

HERVEY BAY ORCHID SOCIETY Inc

NEWS AND VIEWS

October 2020

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ORCHIDS

No. 135

P.O. Box 26, Pialba Qld 4655

e-mail hbosinc1983@gmail.com

Web www.herveybayorchidsociety.com



Phalaenopsis- Crystal Touch "Warrigal Beauty" AM/ AOC 2008

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 ?? (when Covid number restrictions ease)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Our committee meetings are usually held on the FOURTH Monday of the month. Next committee meeting is 26th October 2020 6.30pm at 8 Flynn Court Urraween.

Feature Plant for November ??? No General meeting

INTERESTED GROWERS MEETINGS:

These are informal gatherings offering cultural advice and information exchange which are usually held on the FOURTH Saturday of each month.

The next IGG is 24th October at the Orchid House, Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens.

Just for something different it will be in the morning starting at 10am but will be preceded by plant sales from 8.30am - 10am. More info in the IGG section of the newsletter.

NB: To be Covid safe, please bring your own food for afternoon tea. Coffee and tea will be available.

COMING EVENTS:

Christmas dinner break up Friday 11th December at the Waterfront Restaurant. Members \$25, non-members and visitors \$30. Acceptance and payment must be made in advance as numbers may have to be limited.

Lucky Door Prize and Competition Results

- The lucky door prize winner for the next meeting is TBA
- The lucky competition winners were: TBA

Members must wear name badges to meetings to be eligible for the lucky door prize

HBOS Shirts are available from Tony Russell Ph. 0412 989 004

An Orchid book library is now available at the Orchid House Botanical Gardens for all members to use. Please ensure books borrowed are signed out by our Librarian. Checkout the many books available.

HBOS Inc. Executive and committee members elected for 2020

Patron	Ted Sorensen	
President	Daphne McKenna	daphnemckenna@bigpond.com
Vice President	Darryl Coombes	leadarcoo@bigpond.com
Secretary	Barbara Neumann	hbosinc1983@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tony Russell	tkerussell2@bigpond.com
Committee/Editor	April Blair/Allan Hutchins	April Blair [allnaprl@bigpond.net.au]
Committee/Social Sec	Giles Blaber	giles.blaber@optusnet.com.au
Committee	Janine Blaber	Terri Bade
Committee	Kaj Holst	Keith Lydiate
Committee	Kay Russell	Leanne Coombes
Committee	Thuy Dolkens	Carol Morgan
Committee & Assist Sec	Ross Skyring	Jan Townson

Message from the president,

Another month has come around and the year is going quickly. After the last IGG Meeting at the Botanic Gardens, we had several visitors attend, and some of them are keen to join us as members. If only this Corona Virus (Covid-19) would leave us to enjoy our hobby in the normal conditions that we were enjoying. I have not been let know of any of our members having health problems at this stage. Please look after yourselves and stay well under these conditions. Graeme Johnston attended our last IGG Meeting which was great to see him back on deck, Kay Russell is going very well also, and I am sure she will be joining us again very soon.

We have new Editor's doing the newsletters now. They would appreciate any information of interest to our members to be emailed to them. They are April Blair, email allnaprl@bigpond.net.au and Allan Hutchins, Email bindari.trading@bigpond.com

See everyone @ the IGG Meeting & Plant Sale on the 24th as listed below.

Take care all,

Regards Daphne.



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AOC event.**

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IF YOU CAN**

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE

In 2019, South East Queensland Orchid Societies combined to bid for the 2021 event and won the right to hold the 2021 AOC Conference and Show in South East Queensland. The event will be held at the **Logan Sports and Events Centre from 1 to 5 September 2021.**



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See Julie Arthur's update on page 6.

Phalaenopsis Culture

Phalaenopsis are the most widely grown commercial orchid in the world today and have certainly become very popular in retail outlets. They are a wonderful orchid and a personal favourite of the editors so here's some general culture notes to help get them growing.

Light- Phallies have a tolerance for low light and shaded conditions. In the shade house 70 - 90% shade is fine, and in the house, kitchen benches and bathrooms are favoured places. The leaf colour is also a good guide- they should be an even dark green. If they are a light green heading towards yellow it's a fair bet they are receiving too much light.

Temperatures -Ideally temperatures for phalaenopsis should usually be above 15 C at night, and range between 25 and 30 C during the day. This is their sweet spot for optimal growth. They don't like it much below 10C. If you are personally comfortable your plants will be too- our temperature tolerance levels are very similar.

Watering- Because they have no major water-storage organs other than their leaves, they must never completely dry out. Plants should be thoroughly watered and not watered again until nearly dry. Water only in the morning and try to avoid water ponding in the central leaf crown to prevent rot.

Humidity and Air Movement-Humidity is important to phalaenopsis with the recommended humidity being between 50 and 80 percent. It is imperative that the humid air is moving. Good air movement will prevent fungus and spores from settling on the plant and will also prevent spotting on the flowers due to high humidity.

Feeding-Fertilize on a regular schedule, especially if the weather is warm, when the plants are actively growing. Some growers apply fertilizer at one-quarter strength with every watering and this works well for warm, humid conditions. When cooler, or under overcast conditions, fertilizer should be applied twice per month at weak strength.

Potting -This is best done in the spring, immediately after flowering. Phalaenopsis plants must be potted in a porous mix and good drainage is essential. Root rot occurs quickly if plants are left in a soggy medium.



INTERESTED GROWERS GROUP MEETING

We did have an IGG meeting on 26th September. It was well attended, and it was great to catch up with everyone again. There were plenty of plants for discussion, and quite a few brag plants as well. It was good to have quite a few visitors and future new members involved, and I think everyone had a good afternoon. One of the criticisms from the afternoon was that the sun coming from the west was very warm on members at the back, so the Committee has decided to trial a **morning meeting for October 24th from 10am until 12 noon**. Coffee and Tea will be supplied by HBOS but bring your own morning tea food if you desire, and preferably your own cup and chair. Everyone is welcome to attend and it would be great if you could **bring some discussion plants (good or bad)**.

The plan is to also allow members to **sell plants** before the IGG. The public will be invited to attend the sale, and the IGG if they wish to stay for it. This will be publicised on Facebook, in the free newspaper and at the Orchid House. **If you wish to sell plants, you must provide your own (or share) a single 1.8m (approx) or smaller table** which is to be set up in a designated area beside the Orchid House. You will be responsible for all aspects of the sale of your plants including pricing, supplying your own float, taking the cash and providing any assistance required. (Please be realistic, we are not trying to make a fortune, only to give the HBOS a bad name in the process!). Please ensure the plants are in good condition and disease free as you would for our show. The HBOS would like a 10% commission on sales to cover costs of advertising etc, but this will be by an Honesty system so make sure you keep a track of sales.

All members & visitors must sign the Attendance Book please, and 1.5m distancing where possible. These arrangements will only be if no other restrictions are made and if the Virus does not develop in the State.

Note:

Anyone with flowering plants who would like to loan them to the Botanical Garden's Orchid House please contact the Orchid House on 4125 9715



It's Chrissy time again- Almost

The Christmas Party this year will be at the Waterfront Restaurant on Friday 11th December. Members are asked to arrive at 6pm for 6.30pm start. Our entertainment squad are already in serious planning mode.

Please be advised that in order to book and secure a place, payment must be made in advance, preferably by the next IGG meeting on Saturday 24th October. Payment of \$25 per head for members or \$30 for non-members and visitors can be made by electronic funds transfer to HBOS. Please email Tony Russell at tkerussell2@bigpond.com to make your booking and obtain payment details. The club is also required to provide the Restaurant a list of patrons, email and contact phone numbers to satisfy government Covid 19 requirements. Entry to the premises will not be permitted to the venue without this information so please be prepared. Tony will require these details as part of the payment process.

Please make sure your name is recorded as a reference.

Ya Gotta get some Gumption.

You've just completed dividing that overgrown orchid. It's been hanging around for ages but now you've got it done. All you've gotta do to complete the job is label the new divisions and wouldn't you know it, you're fresh out of new labels. There's nothing about except old labels that carry the names of those that have departed this world and it will be at least a week before you can get new ones.

You can't leave it because old timers' disease is settling in. Lets' face it, none of us are getting any younger and if you're anything like me you've forgotten by the time you walk around the corner. We've all been there- right.

Well here's the answer. Get yourself a tub of Gumption- give those old labels a quick scrub with a dab of paste on a soft cloth and ta da- all the old writing and gunk disappears- it even handles texta colour. A tub costs about \$7 and will probably last until hell freezes over.

A quick word of warning for the budget conscious though. There is an alternate, cheaper product called GLITZ that does the job just as well. The problem is it has Orange Solv as the active ingredient, and this leaves a waxy coating on the label which then prevents you being able to write on it. So, there you go-don't say you weren't warned. I've rejuvenated my labels and I'm off to finish the job. Now, where did I put that bloody pencil.



Congratulations to Giles Blaber for winning the October Banner Competition for the club's Facebook Page. His entry (shown above) was Tolu. Swan's Smiles "Pink Slip" x Tolu. Swan's Smiles "Banana Split".

The Banner Competition has been running for two months now and to be honest I am learning as I go. Here's a couple of things for members to be aware of. Firstly, photo's need to be in landscape (wide photo) so that they fit in the area we have without enlarging and distorting the photo. Generally, I will post a call for photo's around the 20th/21st of the month which will give members 10 days to post their photo and vote for your favourite.

Voting is easy, just pick a photo that has been added to my comment and like with the 👍 icon or love with the ❤️ icon under the photo. The photo with the most "likes" on my post will be our winner and become our cover for the next month. Even if you don't enter yourself jump on the page and cast a vote- its just like a show without the crowds and Covid restrictions.

I hope that explains the process a little more clearly for everyone. Regards Julie.

Sender: Hervey Bay Orchid Society, PO Box 26, Pialba QLD 4655

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