

HERVEY BAY ORCHID SOCIETY Inc

NEWS AND VIEWS

November 2018

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ORCHIDS

No. 115

P.O. Box 26, Pialba Qld 4655

e- mail hbosinc1983@gmail.com

Web www.herveybayorchidsociety.com



Lcn. (Topaz Fancy x Caudebec)

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Our general meetings are held on the FIRST Monday of the month unless otherwise notified. They are held in the Presbyterian Church on the corner of Denman Camp Road and Freshwater Street, Torquay.

Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start.

Plants to be judged need to be tabled by 6.45pm

The next General Meeting is 3rd December, 2018

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Our committee meetings are held on the FOURTH Monday of the month at the Presbyterian Church with a 6.30 pm start.

Next committee meeting is **26th November, 2018.**

Feature Plant for December 2018 meeting
is: *Cattleya Alliance*

INTERESTED GROWERS MEETINGS: These are informal gatherings offering cultural advice and information exchange which are usually held on the FOURTH Saturday of each month from 2pm, however this month the **IGG** will be our last for the year on **November 24th** for a sausage sizzle at the Botanic Gardens starting at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome!

COMING EVENTS:

Friday 7th Dec - Christmas break-up dinner

Time: 6.00 for 6.30pm at the Boat Club.

It's not too late! If you haven't put your name down and paid your money yet, contact our acting treasurer Leanne Coombes

leadarcoo@bigpond.com or Ph 41287816

Cost: \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

You can pay by EFT or by cash at the IGG on 24th Nov or next General Meeting on the 3rd Dec. Either way, we need to collect money shortly so we can confirm final numbers to the Boat Club.

Competition Results and Lucky Door Prize

- The lucky door prize winner for November was: **Daphne McKenna**
- The lucky competition winners were: **(not recorded)**
- ***Members must wear name badges to meetings to be eligible for the lucky door prize***

An Orchid book library is available at the Church Hall for all members to use.

Please ensure books borrowed are signed out by our new librarian Jenny Bong.

Check out the many books available

HBOS Inc. Executive and committee members elected for 2018

Patron	Ted Sorrensen	
President	Giles Blaber	giles.blaber@optusnet.com.au
Vice President	Daphne McKenna	daphnemckenna@bigpond.com
Secretary	Ross Skyring	rossskyring47@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tony Russell	tgerussell2@bigpond.com
Committee	Darryl Coombes	
Committee	Leanne Coombes	
Committee	Carol Morgan	
Committee	Kay Russell	
Committee	Janine Blaber	
Committee	Graham Sluce	
Committee	Keith Lydiate	
Committee & Editor	Terri Bade	tbade@aapt.net.au

Notes:

1. A classified advert. page is available on our website www.herveybayorchidsociety.com
To place an advert, e-mail a description (and a picture of the item if possible) to Julie Arthur
juliearthur@bigpond.com. The members' phone number would be included for direct negotiation and the member would provide their HBOS membership number as a means of ensuring they were financial. **A cost of \$10 will apply for 3 months insertion.**

2. Anyone with flowering plants who would like to loan them to the Botanical Garden's Orchid House please contact: Vicki Riley Phone 0448 001 759 email vicky.riley@frasercoast.qld.gov.au



Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

HERVEY BAY BOTANIC GARDENS AND ORCHID HOUSE

Activities and events for December 2018



***Note** All events may be subject to postponement or cancellation at short notice.
Admission is \$3 which includes entry to the 'Orchid House' and Tea/Coffee

No scheduled events for December. Next will be in February.

HBOS Shirts are available from Tony Russell Ph. 0412989004

Rockhampton Orchid Society will host the

2019 STOCQ Conference & Show

14th and 15th September 2019

at

KORTE'S RESORT

984 Yaamba Rd, Parkhurst Qld.

For registration information, form & show schedule visit

www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au

To book accommodation at the Resort contact Korte's Resort direct on (07) 4936 3153,
mention you are with the Orchid Conference to receive a special discounted rate.

JUDGING RESULTS - POPULAR VOTE

NOVICE:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1 st Z. Debbie De Mello | T. Dolkens → |
| 2 nd <i>Rlc</i> Paradise Supreme | D. Achilles |
| 3 rd (shared by many plants) | |



INTERMEDIATE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ← 1 st <i>Phal.</i> Chia Shing Hot Kiss | J. Townson |
| 2 nd <i>Mtps.</i> Bert Fields | J. Bowyer |
| 3 rd (3 tied for 3 rd) | J. Townson, J. Bowyer, R. Atyeo |



OPEN:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 st <i>Mtps.</i> Breathless 'Brilliant' | K. Lydiate. → |
| 2 nd ? (name not recorded) | K. Lydiate |
| 3 rd <i>Onc.</i> Pacific Pagan | F&E Moloney |



MASTERS:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ← 1 st <i>Paph.</i> Macabre Chant 'HB' | T. Bade |
| 2 nd Z. Debbie De Mello | R. Colbran |
| 3 rd <i>Rlc.</i> Redland Cosmos | L. Napper |

SPECIES:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 st <i>B. perrinonii</i> | L. Napper → |
| 2 nd <i>Gram. scriptum</i> 'Jumbo' | R. Colbran |
| 3 rd <i>Coel. pandurata</i> | D. McKenna |



AUSTRALIAN NATIVE:

- 1st *Den. waselii* F&E Moloney→
2nd *Den. discolor* R. Colbran
3rd *Den. bifalce* R. Colbran



JUDGING RESULTS - JUDGES CHOICE

NOVICE:	Z. Debbie De Mello 'Honolulu Bay'	69 points	T. Dolkens
INTERMEDIATE:	<i>Phal.</i> Chia Shing Hot Kiss	68 points	J. Townson
OPEN:	<i>Mtps.</i> Breathless 'Brilliant'	69 points	K. Lydiate
MASTERS:	<i>Paph.</i> Macabre Chant 'HB'	71 points	T. Bade
SPECIES:	<i>Coel. pandurata</i>	70 points	D. McKenna
AUST. NATIVE:	<i>Den. wassellii</i>	67 points	F&E Moloney
FEATURE PLANT: (Species)	<i>B. perrinii</i>	72 points	L. Napper



B. perrinii



Coel. pandurata



Den. wassellii

Brassavola perrinii is found in Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and possibly Argentina at elevations of 1980 to 2580 meters as a small to medium sized, cool to cold growing epiphyte with slender, terete, stems carrying a single, apical, narrow, terete leaf that blooms on a short, 3 to 6 flowered inflorescence with fragrant flowers that occurs in the spring and summer.(Ref : www.orchidspecies.com)

This plant was exhibited by Les Napper and is an excellent example of a specimen plant of this delightful species. It was growing happily on a wooden mount which allows for the rambling and somewhat pendulous habit. In the wild these plants often grow on cliff faces getting full sun for much of the day. Terete leaves are an adaptation to dry or otherwise harsh conditions in many plants, and orchids are no exception. The cylindrical shape of the leaf ensure less water loss from transpiration and also ensures that the rays of the sun do not fall on any particular part of the surface for very long. In cultivation the plant should be able to dry quickly (hence the mount) and be given a very bright spot in the greenhouse.

It is quite similar to the more commonly seen *Brassavola nodosa* and like it, *B. perrinii* has a beautiful fragrance.

A Festive Cattleya

I don't consider it a 'pretty' orchid, but more an impressive orchid! I am talking about *Cattleya purpurata* which is a species coming into bloom in our part of the world at this time of the year. Until recently it was classified as *Laelia purpurata* based on the fact that it has 8 pollinia or pollen sacs (along with the other large Brazilian 'Laelias'), and unlike the unifoliate Cattleyas that have 4. It was included in the genus *Laelia* because the Mexican Laelias have the 8 pollinia. Apart from that, it much more closely resembles the large unifoliate Cattleyas of South America and has now been reclassified in the genus *Cattleya*. But confusion of nomenclature is forgotten at the sight of that beautiful flower that you just keep looking at.

At this time of year the plants will just be sitting there on the bench, their sheaths dry after the pseudobulb matured in late winter and nothing much seems to be going on, then almost suddenly there will be these impressive heads of stunning flowers. At a time of the year when not too many Cattleyas are flowering they certainly make a focal point in the green house. The most striking feature is the beautifully coloured labellum contrasting against the usually cream to white background of the petals and sepals. While the shape of the segments might be fairly narrow, and often reflexed, there is something captivating about these large and majestic flower heads, often with four to five flowers presented. This species is a 'must have' for any orchid collection in our area.

In addition to its large showy flowers, it has one of the widest ranges of colour forms. There are probably more named clones of *C. purpurata* than any other *Laelia* or *Cattleya* species. This says a lot when you consider that named clones of *Cattleya mossiae* and *Cattleya trianaei* number in the hundreds. The lavender colour in the lip can be a brilliant royal purple often mixed with tones of red. This colour can even appear in the sepals and petals to produce a flame-coloured flower in flammae types. Many forms also include flowers with pink to reddish lips, and lips that are dark slate-blue. Although there are a number of pale lavender albescens forms, there are also a few true albas that are quite beautiful. *Cattleya purpurata* does not have the wide petals of a *C. trianaei*, and tends to pass this characteristic on to its hybrids. It more than makes up for this, however, by imparting the brilliant, rich colours of its labellum to the lips of its hybrids, and it is the chief contributor to the richly coloured lips of most of our purple *Cattleya* hybrids. *Cattleya purpurata* is also the parent of probably the most famous primary hybrid in orchid history, *Cattleya Canhamiana* (*C. purpurata* × *C. mossiae*). This cross, which flowers in June in the United States, was the wedding orchid of the cut-flower days, and literally tens of thousands of *C. Canhamiana* were grown during the 1940s at the peak of the cut-flower era.



'Cindarosa'



'Delicata'



'Doraci'



'Carnea'

In fact, *Cattleya purpurata* has been used as a parent in hybridizing on about 270 occasions, and has contributed to the gene pool of over 20,000 *Cattleya* hybrids. The species has been awarded over 400 times. (Orchidwiz).

In nature *Cattleya purpurata* is found in the coastal forests of southern Brazil in the states of São Paulo, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul. It's distribution is somewhat disjunct starting in the north between Rio de Janeiro and Porto Novo, picking up again around Praia Grande south to Cananéia (São Paulo State), skipping Paraná State, and starting up again south of Joinville (Santa Catarina State) to the vicinity of Tramandai (Rio Grande do Sul State). It is said to grow on rocky shores close to the ocean, especially on big fig trees, in nearly full sun conditions. These coastal rain forests have undergone vast changes since people have been living in them for a long time. It is said that Fig trees are favoured by some native people, not only for their fruits, but for cultural reasons, and are left uncut. For this reason, many large fig trees grow to massive size, and it is here that the orchids find a home. They also grow in full sun on coastal cliffs.

Cattleya purpurata is so admired that it is the state flower of Santa Catarina. It is extremely popular with local Brazilian orchid growers and rare clones garner handsome prices — in the thousands of dollars. Whole orchid shows are dedicated to *C. purpurata* and, with its many color forms, it is a collector's dream.

[All photos are of *Cattleya purpurata* cultivars]**

(Ref: most of the technical information for this article was based on an article by Art Chadwick of Chadwick and Sons Orchid Nursery in USA)

How to Grow *Cattleya purpurata*

Cattleya purpurata has the same cultural requirements as the other large-flowered *Cattleya* species. It benefits from lots of sun and moving air and a temperature between 14.5–15.5 C at night and 26.5–29.5 C during the day. It usually begins sending up new growths in late summer and early autumn and these growths will be completed by mid to late winter and buds will begin to form in the sheath after a short rest period. The plants will flower from November through December (in Hervey Bay) depending on the clone.

Give *C. purpurata* a few weeks' rest after it flowers by minimizing the watering, but do not let the pseudobulbs shrivel too much. Once the plant begins to grow, it requires lots of water, particularly as the growth elongates beyond 15 cm. *Cattleya purpurata* can develop some really large pseudobulbs, often exceeding 50 cm from the base of the pseudobulb to the tip of the leaf, if grown well.

— A.A. Chadwick.



'Bonnie'



'Do Crente'



'Chitosi'



'Arctic Wings'

INTERESTED GROWERS MEETING

There was no October IGG . Instead there was a Bus Trip to the Orchid Species show in Brisbane to say 'Thank You' to our members who put in so much work at our show. Unfortunately I was unable to go due to family commitments but from what I have heard it was a good day. Sounds like our club members contributed significantly to the economy of south-east Queensland!

Our next IGG will be the final one for the year and will be on **24th November at the Botanic Gardens** for a sausage sizzle break up. Come along at 11.30am and share a snag and a chat. As always it would be great if there were plenty of plants for discussion so bring your brag plants or your problems and we can all learn about growing these amazing plants.



The Bus Trip: Looks like plenty of activity here!



The Orchid House is looking for more volunteers.

We are fortunate to have an Orchid House in Hervey Bay at the Botanic Gardens but it can't operate without volunteers. If you can help you can contact Jacqui Mitchell at the Orchid House (**PH 4125 9870**). You don't need any prior knowledge of orchids to be a volunteer - it's a learning experience.



Like us on
Facebook

HBOS Inc. now has a presence on Facebook. If you are into Facebook then go to the search bar and type in 'Hervey Bay Orchid Society' to bring up the page, and join the discussions. Julie Arthur is the Administrator for this site, with the assistance of Carol Jenkins.

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