



Nambour Orchid News

July 2013

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Articles for the newsletter are very welcome. Please forward to the editor by post or email to nambourochids@gmail.com by the 15th of each month.

MEETINGS:

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 the business meeting.

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 to be tabled by 1.30pm for judging

Species appreciation get together is held monthly from February to November at member's homes. Contact the Secretary for details. All STOCQ members welcome.

Bring your flowering species plants, a chair, a cup and a plate to share for afternoon tea.

Disclaimer -:

While the Management Committee and the Editor of the Nambour Orchid Society Inc. endeavour to ensure the reliability of the content of this newsletter, neither the Nambour Orchid Society Inc. nor the Editor can assume any responsibility for the views expressed or for information printed in this newsletter.

Vale - Ken & Patsey Richards

Sadly the Nambour Orchid Society has lost two of its long serving members recently.

Ken & Patsey Richards joined the Nambour Orchid Society on the 23rd April 1984.

They were both very active in the Society for many years until Patsey's health required them to cut back on their activities. Patsey was the publicity officer for the Society from 1987-1989. She also took on the not so easy task of editor with Ken for several years from 1989 till 1994.

They were both made life members of the society on the 25th July 2004 after 20 years service.

Ken filled the position of librarian of the society from 1987 to 1997 and looked after the books, carrying them to every meeting.

Ken left school at the age of 14, and tried out a variety of jobs before settling on a job as a clerk at Redbank Meatworks, eventually ending up as a Commonwealth Meat Inspector. He had a passion for motorbikes in his early days and spent much of his spare time riding up until he had a family. They both had a love of gemstone collecting & orchids and produced many prize winning orchids.

They were a very devoted couple and celebrated their 60th anniversary together. Patsey passed away on the 24th March 2013

Ken was in his 90th year and passed away on the 9th July 2013

They are survived by two sons Peter and William, Daughter in law Josie & Granddaughters Eden & Isabella.

June 2013 Popular Vote – Hybrid Names as per Orchidwiz, Species names Kew Monocot List

<i>CATTLEYA HYBRID</i> 1 st 2 nd Tie 3 rd & Judges Choice	<i>Rlc.</i> Golden Reign <i>Rlc.</i> Burdekin Bells <i>C.</i> Cherry Bee x <i>C.</i> Dals Prospect	T Buckley N & E Walker Judy Robbins
<i>ONCIDIUM HYBRID</i> 1 st 2 nd 3 rd & Judges Choice	<i>Onc.</i> Gold Dust <i>Onc.</i> Twinkle <i>Onc.</i> Tiger Talk	N & E Walker R & J Aisthorpe M & A Vlekkert
<i>VANDA/PHALAENOPSIS</i> 1 st 2 nd & Judges Choice 3 rd	<i>Ascda.</i> Susan Ong Ah Mooi <i>Mokara</i> Chao Praya <i>Aranda</i> Christine x V Laurel Yap	Judy Robbins R & J Aisthorpe R & J Aisthorpe
<i>DENDROBIUM</i> 1 st & Judges Choice 2 nd 3 rd Tie 3 rd Tie 3 rd Tie	<i>Den.</i> Neiferts Exception <i>Den.</i> Mousmee <i>Den.</i> Sakura <i>Den.</i> Unknown <i>Den semifuscum x helix</i>	R & J Raabe N & E Walker June Hutchins R & J Raabe N & E Walker
<i>ANY OTHER GENERA</i> Judges Choice 1 st 2 nd Tie 2 nd Tie 2 nd Tie 2 nd Tie 3 rd Tie 3 rd Tie 3 rd Tie	<i>Cym.</i> Darch Joy <i>Lyc.</i> Sunray <i>Cym.</i> Loch Watten <i>Zga.</i> Seaford <i>Cym.</i> Sarah Jean <i>Brs.</i> Eternal Wind <i>Bulb.</i> Wayne Oyama <i>Cym.</i> Willunga Regal x <i>Cym.</i> Melinga Snow <i>Epi.</i> Renee Marquis	M & A Vlekkert M & A Vlekkert A Shield J Robbins M Wright N & E Walker A & A Parkes A Shield N & E Walker

PAPHIOPEDILUM 1 st 2 nd & Judges Choice	<i>Paph Collevans x Winston Churchill</i> Phrag unknown	Judy Robbins R Hand
EXOTIC SPECIES 1 st Tie 1 st Tie 2 nd & Judges Choice Tie 3 rd Tie 3 rd Tie 3 rd Tie 3 rd	<i>Pterostylis tenuicauda</i> <i>Phal bellina</i> <i>Pterostylis tenuicauda</i> <i>Pleuro allenii</i> <i>V brunnea</i> <i>Dendrochilum javieri</i> <i>Restrepia brachypus</i>	A & A Parkes Judy Robbins A & A Parkes A & A Parkes W Harris N Gould M & J Rivers
AUST. NATIVE HYBRID 1 st & Judges Choice 2 nd Tie 2 nd Tie 3 rd	<i>Den Flaxton</i> <i>Den Minispec</i> <i>Den Hilda Poxon</i> <i>Pterostylis x conoglossa</i>	M & A Vlekkert M & A Vlekkert R & J Aisthorpe A & A Parkes
AUST. NATIVE SPECIES 1 st 2 nd 3 rd & Judges Choice	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i> <i>Pterostylis baptistii</i> <i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	A & A Parkes A & A Parkes A & A Parkes
NOVICE 1 st & Judges Choice	<i>C Fire Fantasy</i>	M Walsh
FOLIAGE 1 st 2 nd & Judges Choice 3 rd 3 rd	<i>Philodendron Veitchii</i> <i>Aglaomena</i> <i>Begonia rex</i> <i>Anthurium Black Queen</i>	R Wright R Wright N & E Walker N & E Walker

Judges Choice plant of the month for May:



Pterostylis tenuicauda owned by Alan & Alison Parkes

Alan has passed on the following information regarding ground orchids

Pterostylis tenuicauda is a terrestrial species found in New Caladonia. There is little information on where this orchid grows. I first obtained several tubers from the ANOS Victorian group a number of years ago. They are grown in a mix of course sand , leaf mulch and bush loam with a pH of 5.5

After flowering the plants die back and are repotted in December. During the dormant period the growing media is kept damp to prevent the tubers from shriveling but if kept too wet they will rot.

The new plants start to appear between March and April. This is when a regular watering and fertilizing begins. The diluted fertilizer is used on a regular basis during the growing period. I use a growing and flowering fertilizer. Flowering is between early June and August. It is a fast multiplier and a very rewarding plant to grow



Caboolture Show

Well done to everyone who took plants down. With 31 plants in the display we gained 19 ribbons as well as Grand Champion for Beryl and Graham with their superb *Phal.* Taisuco Kaaladian and Champion Species with their stunning *Paph. villosum*. Other winners were Marty and Anita (2 firsts a second and a third), Mal Rivers 1st with a *Stelis vulcanica*, A & A Parkes (2 firsts , a second and a third) and Bob Raabe with a first.

Garden Expo

We were down on plants this year , possibly due to the horrible weather but still managed to assemble a great display. Congratulations to all who helped.



In this newsletter we look at possible methods of why the orchid family is so large and diverse. Below is an article by a prominent orchid grower by the name of Alexander Hirtz on the recent appearance of some very showy flowers with a hypothesis to explain these phenomena

Rapid Evolution of Orchids?

Alex Hirtz is a renowned orchid explorer from Ecuador who has been involved in the discovery of over 1,000 new species. He has many diverse and eclectic interests, is president of the Fundacion Botanica de Los Andes, and is a fascinating man with a great sense of humour. Alex told me about his theory of rapid evolution, and at first I could hardly believe what I was hearing. He believes that an explosion in the evolution of certain genus' of orchids is taking place in the neotropics of South America, and that these entirely new orchids are emerging in only a few decades and colonizing previously explored areas.

Why? The neotropical forests of Ecuador and Columbia are some of the most bio-diverse regions in the world because of extremes in terrain and an extraordinary number of microclimates. The forests – or what's left of them – are closed systems and extremely overcrowded with different varieties of plant life. Alex believes that these unique conditions are spurring sudden evolution as plants fight to compete and survive. Further, he speculates that the insects that pollinate the orchids are evolving at an equally rapid rate.

There is no question that new orchids are being discovered at an extraordinary pace (many of them thanks to Alex), and frequently in places that have already been thoroughly botanized. Half of the new discoveries in last 30 years, like *phrag. Kovachii* and *besseae*, have highly sought-after blooms that are brightly coloured and easy to spot. Many have been found near populated areas and well-traveled roads. It's unthinkable that they would have been missed by earlier collectors. In the case of some new discoveries, such as *Epibator hirtzii*, the plants now cover many trees in forested areas where they did not exist five years ago. Some, like *phrag. besseae*, are now even relatively common in south-east Ecuador and north-west Peru.

What's more, he believes that the sudden mutations of new orchids occurs in groups of four. For example *Teagueia*, which is an entirely new genus, has four species that he believes have a common ancestor: *alyssana*, *jostii*, *sanchezia*, and *pailini*. He also believes that the discoveries of *phragmipedium dalessandroi*, *besseae*, and *kovachii* are related, and that one more spectacular species will be discovered in the next few decades to complete the group. As someone later pointed out during the question and answer period of his presentation, four is a common number in the production and division process of genetic material.

Rapid evolution of new species during my lifetime? It sounds like an idea out of science fiction. DNA and mitochondrial research that would confirm or refute this theory is in its infancy in the field of orchids, but I'm persuaded. This is a man who lives in Ecuador, who is responsible for the discovery of over 1,000 new species, and who is in a position to know. It wouldn't be the first time a dramatic new theory was dismissed by other experts as far-fetched!

It occurs to me that it may not be simple coincidence that so many of these new discoveries have spectacular blooms – the very thing that makes human beings trip over themselves to own, nurture, and reproduce them. Very clever, these orchids.

According to Hirtz new orchid species can appear very rapidly. So there is always hope that you can discover a new species yourself out in the bush, which leads to the next section of the article.

We would all like to collect our own plants out of the bush. Well how fit are you. Having just returned from Thailand and observed where the bulk of the orchids grow, NO THANKS.

Imagine looking up at a ridge that is over a 1000 m. above you. That is 3 times the height of Mapleton. You have to climb up there and either climb the trees or cut them down to access your orchids. Then carry them back. So you have just climbed 1000 m., cut down your chosen trees, collected your plants, packed them up, and carried them back down the mountain. GOOD LUCK

Gustav Wallis (an orchid collector in Colombia in the late nineteenth century) talks about his collecting of the very showy and beautiful *Odontoglossum crispum* (*Onc. alexandrae*).

To reach the area where they grew it required 5 days walk from Bogata over ranges and ridges that rose 2000 m. high. Once you reached this area then climb again to the cloud forest, cut down your selected trees, prepare and pack your plants and return to Bogata. He is quoted as saying that for every 5 plants on average one tree was felled.

Therefore the easiest way for us to acquire our plants is to either buy as seedlings or divisions of plants already here. Not only is this easier and cheaper but at the same time we are helping to protect plants that are left in the wild. So when you buy your seedlings the environment is protected. An example is *Cattleya trianae* which grows in Colombia. In 1990 there were fewer than 40 plants left in their natural environment, but due to the civil war that has been raging in the area for the 20 years the species has made a spectacular comeback. There are now estimated to be many thousands growing and flourishing due to the fact that they have not been collected

The editor would appreciate any input from members as to articles or information that they want discussed. Remember that I am still human although at times it would not appear so.

Good orchid growing

Competition for our Members:

Each month we will publish a photo of an orchid species. You then use all available resources such as internet, books and each other to identify the plant

Then on a piece of paper submit your name and the plant name at the next meeting where the name will be revealed.

Next month Wayne will put in the newsletter a new species as well as distribution and culture of last month's species

At the end of the year the points will be totaled up and the winner will receive a prize at the Christmas Party.

LAST MONTH'S PLANT WAS - *Dendrobium lichenastrum*
***Dendrobium lichenastrum* (F. Mueller) Kraenzlin 1870**

Synonyms: *Bulbophyllum lichenastrum* F. Mueller 1869; *Davejonesia lichenastrum* (F.Muell.) M.A.Clem.2002; *Dockrillia lichenastrum* (F. Muell.) Brieger 1981; *Phyllorchis lichenastrum* (F. Muell.) Kuntze 1891

Flower Size: 4-7mm across

Flowering time: Mostly spring but can flower at any time.

This orchid is a miniature creeping species that grows on rocks or trees at altitudes between 200 and 1200m in NE Australia (Mt Finnigan to Mackay). The rhizome is creeping and branching and forms a mat over the substrate. The leaves are closely packed and appressed to the substrate, generally ovoid in shape and about 1cm long. Flowers are born singularly.

Culture: This species does well in humid, warm to intermediate conditions if mounted and firmly attached to a piece of hardwood, tree fern or cork. Keep moist and in a sheltered position until firmly attached. Plants can also be grown in a shallow saucer on top of bark or coconut chip.

Plant for July.

This plant is a very easy one to identify

But we need its current name and not the old one in common usage. Remember that you can place as many entries in as you like.

HINT: It is not found in Egypt or the Sudan



The July species was held at the home of Richard & Rita Hand. We had a great collection of plants on display with all members having done their research to talk about their plants. Well done to all!!

Our thanks to Richard & Rita for their hospitality.

The plant of the month chosen by Bill was *Paphiopedilum villosum* owned by the Robertson's & plant of interest owned by Doug Paroz was *Dendrochilum convallariiforme* (Unfortunately no photos, not sure what happened to our photographer.)

Below is the list of plants on show. Names as per Kew checklist in ()

Acampe ochracea, *Acampe papillosa* (*Acampe praemorsa*), *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum*, *Bulbophyllum longiflorum*, *Bulbophyllum triflorum*, *Ceratostylis subulata*, *Cleisostoma sp.laos*, *Cymbidium erythraceum*, *Cymbidium sinensa*, *Dendrobium aureum* (*Dendrobium heterocarpum*), *Dendrochilum convallariiforme*, *Dendrochilum niveum*, *Dendrochilum parvulum*, *Dendrochilum smithianum*, *Dendrochilum wenzelii*, *Encyclia polybulbon*, *Epidendrum centropetalum*, *Jumellea gracillipes* (*Jumellea stenophylla*) *Laelia briegeri*, *Masdevallia cucullata*, *Neofinetia falcata*, *Oncidium cheirophorum*, *Oncidium eurycline* (*Gomesa longipes*) *Oncidium maculatum*, *Paphiopedilum villosum*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, *Pleurothallis endotrachys*, *Pleurothallis matudana*, *Pleurothallis ruberrima*, *Pleurothallis viduata*, *Prosthechea cochleata*, *Restrepia brachypus*, *Restrepiella ophiocephala*, *Rhyncholaelia glauca*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*, *Stelis megachlamys*, *Stelis vulcanica*, *Trichoglottis geminate*, *Trichotosia velutina*, *Vanda insignis*

Guest Speakers:

July;- Charlie McMonagle from Sunshine Coast Caloundra Orchid Society

August;- John Salway & Bill Letcher

September;- Potting time- this will be a cultural month

Species appreciation meeting Calendar (subject to change due to availability)

	August – Margie Tymson	September – Bill Letcher
October – Alan & Alison Parkes	November – Lesley Beare	December – No meeting

We have a plant sales table at each meeting for members to sell any surplus plants. If you have any you would like to sell, bring them along tagged with your name & price so members can purchase them. Members are responsible for their own plants. Plant sale tags are on our website. nambourorchidsociety.com - Go to links/forms and print off what you need.

2013 Show Catalogue

Maroochydore Show – Sat & Sun 10th & 11th August – set up Fri 9th – Millwell Road Community Centre ANOS Kabi Group Inc. 7th Australasian Native Orchid Conference & Show Strathpine – 22nd - 25th August 2013- Strathpine Community Centre, Cnr Mecklem Street & Gympie Road, Strathpine

Nambour Orchid Society Spring Show- Fri 6th & Sat 7th September – Nambour Uniting Church Hall, Coronation Ave, Nambour

Childers Orchid Show – Fri 6th & Sat 7th September

Noosa Orchid Show – Fri 20th, Sat 21st September – Set up Thurs 19th – Cooroy RSL Hall

Glasshouse Orchid Show- Fri 27th & Sat 28th September – Set up Thursday 26th.

Bribie Island Orchid Show – Sat 12th & Sun 13th October – Bribie Island State High School. Set up Friday 11th.

Nambour Orchid Society Species Show & Trade Fair – Fri 1st & Sat 2nd November Set up Thurs. 31st October

STOCQ meeting hosted by Sunshine Coast Orchid Society- sat 9th Nov. – CCSA Hall, Nutley Street, Caloundra @ 9am