

TOWNSVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



July 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 26th July.
The July General Meeting will be held from 1pm Sunday 27th July,**

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 July 2026:

Novice/Species

Reg, Peter

Open

Marie, Lisa, Stacey

President's Thoughts

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

Hello everyone. The Winter Show was a great success. First, I must congratulate the winners. Grand Champion with a spectacular Paphiopedilum La Retroite from L & G Johnson. Well done, Lyn. Champion Novice Dendrobium Airy Lee from D Beasley, Champion Specimen Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite Chian-Tzy x Chiou Ping Glory from D & E Penningh.

Continuing with the show - I have to thank everyone who helped set up on Thursday, the people who helped with the layout of the hall, placing orchids in the correct position and fixing minor things, so thanks Marie and Lisa. Thank you to the judges and scribes - without your help, things would be more difficult. I also have to thank Tony for his hard work, Leanne and Lyn Johnson working behind the scene, doing all the treasury work. We are always looking for people to assist, so if you're unsure, please come forward and ask any question you might have.

There were plenty of flowers in the show, which means as growers we are doing something right, give yourself a pat on the back. A big thanks to all the vendors, without your support the club wouldn't be financially viable. But along with that there were plenty of visitors, making a lot of purchases.

While the Show was on, there was also a TQOC meeting, with most orchid clubs in the region in attendance in Townsville or in Mackay. Due to the majority of clubs choosing not to support the TQOC in the future it looks like the TQOC will have to look into how to legally close as an identity. There will be more information from the President of the TQOC in the near future.

I was informed that Orchid Wiz has been sold to the International Orchid Foundation. For all the members who are unaware of Orchid Wiz, it is a comprehensive orchid digital database and encyclopedia. It can easily be found with a simple web page search "orchidwiz.org". it will cost individual users \$9.99 US per month or \$99 US per year. It can now be used on your phone, tablet or computer.

Again, I have to remind members that the AGM is fast approaching, so if you have some free time and wish to help with the running of the Society, come and talk to Jan or myself, we have nomination forms. If you are not

sure what you do as a member of the committee, please come and ask someone on the committee. It's your opportunity to offer suggestion and improve the club.

As you can see, Ruth is doing her best to find stock for the shop. If you require a Club Shirt, please see Ruth and put in an order, if there anything you would like to see the shop order -again, please see Ruth or myself and we will take it to the committee.

Thanks, Troy

Minutes from the Management Committee Meeting held Saturday 27th June 2026.

Meeting opened: at 1.00pm by President Troy McGill

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

Apologies: Joseph Walker, Janelle Stevens.

President report: Acknowledge the passing of Apologies- William "Bill" John Howell, Bill passed away on Tuesday morning with family in attendance. His farewell will be Wednesday 1st July at Morleys. Members have been invited to attend Bill's funeral, dressed in their Society shirts.

We have been approached by a lady from Friends of the Botanics to assist at the Townsville City Council Conservatory as they have had a considerable number of orchids donated and need some help to care for them. We have been asked to talk to members of the garden staff from the council about orchids and give a demonstration on potting and other orchid care. We will discuss this in business.

Secretary: Jan Allen

Minutes: A copy of the minutes was posted in the June Bulletin.

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

M: Jan Allen

S: Tony Kapcelovich

Carried

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence In: Winter Show poster; EDOS Inc Newsletter; Townsville Solar Clean and Bird Proofing Pty Ltd booking confirmed; 4TTTT Invoice; Insurance – Claim details; TDOS May Newsletter; Photos from Ask an Expert; Eco-fiesta exhibitor information pack; Cleaner re overdue payment; Fernland delivery; Fernland reminder; TDOS Newsletter; AOS Corner; C-mobile Account; Receipt from Newscorp; NED survey; Learning Nest Information Pack Eco-fiesta; JJ Maher Pest Management Invoice; Townville Solar Clean – Invoice; Rentokil job completed; Apology – Eco-fiesta; Apology – Bunnings; Fernland receipt; Glenn Reece Electrical Invoice; AOS -membership and orchidgram; TQOC request; Solar review request; AOC Quarterly Newsletter; TQOC AGM and General Meeting; Hot Toner; Cash Register Warehouse Invoice; Insurance Information; Project Plants query; Champions Assessment form; HROAPS June Newsletter; Invitations for Show x 18; Response - Legacy Laurel Club; CDIOS June newsletter; TTT Invoice – Show; Rentokil Invoice; Ergon Invoice; Feedback on Eco-fiesta; MDOS Newsletter; Invoice for Townsville Community broadcasting Winter Show Advertising; Cash Register Warehouse invoice; C-mobile cancellation of one phone service; Orchid Deal Wire; Insurance Renewal -NQIB; Insurance Renewal NQIB – second; Volunteering for the Friends of the Botanics x 3; Volunteer Form; Whites Corner Store – quote – Christmas Party; Tokelau group – request for Treasurer to pay us; TDOS Newsletter; Agenda Items request AOC AGM; Enquiry – Hire of hall – Bonsai Assoc; TOS Bulletin; EDOS June Newsletter; Ergon Invoice; John Rutledge apology – meeting; Follow-up Insurance; Ausnorth; Inspection of roof and damage done; Certificate of Currency request; Committee agenda; OQI Affiliation fee.

Correspondence Out: Response - Legacy Laurel Club; Committee notes; Welcome Letters x 2; Reminder – Invoice for use of hall; Insurance Claim request; Apology to Cleaner re payment; Bunnings and eco-fiesta detail; Cancellation of phone service; Townsville Orchid Society Bulletin; Request for Insurance Renewal – NQIB; Request for Insurance renewal – RHSV; Various newsletters from other clubs.

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

M: Jan Allen

S: Ruth Whiting

Carried

Business arising: To be covered in General Business

Treasurer: Leann O'Neill

Major income came from the May meeting raffles and shop purchases.

Major expense this month has been restocking the shop and ticket books for the shows.

Insurance is due at the end of the month – three different policies.

Reimbursements for Sam (sausage sizzle), Tony (aluminium), 4TTT membership renewal.

Two people need to go to the bank to give instructions regarding term deposit.

Funds available to TOS as at 26/06/26:

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: Leann O'Neill

S: Lyn Johnson

Carried

Vice President Reports:**Building – Tony**

- Builders have been in to photograph the walls and need to do a quote and Work description.
- Ruth has repaired the banners we use in the show.
- Bonsai wanting to hire the hall for the day – in October. Set up Friday night – Show Saturday \$300.
- Ray has plugged up all the holes and painted over them.
- Fridge had been turned off when Tony and Troy came in.
- Need to sort out a different way of getting the cleaning lady paid. Tony to talk to her.

Show – Tony

- Sam to look after prices for the kitchen.

Hospitality – Samantha

- Quote from Whites works out at \$55 per person per meal. The Society covers the additional cost which is for Sunday staff, crockery and cleaning up. Decision made to put the price up to \$30 per person this year. Non- members will not be subsidized - \$55.

Motion: For the Christmas lunch in November 2026, I propose that we charge \$30 per member and \$55 for non-members.

M: Samanth McGill

S: Leann O'Neill

Carried

Shop report – Ruth

- Has prices from Orchid Den – squat pots, vanda baskets.

Publicity – Troy on behalf of Joseph

- Joseph has sent many emails to Councillors, public representative and media outlets.
- Needs to be reimbursed for advertising when he comes back from New Zealand.

General Business –

- **Insurance cover** – Jan rang Insurance companies as no bills had arrived. Council has asked for the Certificate of Liability so need to get it by 30th June.
- **TQOC meeting** coming up on the Saturday of the Show. Troy asked Jeff Knowles to explain to the Committee what the purpose of TQOC is. Is it of any significance anymore and do we have anyone who would be prepared to join the committee? What is the benefit to us?
- **Bunnings** – Thank you all who helped, there looks to be two more invites coming from North Shore and Fairfield Waters
- **Winter Show** – 2nd to 5th July.
Assistance for Thursday and Thursday night judging
Volunteers for Door, Security, Plant Sale, Kitchen, Cashier, Cloak Room.
Kitchen Food
- **AGM** – Can all members have a think about their positions for next year. Do you wish to step into another position, do you wish to remain on the committee, do you know of anyone who would be a good member that we can approach.
- **PPS open Day** - 22 Aug 8 – 1pm, Late committee meeting 2pm
- **Field Day** – October – Look at available Greenhouses, set up 10th, Field Day 11th.
- **Ask an Expert** – should we have another one this year?

New Members – Danny Vella – Number 392 - Novice

Meeting Closed: 2.50pm

Troy McGill – President

Jan Allen - Secretary

PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2026

Bold Type indicates a correction using Orchidwiz.

Section			TOS No.
<u>OPEN</u>			
LAELIINAE 110mm and over A1	1st 2nd 3rd	Rlc Pink Empress Rlc Blanche Asako 'Yuki' Rlc Yin Luck Smile 'Red Line'	G&L Johnson ? P Slatter
LAELIINAE 75mm to 109 mm A2	1st 2nd 3rd	Rlc Naomi's Delight Slc Tokyo Life <i>C. loddigesii</i>	? G&L Johnson ?
LAELIINAE Miniature under 75mm A3	1st 2nd 3rd	Pcv Golden Peacock C Good-bye My Love Ttna Dark Prince	N&M Grant G&S Kelly N&M Grant
LAELIINAE Any other Hybrid A5	1st 2nd 3rd	Gvl Pingtung Wang's Knight Epc Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower' Ctna Dal's Toy 'Bob'	G&L Johnson G&L Johnson G&S Kelly
DENDROBIUM Any other Hybrid B5	1st 2nd 3rd	Den Baby Hibiki Den Fraser's Elite Dragon Den Roongkamol Vejvarut	G&L Johnson G&S Kelly G&L Johnson
PAPHIOPEDILUM Multi Floral F1	1st 2nd 3rd	Paph Mayfair Paph Mayfair	G&L Johnson D Blanchard
ANY OTHER HYBRID G5	1st 2nd 3rd	Zygo Jumping Jack Phal Tying Shin Beagle	D Blanchard G&L Johnson
VANDA Over 65mm C1	1st 2nd 3rd	V Boonyarit Red 'Bright Red' V Kulwadee Fragrance 'Black #27' V Golamco's Blue Magic	G&L Johnson N&M Grant N&M Grant
VANDA 40mm to 65mm C2	1st 2nd 3rd	V Bankhunting Gold x <i>V miniata</i> V Pine Rivers 'Chao Praya Fuchsia' V Gabrielle's Delight	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
VANDA Under 40mm C1	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Rhy gigantea</i> 'Purple' V Twinkle V Tropic Snow 'Purity'	D Blanchard N&M Grant N&M Grant
TOLUMNIA E3	1st 2nd 3rd	Zlm Liz Tolu Capalaba Sun x Capalaba Queen Tolu Capalaba Sun x Capalaba Queen	G&S Kelly G&S Kelly G&S Kelly
<u>NOVICE</u>			
LAELIINAE E1	1st 2nd 3rd	Rth Chief Sunkiss Rlc Shin Shiang Diamond Rlc Unknown	S Wood S Wood S Wood
DENDROBIUM E2	1st	Den Airy Lee	D Beasley
VANDA E3	1st	V Ethel Goldberg	G&L Doble
<u>SPECIES</u>		<u>AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES</u>	
DENDROBIUM H1	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Den lichenastrum var prenticei</i> <i>Den dicuphum</i> <i>Den dicuphum</i>	N&M Grant N&M Grant N&M Grant
		<u>EXOTIC SPECIES</u>	
LAELIINAE I1	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>C walkeriana var alba</i> <i>Laelia rubescens</i> <i>Epi imantophyllum</i>	N&M Grant G&L Johnson N&M Grant

DENDROBIUM I2	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Den mimiense</i> <i>Den antennatum</i>	P Slatter G&L Johnson
VANDA I3	1st	<i>V falcata</i> 'Magenta Princess' x 'Malificent'	N&M Grant
PAPHIOPEDILUM/ PHRAGMIPEDIUM I6	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Paph spicerianum</i> <i>Paph primulinum</i> var <i>purpurescens</i>	G&L Johnson G&L Johnson
ANY OTHER I8	1st 2nd 3rd	<i>Diplocaulobium kirchianum</i> <i>Ang eburneum</i> <i>Onc lanceanum</i>	N&M Grant P Slatter G&L Doble

Points Tables after June 2026

Number	Name	Open	Species	Novice	Aggregate
183	Allen J	1			1
280	Barlow H	12			12
356	Beasley D			3	3
221	Blanchard D	16			16
337	L Craill & J Dow			3	3
268	Della F&J	5			5
369	Doble L&G		1	10	11
190	B Fighera	19	2		21
226	Gibson C	3			3
213	Grant N&M	109	67		177
143	Horn J	2			2
240	Johnson L&G	104	45		149
223	T&J Kapcelovich	4			4
116	Kelly G&S	69			69
368	Kybus K		2	12	14
73	Liang E	1			1
367	Ludvigsen L		1		1
193	Knowles A&J	3	4		7
322	McCulloch/Weaver	9	5		14
63	Owens K	22	3		25
131	B&J Richardson	28	12		40
233	Serra P&J	8	6		14
168	Scott R	5			5
378	Slatter P	18	5		23
121	Woods S			16	16

Calcium Nitrate Fertilizer: Ca (NO₃)₂

1. **Calcium (Ca):** Supports cell wall strength, root growth, and overall plant health. It can also help reduce problems such as bud drop.
2. **Nitrogen (N):** An essential part of amino acids, proteins, and chlorophyll, nitrogen encourages leafy growth and supports photosynthesis.

Benefits of Calcium Nitrate Fertilizer

1. **Improves Plant Structure:** Calcium helps strengthen cell walls, producing sturdier plants that are better able to resist pests and disease.
2. **Enhances Root Development:** Calcium supports root extension and root health, improving the plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients.
3. **Prevents Nutrient Deficiencies:** Provides readily available calcium and nitrogen to help prevent deficiencies that may cause weak growth and reduced flowering.
4. **Boosts Leafy Growth:** Nitrogen encourages strong, vigorous leaf development.

Club Shop. Holds small parcels of Calcium Nitrate. Dissolved 1(one) Gram per litre to your fertilizer applicator. Do not mix with other fertilizers as you will increase nutrient levels whereby you are over feeding your plants.

Magnesium Sulphate MgSO₄ / (Epsom Salts Hydrated Form) MgSO₄- 7H₂O

Magnesium sulphate supplies two essential nutrients: magnesium and sulphur. Magnesium sits at the centre of chlorophyll, while sulphur helps form key proteins and plant compounds. In the root zone, it helps plants maintain productive leaves, steady energy flow, and healthy new growth, so improvements often show first in leaf colour, posture, and overall vigour.

Unlike many magnesium sources, magnesium sulphate adds magnesium without extra calcium or nitrogen and has little effect on the root zone when used sensibly. That makes it useful when plants need magnesium and sulphur without unwanted shifts in growth or nutrient balance. Magnesium does more than keep leaves green. It helps move energy and sugars from leaves to roots, shoots, and flowers, supporting steady growth and helping older leaves stay productive longer.

Sulphur also plays an important role. It helps build amino acids and proteins and supports natural defence and aroma compounds. When sulphur is adequate, plants usually show stronger structure and more consistent new growth, especially during flowering set.

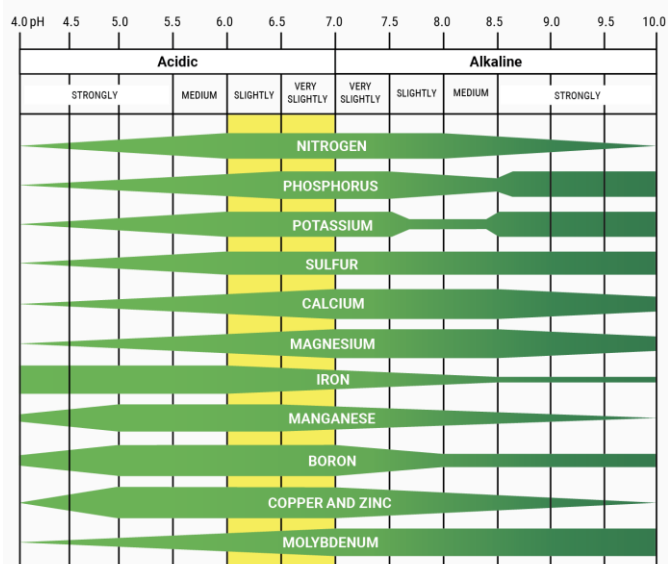
Magnesium sulphate is best used to correct magnesium shortages, support high-demand growth, and keep older leaves functioning during intense feeding or the shift into flowering. It supplies magnesium in a form the plant can absorb without driving extra leafy growth like nitrogen-based sources can.

Dolomite (CaMg(CO₃)₂).

Properties: Dolomite provides calcium and magnesium, making it an effective source of both essential nutrients. It also helps support nutrient availability and uptake.

Available in granules for easy distribution over the top of your potting mix.

Source <https://miriwinnilime.com.au/>



This table shows that most plants absorb nutrients best at a pH of 6.0 to 7.0. Most orchids, however, respond better to a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. As shown, iron and manganese are taken up more readily at the lower end of the scale.

Iron Chelate Fe2O3 (Iron Oxide)

Orchids treated with this compound may display more vivid flower colour, and the acidity of the potting mix can also increase as a result.

Preparation and Application

Powder form

Mix 30 grams of iron chelate with 750 mL of water. A brown wine bottle is best suited for storage. Use 1 mL of this solution for every litre of water. Spray the diluted mixture onto the foliage and roots of your plants.

Liquid Form

Add one (1) ML. Per litre of water apply spray to the plant as above

Remember to apply the spray to the underside of the plant leaves. Stomata will readily take up the chemical.

The importance of PH.



A couple recently bought a newly built home. As keen gardeners, they noticed a permanently shaded strip beside a concrete footpath.

They chose to plant blue hydrangeas and went to Bunnings to buy twenty plants. After planting them in the shaded area, they were pleased with the result, as the flowers blended beautifully with their home's décor.

Living in Townsville, they soon faced the wet season. Rain leached hydrated lime from the concrete into the soil beside the path, raising the soil Ph. Within weeks, the hydrangeas' vivid blue flowers had faded to a dull pink. Drawing on their gardening experience, they applied iron chelate to the garden bed, and over time the flowers returned to their rich blue colour.

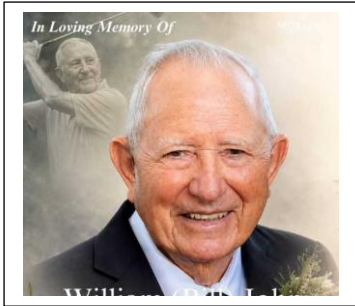
Interestingly, a high pH can also cause orchid flowers to lose their colour.

Good growing,

Reg Dix, 0427609509

In memory of William (Bill) Howell,

Honorary member – Townsville Orchid Society Inc.



Sadly, on the 23rd June 2026, we lost a dedicated member of the Townsville Orchid Society Inc.

Bill regularly attended our monthly meetings and any other event he could get to. He was extremely proud of his work on the beautification of the Rowes Bay Golf Club where he attached orchids to the trees there over 25 years. Several years ago, he proudly took a group of TOS members around the course, naming the numerous flowering plants along the way.

Members attended Bill's funeral and formed a guard of honour outside the chapel.

The Townsville Orchid Society Winter Show special draw prize winner was Ros Thygesen. The prize included a handmade folding table/seat, crafted by one of our members, Barry O'Neill, plus a beautiful Vanda.

Ros is the daughter of Bill Howell – her father was certainly looking down on her.

Photo of Ros and Barry O'Neill (craftsman).



Minutes from the General Meeting held Sunday 28th June 2026

Meeting opened at 1. 00pm by President Troy McGill who welcomed visitors and asked if our new member, Danny Vella was present.

Present: 57 as per registration book.

Visitors: Leslie and Irene Keane.

Apologies: Joseph Walker, Janelle Stevens, Carolyn Gibson, Ron Scott, Andrew Young, John Rutledge, Kerry Turner, Kathy Skinner, Jan Richardson, Peter Serra, Barry O'Neill, Kevin Owens, Alison Knowles, Ray Layton, Clara Sewell.

Acknowledge the passing of William "Bill" John Howell. Bill passed away on Tuesday morning with family in attendance. His farewell will be Wednesday 1st July at Morley's. Members were invited to stand for a one-minute silence. They were also invited to attend Bill's funeral, dressed in their Society shirts.

Secretary Report – Jan Allen

Minutes: The minutes from the May 2026 meeting were published in the June Bulletin.

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

Moved: Jan Allen **Seconded:** Kirsten Kybus **Carried**

Correspondence: *Inward correspondence* included information about the Eco-fiesta, invoices for insurances due, invoices for pest control, electricity, solar clean, quote from Whites Corner's store.

Outward correspondence consisted of responses to Bluewater, Eco-fiesta and PPS re events; Ask an Expert; revised April Bulletin; Invoice to Tokelau and mail forwarded to Committee members.

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

Moved: Jan Allen **Seconded:** Kirsten Kybus **Carried**

Treasurer's Report: Leann O'Neill

A comprehensive report is available for perusal on the noticeboard.

Major income came from the May meeting raffles and shop purchases.

Major expense this month has been restocking the shop and ticket books for the shows.

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

Moved: Leann O'Neill **Seconded:** Terry Ruxton **Carried**

Vice President Reports:

Shows and Building- Tony Kapcelovich.

- Made another 3 frames for the show.
- Builders have been to make the assessment for insurance.
- Show signs beside the door to be taken.
- Thank you to those who came to help at 'Box Day'

Hospitality- Samantha McGill

- Rosters going around for the Winter Show.
- Quote back from Whites. Meal will cost approximately \$55 per head so we are going to charge \$30 per member and \$55 for non-members. We will still put \$1000 worth of plants on the raffle table and cover the cost of the staff, crockery and cutlery.

Shop – Ruth

- Looking for more stock for the shop. We have acquired 6 bags of Brunnings Orchid Mix, which consists of most of the media used for potting orchids. Trial that. Looking at Garden City and Orchid Den to purchase pots.

General Business:

- **Shop** - difficulty getting orchid pots from Fernland. Trying Hydroponics NQ and Alice to see if they have suppliers with those products. Some fertilisers aren't being produced anymore, either.
- **Winter Show** coming up. Please request barcodes if you are selling at the Show. Club table – also need barcodes.
- If you change your address or email, please let us know.
- **Townsville City Council** – Troy and Jan went to the Conservatory at Anderson Park where a collection of orchids has been donated. We have been asked to help – advice and potting. If you have free time and you want to help the Council look after these plants, let Jan or Troy know and we will send you a form to fill in.

- **TQOC** – group of orchid growers – a level above us. Main job has been to liaise with clubs. Having their AGM on Saturday. If we want the TQOC to continue to exist, we need people to offer to be on the committee.
- If the TQOC folds, we need to consider what happens to the trophies that are in the cabinet in the back room?
- **AGM- October** - nomination forms will be available today. October is the AGM. Changes on Committee. Looking for a new President and Secretary as Troy and Jan must step down. We must fill these positions otherwise we will fold as a club.
- **Bunnings** at North Shore and Fairfield Waters have invited us to have a day at their stores and do potting demonstrations. They are yet to come back to us with dates.
- **Medieval Festival** – still haven't heard from them.
- **Bluewater Gardening Fair** – we are still going ahead with having a stand there, where we will do potting demonstrations and promote the Society. The new location for this year's event is the Bluewater State School, with entry via Ditton Street. 15th August 2026 8.30 – 2.30pm.
- **PPS** is also in August.

Troy invited members and visitors to vote for the People's Choice. Four categories to choose from: Novice, Species -Australian Natives. Hybrid 1- Paphiopedilum, Hybrid 2 – large Cattleya.

Technical Officer – Reg Dix

Reg has come across a new product from Bunnings that he would recommend – Yates Organic Garden Pest Killer. It is an organic pest killer (plant derivative)– apparently non-toxic. Recommends that you use gloves anyway. It will kill insects as well as mites. Reg would not recommend anything he hasn't tried.

Presentation – Reg Dix - NPK and Other Macro Elements

Reg has provided a written explanation of his talk, which will go in the Newsletter this month. I am including a few notes from his presentation that are of further interest and not included in his handout. Reg had samples of the orchid fertilisers and supplements that he uses on his orchids. He recommends that you do not feed your plants the same food every week. Vary it.

Orchid Roots – Everything we do depends on orchid roots. In orchids, the outer layer of the root is called the velamen. Its function is completely different to the roots of other plants which draw moisture out of the soil. The velamen acts as a sponge and it absorbs water straight away and within 15 seconds, the sponge (the Velamen) has taken up 85% of its capacity to hold water. So, if you go in and water your orchid then come along and fertilise it, nothing is going to happen as the velamen is already full. He showed an example of the growth tip of the root.

Judges Choice: Reg Dix –

Unfortunately, I forgot to take a photo of this information, so I will try to put this month's results in next month's newsletter.

Afternoon tea was served

When members returned to their seats, Troy went through the winners of the People's Choice.

People's Choice: (Popular Vote)

Hybrid 1 (Paphiopedilum): Paph Mayfair - 221 – Deborah Blanchard

Hybrid 2 (Large Cattleya): Rlc Waite Spark Panda - 227 – Tony & Janice Kapcelovich

Species: *Dendrobium dicuphum* - 121 – Noel & Maureen Grant

Novice: Rlc Shin Shang Diamond - 213 – Stephen Woods

-

Raffle

Meeting closed at 3.30 pm

T McGill - President

Jan Allen – Secretary