

Nambour Orchid News

March 2017

Nambour Orchid Society

Business meeting is held on the 4th Saturday of each month at 12.45pm prior to the cultural meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Cultural meeting is held on the 4th Saturday of the month at the Nambour Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Ave., Nambour at 2pm.

All members and visitors are welcome. **Plants are to be tabled by 1.30pm for judging.**

The **Species appreciation group** get together is held monthly from February to November at member's homes. Contact the Secretary for details.

All **STOCQ** members are welcome. Bring your flowering species plants, a chair, a cup and a plate to share for afternoon tea.

**Supporters of
Cittamani
Hospice Service**



Judges Choice - February



Directory of Office Bearers

Patron	Rob Wright	
President	Gina McMonagle	07 5439 6353
Vice President	G Robertson	07 5442 1288
Secretary	Alison Parkes	07 5441 7201
Treasurer	Jean Harris	07 5445 3307
Editor	Richard Hand	07 5442 2879



Secretary news March

Our Yandina show held in the RSL Hall on the 4th March was a good day.

Thank you to all the members who gave their time so early in the morning to assist with all the jobs that need to be done at a show.

As usual the plant sales area was a very popular place to be and there were plenty of early birds to grab the best bargains.

Congratulations to all the winners. Results from the judges are below.

Champion Orchid for the day went to Judy Robbins for *Trt.* Ollie Palmer

Reserve Champion went to Bob & Joan Raabe for *Den.* Pauline

Cattleya 1 st 2 nd	Marty & Anita Vlekkert Gina McMonagle	<i>Ctt.</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' <i>C.</i> Caudebec Candy
Oncidium 1 st 2 nd	Judy Robbins Graham & Beryl Robertson	<i>Trt.</i> Ollie Palmer <i>Oncsa.</i> Possum Woolf
Vanda/Phal. 1 st 2 nd	Rod Aisthorpe Judy Robbins	<i>V.</i> Dhongchai Pusavat <i>Phal.</i> Kenneth Schubert x <i>Phal.</i> Tying Shin Blue Jay
Dendrobium 1 st	Charlie & Gina McMonagle	<i>Den.</i> Tangerine Triumph
Any Other Genera 1 st 2 nd	Judy Robbins Bob & Joan Raabe	<i>Zns.</i> Cynosure 'Blue Bird' <i>Gptm.</i> Giant x Z. Artur Elle
Paph./Phrag. 1 st 2 nd	Charlie & Gina McMonagle Graham & Beryl Robertson	<i>Paph.</i> Emerald <i>Paph.</i> Hiromi Iwasaki
Exotic Species 1 st 2 nd	Wayne & Jean Harris Wayne & Jean Harris	<i>Vanda merrillii</i> <i>Trichoglottis philippinenseis</i>
Aust. Native 1 st 2 nd	Bob & Joan Raabe Marty & Anita Vlekkert	<i>Den.</i> Pauline <i>Den.</i> Averils Gold
Novice 1 st	Patrick & Heather English	<i>Ctt.</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kadoma'

Bus Trip. Our planned bus trip will be held on Saturday 29th April. We will be leaving Nambour at 6.45am and returning at around 5pm. Final numbers and payment of \$20 for those attending and will be required by the March meeting. Morning tea will be provided as part of the cost, lunch is own cost or BYO.

A reminder for all winners of Judges Choice, cultural awards etc., at our meetings, please send a few lines on how you grow your plants, growing condition and anything relevant, to the Editor for inclusion in the Newsletter

FOR SALE

Epson Multimedia Projector EBS9. 2500 Lumens 1.35 digital zoom. Includes all fittings. Five years old, used approx.. 25hrs. Excellent condition. Price \$250

This space may be used by any Nambour Orchid Society member, free of charge, if you have any Orchid related items for sale. Please have your ad to the editor no later than 2 weeks prior to the meeting each month rhand39@gmail.com

A Selection of plants on display at our February meeting



V. Wacharin - Pat



Ctt. Netrasiri Fireball - John & Kaye



Phal..pulcherrima 'Chumpornensis'- Bert



V. Dhong Chai Pusavat - Rod & Jan



Rly. Swan's shy - Bob & Joan



C.Caudebec x Rlc. Waianae Leopard - Bob & Joan



C. bowringiana - Barbara

Judges Choice - February - Phalaenopsis *amboinensis*.



This plant of ours is quite a large grower and although sometimes referred to as a small sized epiphyte from my observation this is not always the case. It is found on the Island of Amboina (hence the origin of its name) and Papua New Guinea. As with other phalaenopsis species which have large soft lush leaves it needs to be well shaded and if the conditions are right it is an easy grower preferring warm to hot conditions. The inflorescences are branched and the flowers which last well are also quite fragrant.

The older flower spikes will often flower again in subsequent seasons so do not remove them . Many hybrids have been made using this species and it imparts rich colouring and a good variation of colours to its progeny. **Beryl & Graham**



Judges Choice - Novice - Zygonisia cynosure 'Blue Birds'
Colin



Glenda Rode-Bramanis receiving her prize for popular vote novice for 2016 growing year from President Gina. Glenda would like to pass on many thanks for the generous help given by the orchid society members.

Species

Our March species get together was held at Robertson's nursery. Thank you to Graham & Beryl for hosting a great afternoon.

Judges choice for the afternoon chosen by Charlie was Judy's *Psychopsis papilio*, cultural plant went to Col for his *Miltonia moreliana*.

The list of plants benched is below. Names as per Kew monocot list.

Bulbophyllum corolliferum, *Cattleya labiate*, *Cattleya sincorana*, *Cattleya violacea*, *Dendrobium convolutum*, *Dendrobium linguella*, *Miltonia moreliana* x 2, *Oberonia complanata*, *Paphiopedilum leucochilum*, *Paphiopedilum liemianum*, *Phalaenopsis bellina*, *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* x 3, *Phalaenopsis tetraspis*, *Phalaenopsis venosa*, *Pholidota imbricate*, *Prosthechea allamanii*, *Psychopsis papilio*, *Stelis argentata*, *Xylobium squalens*.

Psychopsis papilio

These occur from the West Indies, to Guyana, Brazil and Columbia. It's pseudobulbs are clustered, orbicular, bilaterally compressed, and brown in colour. They are up to 5 cm. high and have an oblong, leathery, and conspicuously mottled leaf up to 20cm. long. The erect inflorescence is up to 1 m. long. It bears a spectacular flower up to 10 cm. long, one at a time, from the apex of the inflorescence. Flowering occurs throughout the year. These plants are suited to slab culture but will grow in a pot with a free-draining mix. This mix must not be allowed to become acidic as it breaks down as these plants are intolerant of stale conditions at the roots.

Thanks to Botanica's Pocket Orchids for this information.

I grow my *Psychopsis papilio* in a mix of perlite and coco peat (12-1) with some added bark, charcoal and diatomite, usually repotted every 2 years. They have a small amount of High K slow release fertiliser twice a year, with foliar fertiliser once a week.

They grow on the eastern side of the shade house under 70 percent shadecloth, but this year I put up an extra layer of 50 percent on the roof. I put solar weave on the roof over winter, usually putting it on about Mother's Day, and taking it off around Father's Day. **Judy**



Miltonia spectabilis Var. Moreliana

In 2013 we acquired *Miltonia Moreliana* in a 50mm pot. The mix I used was coconut peat, coconut husk plus charcoal and perlite. We used to use GF9 and BM7 fertilizer in Toowoomba, but now using slow release fertilizer, seasol [seaweed] and worm water. **Col & Marilyn**



Xylobium squalens - Rod & Jan



Bulbophyllum corolliferum Wayne



Cattleya violacea - Judy

Calcium and Magnesium – The Other Macronutrients

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

My understanding of what is and what should be in the fertilizers we use for our orchids has evolved over time. First you learn that the three letters on fertilizer container represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium present in the fertilizer. Then you get treated to a missive on the nitrogen forms, the nitrate and ammoniacal nitrogen that are available to your plant and the urea nitrogen that is not easily used by your orchid. Then you learn about micronutrients, the trace amounts of iron, copper, boron and all the rest.

The current buzz is about the calcium and magnesium required for your plants to thrive. They may be present in your water supply in adequate amounts although you will only know this if you have your water tested or if you learn to recognize the signs of their deficiency. Calcium and magnesium are considered macronutrients along with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. If you remember your high school chemistry, calcium and magnesium are both listed in the second column of the Periodic Table so they tend to react similarly in chemical reactions. However, they are absorbed and used in your orchids very differently.

Calcium and Your Orchid. You know that we people require calcium for healthy bones. Orchids use calcium similarly, to build cell walls among other things. It is absorbed through the root tips and pulled through the plant via the xylem during the transpiration process, being transported from the roots to the leaves and newly growing parts of the plant. It is phloem immobile, so it cannot be translocated from older leaves to newer leaves. Thus calcium deficiency will first appear at the most rapidly expanding tissue, like new growths and leaves.

Examples of Calcium Deficiency in Cattleyas



The most rapidly expanding tissue is affected first, such as new growths and leaves



You might think your plant has black rot, but this problem is physiological rather than pathological

Calcium deficiency occurs when there is rapid plant growth in the absence of sufficient calcium. If you like fresh tomato sandwiches from your garden, you've learned that calcium deficiency is what causes blossom end rot in tomatoes. Cattleyas are the orchids most prone

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to calcium deficiency, particularly those that grow very rapidly during the warm, sunny, moist summer season. You may mistake the symptoms of calcium deficiency for the dreaded black rot that can plague your cattleyas during the hot season. But this tissue damage is not from water molds, it is caused by insufficient calcium to produce new tissue. Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries reports that supplying sufficient calcium to your plants will not only reduce the incidence of black rot but may even protect the plant from infection by the water molds that cause black rot.

Magnesium and Your Orchid. Your plants use magnesium to produce chlorophyll, which is used in the photosynthesis process as well as other metabolic processes. Like calcium, magnesium is absorbed by the roots and carried through the plant in the xylem during normal transpiration. Unlike calcium, magnesium can also be carried in the phloem that transports organic nutrients like sucrose throughout the plant wherever needed. This means the magnesium can be translocated from older leaves to newer leaves. Thus magnesium deficiency will first occur in the older leaves that are sacrificed for the new growth.

Examples of Magnesium Deficiency



Cattleyas grown in bright light with insufficient magnesium may exhibit mottling indicative of chlorophyll damage



Leaves may turn a reddish purple after exposure to cold if they are magnesium deficient. Correct this with a megadose of Epsom Salts (1 tsp/gal).

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Calcium and Magnesium Supplements. There are lots of options for supplying additional calcium and magnesium to your orchids, from prepackaged fertilizers to special additives. You can also top dress pots with powdered dolomitic lime that will supply both calcium and magnesium to your plants although it may also raise the pH of your potting mix. Gypsum (calcium sulfate) is an alternative for supplying calcium without raising the pH of the mix. There are controlled release fertilizer formulations that also contain calcium and magnesium. You can add water soluble supplements like calcium nitrate and Epsom salts, though you would never add the calcium and magnesium supplements concurrently because they will react and precipitate into a sludge. The amount of calcium and magnesium supplied by several supplements is given in the table below. I am not aware of any calculation for estimating the amount of calcium or magnesium that is released to your plants from top dressing with timed release fertilizer.

Some Water Soluble Supplements for Supplying Calcium and Magnesium				
	Addition Rate (tsp/gal)	Concentration (ppm)		
		Nitrogen (N)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)
Peters Excel Cal Mag Special 15-5-15 5% Ca 2% Mg	1/4	49	16	6
	1/2	97	32	13
	1	194	65	26
Calcium Nitrate	1/4	50	62	-
	1/2	101	124	-
Epsom Salts (Magnesium Sulfate)	1/8	-	-	16
	1/4	-	-	33
	1/2	-	-	66
	1	-	-	130
	3	-	-	395

The amount of calcium and magnesium present in your water will define how much supplementation is required. You can send a sample of your water to [JR Peters](#) for analysis and they'll throw in a fertilizer recommendation or you can send a sample of your water to a laboratory like [QAL](#) for analysis, at a cost of less than \$40. Approach your orchid society for sponsoring water tests on local water supplies so a general recommendation can be made for what fertilizer regimen is optimum in your area. In St. Augustine, our shallow well water is very alkaline, high in total dissolved solids and calcium but has very little magnesium. I use pond water during the warm season. It is a mixture of well water and the more pure rainwater so it is low in alkalinity, dissolved solids, calcium and magnesium.

St. Augustine Water Quality		
Constituent	Well Water	Pond Water
Alkalinity (ppm)	430	46
Total Dissolved Solids (mmhos/cm)	1.02	0.32
Calcium (ppm)	164	26
Magnesium (ppm)	7	4

Calcium and Magnesium – The Other Macronutrients

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Clearly the water in our area is calcium rich and magnesium poor, so using Epsom salts should be an integral part of our fertilizer regimen. I set a target nitrogen level of 50 ppm suitable for cattleyas, and use additional timed release fertilizer on my heavy feeders like the catasetums. In the growing season when watering using the low alkalinity pond water, I use about 1/4 tsp/gal of cal mag fertilizer plus a little less than 1/8 tsp/gal of Epsom salts. During the winter resting season when watering with the warmer, highly alkaline well water, I use 1/8 tsp/gal of 21-5-20 fertilizer and almost 1/4 tsp/gal of Epsom salts. I fertilize every time I water, and I should be more rigorous about flushing the pots monthly with fresh water.

Fertilizer Regimen to Provide Full Suite of Plant Macronutrients			
	Target Nutrient Levels (ppm)	Summertime - Pond Water (ppm) 1/4 tsp/gal Cal Mag Fertilizer 3/32 tsp/gal Epsom Salts	Wintertime - Well Water (ppm) 1/8 tsp/gal 21-5-20 Fertilizer 3/16 tsp/gal Epsom Salts
Nitrogen	40 - 100	52	40
Phosphorus	10 - 20	13	4
Potassium	40 - 100	43	32
Calcium	40 - 80	41	164
Magnesium	20 - 40	23	29

Once you know the calcium and magnesium content of your irrigation water, it is easy to tailor a fertilizer regimen for your specific conditions. For those of us in Florida with highly alkaline, high calcium and magnesium deficient water, fertilize with equal parts of a balanced fertilizer like 20-20-20 or 20-10-20 and Epsom salts. Your plants will reward you with increased vigor and loads of flowers.

The above article is from the St. Augustine Orchid Society <http://staugorchidsociety.org/> and is reprinted with the kind permission of the author Sue Bottom.

Nambour Orchid Society Show Calendar 2017

(NOS commitment in blue)

April

Fri/Sat 7th & 8th (set up Thur 6th) Sat. 15th Fri/Sat 14/15th Fri.Sat.Sun. 14th 0, 15th, 16th.	Sunshine Coast OS show Wondai Orchid Show Bribie Island OS show Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society	Uniting Church Hall,Cnr Ulm & Queen St. Caloundra RSL Hall, Wondai Orchid House, First Ave, Bribie Island Bill Robertson Toyota, Hansen Road, Gladstone
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May

Sat/Sun 6/7th (set up Fri 5th) Fri/Sat/Sun 12/13/14th	Gympie Garden Expo & Orchid Show Bundaberg OS show	Pavillion, Gympie Showgrounds The Civic centre, Bourbong St, Bundaberg
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June

Sat/Sun 3/4th (set up Fri 2nd)	Boyne Tannum OS show	St Francis Catholic Primary School, Francis Way, Tannum Sands
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July

Fri/Sat/Sun 7/8/9th (Set up Thur 6th) Sat 8th Fri/Sat/Sun 7/8/9th (set up Thur 6th)	Nambour Garden Expo. Howard Combined Societies Day Caboolture OS Show	Nambour Showgrounds, Coronation Ave.Nambour Howard Morayfield Community Centre
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August

Fri/Sat 4/5th (set up Thur 3rd) Sat/Sun 12/13th (set up Fri 11th) Sat. 13th	Maroochydore OS show Agnes Water OS show STOCQ & OQI Meeting	Milwell Road Community Centre, Maroochydore Agnes Water Community Centre, 71 Springs Road, At Agnes Water Show
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September

Fri/Sat 1st/2nd (set up Thur 31st Aug) Fri/Sat 1st/2nd (set up Thur 31st Aug) Fri/Sat 22/23rd (set up Thur 21st)	Nambour OS Spring Show Childers OS Spring Show Glasshouse Country OS show	Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Ave, Nambour Cultural Centre, Childers Beerwah Community Hall, Peachester Road
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October

Fri 30th Sept & Sat 1st Oct Sat/Sun 7/8th Fri/Sat 27/28th (set up Thur 26th)	Bribie Island OS Show Hervey Bay OS show Nambour OS Species Show	The Orchid House, PCYC, O'Rourke Street, Pialba Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Ave, Nambour
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November

Sat. 4th Sat/Sun 4/5th Sat/Sun 11/12th	STOCQ & OQI Meeting Pumicestone Dist. OS show Orchid Species Soc. Show	Hosted by Glasshouse Country OS CT Williams Hall, Showgrounds, Caboolture Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Cootha
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2019 September

Sat/Sun 14th & 15th Sept	STOCQ Orchidfest	Hosted by Rockhampton Orchid Soc.
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