

GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.



NEWSLETTER August 2021

www.gympieorchidsociety.com

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One of Mel's vandas.

Here at last is our August newsletter for 2021. Our meeting was held at Mel and Judy Wheeler's place. The beautiful vandas and rhyncostylus on this page and the next were photographed in Mel's shade house. The benched orchid display was also a delight as you will see on page 3. Gary Walker is one of our members who is becoming quite adept at cultivating paphliopediums and Ted's Ddc. wenzellii showed lovely symmetry. On page 4 are the popular vote winners from our September meeting which I was unable to attend.



Vanda Somsri Gold



Yet another of Mel's vandas

Vanilla orchids are flowering now, so I thought a few words about this species, following the Nambour species show, might be of interest to our members. Of the 110 species worldwide, *Vanilla planifolia* and the Tahiti-grown hybrid *V. x tahitensis*, are used for the well known food flavouring. *Vanilla planifolia* is native to Southeastern Mexico and Guatemala and thrives in the tropical conditions of high rainfall and average temperatures of 27degrees. In its native habitat the plant is



Rhyncostylis Gigantea Orange (yes the actual color is closer to maroon)

pollinated by *Eulaema meriana* a solitary bee endemic to the region.

Elsewhere the flowers need to be pollinated by hand. Flowers last only a day and are best pollinated in the morning. After pollination the vanilla 'bean' develops which is its seed pod. In fact the word vanilla means 'little bean.'

The flower bracts can have multiple clusters with up to 100 flowers and seldom less than a dozen.. My plant (pictured above) is 8yrs old, grown from a cutting and has been flowering for 3yrs, each year the number and size of the bracts increases. For its weight, Vanilla is 2nd only to Saffron as the world's most expensive plant condiment.



Corrie Sheafe's *Den. speciosum curvacaule* this spring.

Our AGM will be held at Mel & Judy Wheeler's place on Saturday October 30th. The address is 6 David Crt, Groundwater Rd, South Side. (Turn into Langara Drive off Groundwater Rd and David Crt. is the first turn off of Langara Drive.) The meeting starts at 2 pm.

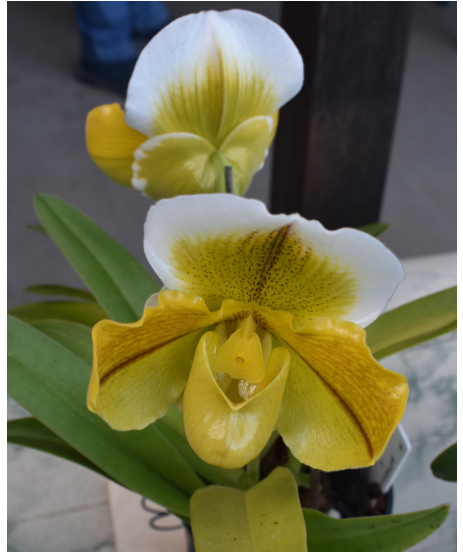
Popular Vote

These orchids won the popular vote at our August meeting

Cattleya	<i>C. Momilani rainbow 'Ava'</i>	Gary walker
Dendrobium	<i>Den. speciosum</i> var. <i>Kate's Special X curvicaulae</i> Daylight Moon FCC	Gary Walker
Species	<i>Ddc. wenzellii</i>	Ted Mann
Any Other	<i>Paph. Dramatic X Verde Ord</i>	Gary Walker
Judges' choice	<i>Paph. Dramatic X Verde Ord</i>	Gary walker



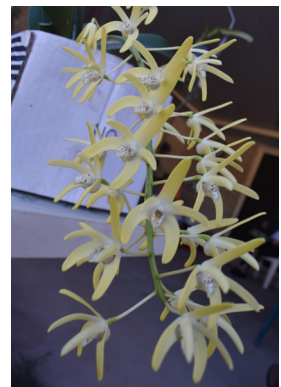
C. Momilani Rainbow 'Ava'



Paph. Dramatic X Verde Ord



Ddc. wenzellii



Den. speciosum var. *Kate's Special X curvicaulae* Daylight Moon FCC

Popular Vote

These orchids won the popular vote at our September meeting

Cattleya	<i>C. Hsyng Aloha 'CH Super'</i>	Larry Downing
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Genting Lipstick</i>	Doug Wilson
Species	<i>C.. loddigesii</i>	Ted Mann
Any Other	<i>Cym. Valley Splash 'Awesome'</i>	Gary Walker
Judges' choice	<i>C. Hsyng Aloha 'CH Super'</i>	Larry Downing



C. Hsyng Aloha 'CH Super'



Cym. Valley Splash 'Awesome'



Den. Genting Lipstick



C.. loddigesii