invoice; Insurance query – waiting for report; Request for Autumn Show results; AOS Orchid Dealwire April; C-mobile upgrading security; Townsville Solar Clean And Bird Proofing Pty Ltd quote; Garden Club change of booking; TOS Bulletin April; EDOS Inc April Newsletter; Solar Cleaning – question asked x 3; Plant Collection query; Ergon Energy invoice; Rentokil service advice; AOS password recovery; Orchid Show Dates – compiled; Community Information; Hervey Bay Spring Orchid and Garden Show; Insurance – response to update; Letter of Appreciation

Correspondence Out: Responses to emails received; Townsville Orchid Society Inc April Bulletin; Reminders about box day, rosters etc. Mail forwarded to relevant Committee members; Information to vendors re Autumn Show.

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

M: Jan Allen

S: Tony Kapcelovich

Carried

Business arising: Comments regarding People's Choice – some tweeking will be done; JB HiFi – new data plan; Request for sponsorship for Townsville Show; Solar Clean and Bird proofing – Tony to talk about it in his report; Letters of appreciation.

Treasurer: Leann O'Neill

Major income came from the Autumn Show.

- Need some scaffolding (platform ladder) to clean fans. Cleaner does not go on ladders. Ruth has her own portable one. – make a date.
- Email from Townsville Show Society requesting we sponsor the Orchid Section of the Townsville Show again this year.

Motion: The Townville Orchid Society Inc agrees to donate \$250 towards the Orchid section of the Townsville Show, being for the Champion and Reserve Champion orchid.

M. Jan Allen

S. Robert Rasmussen

Carried

- Robert – Watering Can has closed down.
- Need to update payment details for AOS. Noel prepared to use his travel card, then get reimbursed.
- Project Plants – came to Show. Happy to support members with 10% off – must have membership card. Will try to get fertilizers that some of our members use.
- Leann informed the Committee that she would need to step away from the role of Treasurer for a couple of months due to illness and medical appointments. Janelle, Troy and Jan will need to keep a watch on the finances.

New Member – Diana Bird – Novice – No 389

Meeting Closed: 2.30pm

Troy McGill – President

Jan Allen - Secretary

The following talk was given by Reg Dix at the April 2026 General Meeting

Fungal control.

We are now at the end of April, and the winter months will soon be upon us. It can be said that there is little winter here in the North with most plants (cooler growing) seeming not to have a dormant period and continue to grow throughout the year.

Night temperatures below 15 degrees will increase the population of fungal spores. So, what can we do?

It is time to increase the spraying of Mancozeb Plus. The sulphur ingredient will assist in keeping red spider mite under control. Lightly spray the leaves on both the underside and on top avoiding runoff of the spray. Use a good wetting agent such as Spreadimax at the recommended rate.

Managing Plant Care During the Dry Season

Watering.

As we approach the dry season, it is important to pay close attention to your watering and fertilising routines for actively growing plants. Maintaining proper moisture levels ensures that plants remain healthy, while appropriate fertiliser application supports active growth. By monitoring these aspects closely, we can help our plants thrive during periods of reduced rainfall and prevent any decline in their condition.

Plants such as Native Dendrobiums need to be kept on the drier side with no fertilizer being applied until new growth is evident in early Spring. A light misting is all that is required for these plants.

Personal Perspective on Fertilizing Practices

Fertilising orchids is a subject I am passionate about, and I understand that some growers may see this as a recurring theme in my advice. I firmly believe in the importance of considering how and when fertiliser is applied, based on the plant's needs and the nature of orchid roots. My experience has shown that the right approach to fertilising can make a significant difference to the health and growth of your orchids.

There is a contentious issue regarding when to apply fertilizer. Some say after watering; others say to apply the fertilizer dry. I fall into the latter category and there is a very good reason for this - orchid roots are like a sponge and will absorb 85% capacity after fifteen seconds. Nutrients cannot be taken up by the roots if the holding capacity is full. The fertilizer is wasted. It is far better to fertilize at say half to a quarter strength at every watering rather than to flood a pot with full strength which will lead to a build-up of salts in the pot. Once a month, I flush out the pot with a fifteen-minute watering without any fertilizer.

Heat-Activated, Slow-Release Fertilizer versus Soluble Granules

Some of you may think that this is a pet topic of mine and yes, I agree with you. I have a very good but simple reason for this. Experiments by me, along with the loss of many plants, has resulted in caring about TOS members use of the heat activated fertilizers.

1. Most heat activated grains (Editor note: also called prills) are covered with a polymer coating or similar which allows for the gradual release of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus into the surrounding substrate ideally at 25 degrees.
2. When temperatures within the orchid pot rise significantly above optimal levels, the increased heat accelerates the release of chemicals present in the grains, which may ultimately lead to root burn, resulting in either loss of the plant or setback in its growth.
3. And last of all, you have no control over how and when your plants receive nutrients.

Soluble Granules, however, release the fertilizer only when you water the plant or if you have an orchid house with open roof any time it rains.

Osmocote Application Guidelines

At the last meeting, members received information outlining the recommended method for using Osmocote. According to the directions provided, the suggested application rate is half a gram for each litre of soil. This guideline aims to ensure optimal fertilisation without risking nutrient overload.

My question is: how many of us just dump an uncalculated amount onto the top of the pot and not blend the grains throughout the mix? This action then becomes the root cause of lack of control of the application rate. I also note that the empty outside coatings remain giving the impression that there is still fertilizer available, whereas soluble granules dissolve, giving no false indication that fertilizer is available to the plant.

The information provided is based on more than 30 years of dedicated experience in orchid cultivation. While you are welcome to use or disregard these insights, it is advisable to consider applying them to a small segment of your collection to evaluate their effectiveness.

Reg Dix

Technical Officer

PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE MONTH OF April 2026

Bold Type indicates a correction using Orchidwiz.

Section			TOS No.
OPEN			
LAELIINAE 110mm and over A1	1st 2nd 3rd	Blc Burdekin Snowdrift 'Angela' Rlc Dal's Monarch 'Southern Cross' Rlc Topaz Summit 'Splendour'	B Fighera B Fighera G&L Johnson
LAELIINAE 75mm to 109 mm A2	1st 2nd 3rd	C. Jungle Queen 'Glenlee' Rth Dal's Elite Rlc Nell Hammer	G&S Kelly G&S Kelly T Kapcelovich
LAELIINAE Miniature under 75mm A3	1st 2nd 3rd	C Unknown C Elusive Dream 'Ruby Lips' C Elusive Dream 'Rudak'	B&J Richardson G&S Kelly G&S Kelly
LAELIINAE Cluster A4	1st 2nd 3rd	Slc Highland Bauble Ctt Merinda Lust Bsn Maikai 'Mayumi'	B Fighera G&S Kelly L McCulloch
DENDROBIUM Any other Hybrid B5	1st 2nd	Den Emerald Spread Den Little Green Apples	G&L Johnson G&L Johnson

VANDA 40mm to 65mm C2	1st 2nd 3rd	V Gordon Dillon 'Black' V Bicentennial V (Fuch's Harvest Moon x V Jukkich Gold) x V Suksamran Spots	N&M Grant B&J Richardson N&M Grant
VANDA Under 40mm C3	1st 2nd 3rd	V Ispbell's Burnished Gold V Twinkle Van Thai Frost	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
PHALAENOPSIS 35mm to 64mm D2	1st 2nd	Phal Caribbean Dream Phal Younghome 05128	B Fighera B Fighera
ONCIDIUM Full Shape E1	1st 2nd	Wilhelmara Pinot Princess 'Nite Haulage' Onc Tsiku Marguerite 'HOF'	B&J Richardson B&J Richardson
ANY OTHER HYBRID G5	1st 2nd 3rd	Bulb Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' Zygo. Cynosure 'Blue Bird' Cym Pakkret Tiara 'Alpha'	A&J Knowles G&L Johnson P Slatter
NOVICE ANY OTHER E8	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Bulb lasiochilum</i> <i>Bulb appendiculatum</i> Phal Toccata	L&G Doble L&G Doble K Kybus
EXOTIC SPECIES			
LAELIINAE I1	1st 2nd	<i>Prosthecea cochleate</i> <i>C nobilior var coerulea</i>	B&J Richardson N&M Grant
DENDROBIUM I2	1st 2nd	<i>Den antennatum</i> <i>Den formosum</i>	G&L Johnson B Fighera
VANDA I3	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>V luzonica</i> <i>V falcata</i> <i>V falcata</i>	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
PHALAENOPSIS I4	1st 2nd	<i>Phal pulcherrima</i>	N&M Grant
PAPHIOPEDILUM/ PHRAGMIPEDIUM I6	1st 2nd	<i>Paph spicerianum</i> <i>Paph spicerianum</i>	G&L Johnson G&L Johnson
BULBOPHYLLUM I7	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Bulb rothschildianum</i> <i>Bulb aureum</i> <i>Bulb medusae</i>	L McCulloch G&L Johnson A&J Knowles
ANY OTHER I8	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Acriopsis liliifolia</i> <i>Dendrochilum wenzellii</i> <i>Coel fimbriata</i>	G&L Johnson B&J Richardson G&L Johnson

Points Tables after April 2026

Name	Open	Species	Novice	Aggregate
Blanchard D	8			8
L Craill & J Dow			3	3
Della F&J	5			5
Doble L&G			5	5
B Fighera	19	2		21
Gibson C	3			3

Grant N&M	60	45		105
Horn J	2			2
Johnson L&G	40	25		65
T&J Kapcelovich	3			3
Kelly G&S	38			38
Kybus K		2	9	11
Knowles A&J	3	4		7
McCulloch/Weaver	9	3		12
Owens K	13	2		15
B&J Richardson	23	8		31
Serra P&J	8	1		9
Scott R	5			5
Slatter P	12			12
Woods S			10	10

Please note that the Points Tables for January and February 2026 have been corrected, reflected in the above results. There was considerable confusion in the above months as to the correct allocation of points and incorrect points were initially allocated.

Minutes from the General Meeting held Sunday 26th April 2026

Meeting opened at 1. 03pm by President Troy McGill who welcomed visitors.

Present: 53 as per registration book.

Visitors: Les Keane, Irene Keane, Gavyn Williams, Amelia Tomacchio, Tricia Brand, Les Brand, Darcy Vella, Elizabeth Cameron.

Apologies: Denise Lincoln, Lyn Mutch, Bill Howell, Lynne Ryan, Diana Bird, Kevin Owens, Alison Knowles, Brian Richardson.

President's Report: Troy McGill: President Troy reported that the Autumn Show went well and thanked all those who helped out at the Show. He thanked Carolyn for sewing up the cloths that went over the polystyrene boxes. It helped the show look so much better. We had many positive comments from visitors. At the Show we did a quick survey of how people knew about the show and what advertising works. Facebook came out on top as the most popular so we are considering bumping up our Facebook boost. 4TT and then the newspaper were the next most heard/viewed.

The Committee has agreed to increase the number of awards at the end of the year. Thank you to Barry O'Neill who has made up 4 new plaques – one for Club Member of the Year, and one for each of the Show Grand Champions – Autumn, Winter and Spring. These will be hung on our walls and each year a small, engraved plaque will be added to it. Club Member of the Year will be for someone in the club, other than a committee member, who has contributed positively throughout the year.

Secretary Report – Jan Allen

Minutes: The minutes from the March 2026 meeting were published in the April Bulletin.

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

Moved: Jan Allen

Seconded: Kerry Turner

Carried

Correspondence: *Inward correspondence* included copies of emails sent to media outlets and Councillors about the Autumn Show, a request for sponsorship for Townsville Show, some comments on People's Choice and various quotes for maintenance work in the Club House.

Outward correspondence consisted of responses to emails received, reminders about Box Day/Show/rosters and mail forwarded to relevant Committee members.

A comprehensive, detailed copy of Correspondence is on the noticeboard.

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

Moved: Jan Allen

Seconded: Peter Serra

Carried

Treasurer's Report: Leann O'Neill

A comprehensive report is available for perusal on the noticeboard.

Incoming – Most from the Show, Hall Rental from the Church, Karate and Tokelau Island group.

Outgoing – Bills mainly for the Show. 4TTT and Newspaper advertising.

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

Moved: Leann O'Neill

Seconded: Carolyn Gibson

Carried

Show report: Information about the show takings is on a separate sheet on the noticeboard.

Vice President Reports:

Shows and Building- Tony Kapcelovich.

- Went fairly well. Had approximately 750 people through the door. Some good comments. Did as well as any past Show.
- Insurance for the Hall – going on for a couple of months
- Solar panels to be cleaned.
- Tables available out the back \$30 each. See Tony
- Pest control to be done in the next couple of weeks.

Hospitality- Samantha McGill

- Thanks to everybody for their donations to the Show. Plates need to be picked up.

General Business:

- Troy explained how we were going to do People's Choice today.
- Thank you to the vendors who attended the show. Without them we would not do as well. With the barcodes, our register scans them and at the end of the Show you get an email with a breakdown of how much you have sold each day. All have been paid with an outline of your sales and income. Thank you Leann.
- Bunnings Garden Centre on Friday June 5th if anyone would like to come along and help. Doing usual potting demonstrations.
- 'Ask an Expert'- members only. Encouraging novices and new members to come along. We will be having potting demonstrations and a sausage sizzle. 16th May from 10am – 2pm. Bring along plants you may be worried about – maybe more experienced growers will be able to make a suggestion.
- Need people to help out at the Eco-Fiesta to talk to the public about orchids and what we do at the club. That is on Sunday 7th June from 9am – 3pm at Anderson Park. Setting up the day before. More details to come.
- Medieval Festival and Bluewater Fair are in August. Times to be confirmed.
- Ken Booth, one of our newer members has donated about 20-25 plants to the club. We have put about 8 of them on the raffle table and we put some more on next month.
- Greg Kelly wished to warn people to take care when using insect sprays on their plants. Contrary to what he said at his last presentation, he used a new product to spray his plant and lost the flower spike. Make sure you test your plants beforehand if using something different.

People's Choice -members or guests may vote.

Judges Choice: Reg Dix

Hybrid: Prra Marilyn Broeman, Member 116 G&S Kelly 79 points

Species: *Acriopsis liliifolia*, Member 240 G&L Johnson 77 points

Best Specimen: *Den antennatum*, Member 240 G&L Johnson (No points shown)

Novice: *Bulb lasiochilum*, Member 369 L&G Doble (no points shown)

Presentation: Tony Kapcelovich

Tony gave an informative presentation on viruses. From his research, he found that they are mainly in old plants and they are transmitted between plants when people do not sterilise their secateurs. The sap from the infected plant is transferred to the next plant.

It doesn't appear that they are transferred between plants from chewing insects.

Tony explained how he discovered that he had viruses in his plants and consequently what he has done since.

He showed pictures of his own plants and pointed out how the virus could be identified.

People's Choice winners

Open Growers –

Hybrid #1 - *Cattleya* Unknown, Member 131 J&B Richardson

Hybrid #2 – Van. Thai Frost, Member 213 N&M Grant

Novice - Phal *Toccatata*, Member No 368 Kirsten Kybus

Species – *Paph spicerianum*. Member 240 G&L Johnson

Afternoon tea was served.

Raffle

Meeting closed at 3.30 pm

T McGill - President

Jan Allen – Secretary

Rhyncostylis coelestis – now Vanda coelestis

Owners and admirers of *Rhyncostylis coelestis* will be interested to know that it has now been recognised as ***Vanda coelestis*** by Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Please see:

[Vanda coelestis \(Rchb.f.\) Motes | Plants of the World Online | Kew Science](#)

<https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77299035-1#higher-classification>

This means that, in addition to changing the label on your *Rhy. coelestis* plants to Vanda, you will have to change the labels on all of your Vandachostylis (Van.) orchids, which are hybrids between *Rhynchostylis coelestis* and various Vandas, to Vanda. Please note that Vandachostylis remains a valid generic name for hybrids between Vandas and *Rhynchostylis gigantea* or *Rhynchostylis retusa*, whose names have not changed.

Other orchid hybrids whose names are affected include Perreiraara, a hybrid between Aerides, Rhynchostylis and Vanda, which are now Aeridovanda (Aerdv.).

[The International Orchid Register / RHS Gardening](#), run by the Royal Horticultural Society, has already changed the names of all hybrids with *Rhy. coelestis* in their ancestry. As an example, please see the RHS entry for Vanda Pine Rivers (previously Vandachostylis Pine Rivers), a popular hybrid:

[The International Orchid Register / RHS Gardening](#)

<https://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchiddetails.asp?ID=85469>

The new name was first published in ‘The Natural Genus Vanda’ A Monograph by Martin R Motes in 2021.

Thanks to Peter Lucke of Sunnyview Orchids <http://www.sunnyvieworchids.com.au/> for this news.

Noel Grant April 2026



Vanda coelestis

Etymology: Latin *caelum*, the heavens, the sky, hence blue.